

Marita Lorenz Wrap-up Memo

The purpose of this research project was to determine whether DEA or INS had any files on Marita Lorenz that could be identified as assassination records, based on a lead provided by former HSCA investigators interviewed by the Review Board. Gaeton Fonzi in particular had an interest in Lorenz and wrote about her in his book "The Last Investigation." Marita's initial claim to fame is that she was involved with [redacted] had been involved in a failed plot to poison Fidel Castro, was associated with some anti-Castro Cuban elements, and subsequently was used as an informant for Customs and DEA. According to Gaeton Fonzi in The Last Investigation, Marita Lorenz saw a meeting between Frank Sturgis and Howard Hunt who had told XXXX that they didn't know each other.

The Review Board submitted requests to INS and DEA. INS completed a search and found no files on Lorenz. DEA's conducted a computerized search and found two files on Marita Lorenz aka Kirkland, Ilona Marita. I reviewed these files and recommend no Board Action is required as they were rather unremarkable and covered Lorenz's stint as a source in 1977 and as a confidential informant in 1983. According to DEA files, Marita Lorenz had proven to be an unreliable, not credible and difficult. The DEA conducted a computerized search and found only two files on Marita Lorenz, but under her alias Ilona Marita Kirkland. Her 1977 file indicated that she was a source on some of the criminal figures in New York City and was not credible and was considered "difficult." She was established as a confidential source for DEA from January 1983 through December 1983.

Woman who allegedly was involved in plot to poison Castro

- Involvement with Castro in 1959/1960, Castro's paramour but departed when she became ill. (According to FBI reports, she became pregnant by Castro, forced to undergo abortion, and returned to NY for further treatment.
- Articles in New York Daily News in 1975 and 1976 provided basis for independent plot.
- Frank Sturgis also involved
- Reportedly had poison pills hidden in jar of cold cream with intention of killing Castro, but pills ended up dissolving.

Gaeton Fonzi, The Last Investigation,

According to Meskil, Frank Fiorini (Sturgis) Castro confidant and hired agent for CIA got her out from under Castro and turned her into a spy.

Became involved with Sturgis anti-Castro crowd, but was she really working for the CIA?

Church Committee was interested in Lorenz

Witness to alleged perjury of Frank Sturgis and E. Howard Hunt

Customs informant

Steve Czukas, Customs Agent ordered to file a complaint with the Assassinations Committee about a member of the staff who was leaking information to Sturgis. That info came from a Customs informant named Marita Lorenz.

Lorenz story re: Oswald (pp. 97-99): "A month or so prior to November 22, 1963, I joined Frank Fiorini, Ozzie (Lee), others, Cuban in our group and drove in two cars to the home of Orlando Bosch. . . This certain "highly secret meeting" in Bosch's home was to discuss certain streets in Dallas. Under the impression to "take another armory." . . There was talk of "highly powerful rifle" and discussions of "feet," "building," "timings," "contacts," "silence," etc. Claimed they talked about "Kennedy" but she was distracted, not paying close attention. Later in November, drove to Dallas with Frank and 8 or 9 others. Jack Ruby and LHO in Dallas.

Alexander Rorke Newman describes as another Hemming "A soldier of fortune caught up in the Cuba vortex," and very "right wing." Associated with Marita Lorenz and June Cobb. On September 24, 1963 he and a colleague, Geoffrey Sullivan, disappeared on a flight somewhere in the Caribbean.

In contact with June Cobb (see CIA surveillance log for October 25, 1960)

Called in connection with Marita Lorenz.

Newman p. 108-109. According to a New York DCD report, story of June Cobb and Marita Lorenz surfaced. June Cobb appears as a double agent in the Rorke papers... According to the Rorke notes, June Cobb forced in the fall of 1960, a cousin of Amb. Henry Cabot Lodge to have an abortion when "Lodge's" cousin was six months pregnant with Castro's child.

Find Gentzkow papers. Douglas K. Gentzkow boyfriend of one of Sherman Billingsley's daughters who turned over information collected by Billingsley to the CIA. (Billingsley outraged about unjust treatment of Rorke, collected documents he thought would be embarrassing to JFK and CIA and stored them in a bank vault.)