

MEMORANDUM

October 7, 1996

To: File

cc: David G. Marwell

From: T. Jeremy Gunn

Subject: Meeting with Fernando Remirez

This memorandum reports on the lunch that David Marwell and I had today with Fernando Remirez de Estenoz and Dagoberto Rodriguez of the Cuban Interests Section at the Iron Gate Restaurant in Washington. Messrs. Remirez and Rodriguez are, respectively, the First Deputy Minister and the First Secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington. The luncheon was arranged and attended by Wayne Smith. Wayne Smith first proposed that we have an informal luncheon almost one year ago. He called last month and suggested that we meet.

At the meeting, both David and I said that we were pleased to meet the attendees for what we considered to be an informal meeting. We said that although we are Federal employees, we were not at the luncheon as representatives of the United States. We emphasized that we were not making any requests on behalf of the US government and that if any requests were to be made in the future they would come through official US channels.

After making those preliminary statements, we described the mission and purpose of the Assassination Records Review Board, including its goal of obtaining foreign records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. We stated that we would like to hear any recommendations that they might have regarding approaches that might be made (through the State Department) to the Cuban government. Mr. Remirez suggested that the first step would be to request a visit to Cuba to explain our mission to the Cuban government. He advised not making any formal requests for documents at this time.

The meeting was cordial. No person made any commitment regarding future plans.