

MEMORANDUM

August 15, 1995

To: The File
cc: T. Jeremy Gunn/ARRB Phil Golrick/ARRB

From: Tammi Long/ARRB

Subject: FBI Files --HSCA copy of Fair Play for Cuba files
Agency file number 97-4196

The FBI provided for review the four volume set of documents which the HSCA received from the FBI on the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC). The files were redacted as provided to HSCA. The majority of the postponements were third agency materials involving the CIA. The files cover the period from December 10, 1962 until November 4, 1964. This memorandum sets forth a summary of the contents of the file by volume.

Volume 1, covers the period of December 10, 1962 (file number 97-4196-835) until January 22, 1963 (file number 93-4196-840). Volume 1 primarily concerns the transition of leadership at the organization's headquarters in New York. Richard T. Gibson, former General Secretary of FPCC, left the country and fled to North Africa. Information regarding his itinerary was provided by both the Paris Legat, through French government sources in North Africa and by the CIA. Much of the CIA information is redacted. After Gibson's departure, Vincent T. Lee headed the organization.

Volume 2, covering the period of February 7, 1963 (97-4196-841) until July 1, 1963 (97-4196-858) provides information regarding the testimony of Lee and other individuals associated with FPCC before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS). The Bureau had access to the organization's files and was able to photograph them with the help of an informant. One document of particular interest in this volume was a letter to FBI Director Hoover (97-4196-857) from an anti-Castro Cuban immigrant which recounts an altercation with a man passing out FPCC pamphlets on the corner of Canal Street in New Orleans, La. This letter was written on June 29, 1963. Oswald's letter to FPCC requesting additional flyers and advising the organization that he had established a FPCC chapter in New Orleans was written on April 19, 1963 (97-4196-902). Research through secondary sources puts the date of Oswald's arrest while distributing FPCC material as August 9, 1963. This volume also contains reports of Gibson's whereabouts and associations in Morocco and Algeria.

Volume 3, covered the period August 20, 1963 (97-4196-859) until January 10, 1964 (97-4196-893).

Information gathering intensified during this period due to the assassination. There are several requests for organizational analyses of the FPCC from Director Hoover. Also included in Volume 4 are several press releases by SISS regarding testimony to that subcommittee. During this period, the FPCC experienced another leadership change. Albert S. Baker succeeded Lee. Members of the Canadian FPCC visited chapters in the Midwest while rumors persisted that the American FPCC was nearly defunct. Many of the redactions in this volume are in communications between the Secretary of State and the Canadian government.

Volume 4 covers the period of January 16, 1964 (97-4196-845) until November 4, 1964 (97-4196-910). This volume primarily consists of attempts to confirm the demise of the national FPCC and its local chapters. There was also an attempt to ascertain whether the FPCC had been replaced by organizations called the Friends of Latin America or the Committee for Latin American Understanding. One document of particular interest in this volume is 97-4196-900 which suggests that the CIA planted a story in a New York City newspaper concerning the FPCC. Additionally, this volume contains requests for information on Oswald, his association with FPCC, particularly any association with a Dallas chapter, and a possible pre-assassination meeting with officer Tippet and the John Birch Society (97-4196-5th NR after 902). There is also documentation of the FBI assisting the Attorney General's office in getting information necessary to subpoena individuals associated with the FPCC for various reasons, including failure to register the organization under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.