

MEMORANDUM

October 5, 1995

To: Jeremy Gunn
cc: David Marwell
From: Doug Horne
Subject: Cuba Project

1. This is in response to your memo of October 2, 1995 requesting a summary of Warren Commission and HSCA contacts with Cuban Government officials, identification of all records that relate to those meetings, and identification of all records that were given to the Warren Commission and/or HSCA by the Cuban government.

2. **Warren Commission contacts with the Cuban government:** I can find no evidence in the Warren Report, or in the 26 volumes, of any contact between the Warren Commission and the Cuban Government. (Sources: Warren Report, WR Index, and the Sylvia Meagher Master Index.) However, researchers Anthony and Robbyn Summers claim that Earl Warren dispatched Assistant Counsel William Coleman on a classified mission to Cuba to investigate the possibility that Castro was behind the assassination. When asked about the trip by Anthony and Robbyn Summers, he said, "I can't talk. It was top secret." When asked to confirm or deny that he had met with Castro, he said, "no comment." Coleman did tell the authors that his mission helped convince him that Castro had nothing to do with JFK's death. (Source: Vanity Fair, Dec 1994 issue, page 105.)

3. **HSCA meetings with Cuban Government officials and accompanying witness interviews:** Selected HSCA Committee and Staff members made two trips to Cuba; all contacts with Cuban Government officials occurred in Havana. The times, locations and names of Cubans with whom HSCA personnel met are summarized below (source: Lopez Report, Appendices 1 and 4):

Trip #	Arrived	Departed	Met With
Cuba Trip #1	Mar 30, 1978	Apr 4, 1978	The Honorable Oscar Fernandez Mell

(Mayor of Havana)

Dr. Armando Torres Santrayll (Minister

of Justice)

Senen Buergo (American Dept. Official)

Trip #	Arrived	Departed	Met With
	Washington DC)		
	Capt. Felipe Villa (from Ministry of the	Interior)	
	Juanita Vera (Cuban Govt. Translator)		
	The Honorable Jose Ramon Fernandez	(Minister of Education)	
	Aramis Guetierrez (affiliation unknown)		
	Eusebio Azcue Lopez (witness interview--	Former Cuban Consul at Mexico City)	
	President Fidel Castro Ruz		
Cuba Trip #2	Aug 25,1978	Aug 29,1978	Dr. Armando Torres Santrayll (Minister of
			Justice)
	Ricardo Escartin (Cuban Consul in	Washington DC)	
	Senen Buergo (American Department	Official)	
	Capt. Felipe Villa (from Ministry of the	Interior)	
	Juanita Vera (Cuban Govt. Translator)		
	Nellie Ruiz de Zarade (Cuban Govt.	Translator)	

Aramis Guetierrez (affiliation unknown)

Juan Nilo Otero (witness interview)

Alfredo Mirabal Diaz (witness interview--

Former Cuban Consul at Mexico City)

Jose Verdacia Verdacia (witness interview)

Orestes Guillermo Ruiz Perez (witness

interview)

Rolando Cubela Secades (witness interview--

"AM/LASH": Former Cuban Cabinet

Official)

Antonio Hernandez (prison guard escort for

Rolando Cubela)

4. Identified HSCA records that relate to meetings with Cuban officials or witness interviews:

(Sources: HSCA JFK Task Force Index and ARRB Open Database)

A. HSCA Index (under "Cuba") stated that "Cuban Interviews are in Box 913", but did not list an agency file number.

B. HSCA Index (under "Cuba") revealed the following agency file numbers and associated identifiers, **for which there are *no* matching RIFs in the ARRB open database:**

Agency File Number	Identifiers
012221 Re: (10/2/78)	Cuban Govt. Questionnaire; Memo
012211 (10/2/78)	Cuba Trip, Memo by Lopez
012254	Cuban Trip 1-Transcripts (10/2/78)
006857 Document-Memo (4/3/78)	Cuba Trip, Classified
009998	Cuban Visas: 2 Visas (7/18/78)

C. HSCA Index (under "Cuba") revealed the following agency file numbers and associated identifiers **for which matching RIFs *were found* in the ARRB open database (RIFs are attached to this memo):**

Agency File Number	Identifiers
007512 (4/26/78) "HSCA" ¹ 012209 and unidentified	DOS document re: visit to Cuba Interview-Castro/HSCA (10/2/78) Photos (Castro w/ Louis Stokes HSCA
members)-(10/2/78) 006950 Lane, Lyle F. concerning "Cuba Trip"	Withdrawal form-for document by
006945 Alex Schnee, DOS, Subject: "Cuba Trip"	Withdrawal form-for letter from
012212 (10/2/78)	Cuban Trip 2-memo by Lopez
012215 for the Cuban Government (Questions to ask Castro)	HSCA's Illustrative Questions
015025 (3/20/79)	Proposed Staff Trip to Cuba
010300 re: Cuba Trip (7/27/78)	Letter from Blakey to Escartin
013237 re: leads and information (11/3/78)	Letter from Blakey to Escartin
007347 Interview of Proenza, Teresa and Proenza, Alvarado (4/14/78)	Memo from Fonzi to Blakey re:

¹HSCA Index indicates Agency File Number is 012223, but in the ARRB Open database, this number cannot be found, and the transcript of the Castro interview is listed instead under an agency file number of "HSCA".

013779 enter Cuba (passports and visas)-(12/19/78)	Withdrawal slip-re: Permission to
006984 DOS (Schnee)(3/29/78)	Outside Contract Report from
Agency File Numbers	Identifiers
002679 ² Fenton re: Manuel Abella (10/20/77)	Memo from Gonzales & Fonzi to
008317 ³ Holmes (5/15/78)	CIA withdrawal form on Russ
010369 to Escartin (7/31/78)	Letter in Spanish text from Blakey

5. Identified records that were given by the Cuban Government to the HSCA (in each case, the HSCA JFK Task Force Index, under "Cuba," listed the following agency file numbers and associated identifiers, for which matching RIFs *were* found; all such RIFs are attached):

Agency File Numbers	Identifiers
014421 HSCA questions (1/24/79)	Cuban Government responses to
012204 Government (10/2/78)	Statement of the Cuban
Transcripts from Cuban Trip #2 (in Spanish) (9/29/78)	012208 Cuban Government correspondence from Youth Tribunal re: "Cuban
Government Accuses CIA of Attempting to Link Them to Assassination of JFK"	

²Found in HSCA Index under "Cuba" (as opposed to "Cuban Exiles"); it is unclear whether this document is related to interviews, or proposed interviews, of Cuban nationals, but its location in the index indicates the subject matter is not Cuban exiles *per se*.

³Ibid.

(10/2/78)

012175 Summary of translated document
 regarding Santo
 Trafficante (re: Appalachin meeting)--attached
 document in Spanish-(9/29/78)

012219 Cuban Government Statement
 (essay): "Imperialism's
 ...Organizations and Agencies of Crime, Such as the
 CIA" (10/2/78)

6. Other Cuban documents identified which relate to the assassination: Appendix 4 of the Lopez Report mentions two additional items passed to the HSCA during Cuba Trip # 2, for which neither HSCA JFK Task Force Index entries nor RIFs could be found:

A. Photographs taken by the Cuban Government of CIA photographic surveillance base against Cuban Consulate and Embassy in Mexico City; and

B. An article entitled: "Finally We Have Eliminated that Pinto in the White House, Said Bob, When He Heard About JFK's Assassination."

I am not aware of any other documents transferred to the HSCA by the Cuban Government.