

ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS-- CRC (NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER)

HSCA VOL. 10

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SUMMARY

The only added significance for the New Orleans chapter of the CRC was the coinciding address with Oswald's FPCC and Frank Bartes' encounter with Lee Oswald in 1963. The HSCA discounted any connection regarding the addresses, pointing out that the CRC had left the building over a year before Oswald listed it as the FPCC address. They also find no evidence that Frank Bartes or any other member of the CRC/New Orleans had any contact with Lee Harvey Oswald beyond the court appearance in August 1963.

BACKGROUND

The New Orleans chapter of the CRC was founded in 1961 by Sergio Aracha Smith. At one point, the CRC New Orleans had office space at 544 Camp St., which of course, Oswald had stamped as the address of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee on the flyers he was handing out when arrested in August 1963.

Aracha Smith denies having seen Oswald and knows nothing about him. The CRC headquarters in Miami fired Smith in early 1962, replacing him with Luis Rabel, who moved the office of the New Orleans chapter to his home. By 1964, Frank Bartes was heading the New Orleans chapter out of his home. Bartes had appeared in court with Carlos Bringuier after the latter's own arrest for scuffling

with Oswald in August 1963. Bartes claimed that he identified Oswald as a "potentially dangerous man" that day to an FBI agent, but declined to identify that agent for the HSCA.

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