

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM

---

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : JCS  
RECORD NUMBER : 202-10002-10134  
RECORDS SERIES : JCS CENTRAL FILE 1963  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

---

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : US ARMY / BRITISH GOVERNMENT  
FROM :  
TO :  
TITLE :  
DATE : 09/26/63  
PAGES : 13  
SUBJECTS : INFORMATION FURNISHED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS

SITUATION IN CUBA

CHE GUEVERA'S ARTICLE ON GUERRILLA WARFARE

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : SECRET  
RESTRICTIONS : REFERRED  
CURRENT STATUS : POSTPONED IN FULL  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/22/97  
OPENING CRITERIA : REVIEW BY THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENT  
COMMENTS : JCS Central File 1963, Box 3. British and Canadian  
government papers regarding Cuba.

---

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED



SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

18 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee of Cuban Affairs:  
Reports from the British and Canadian Embassies on  
Recent Events in Cuba

- References: NSAM No. 213  
 Memorandum from Deputy Secretary of Defense to  
 Mr. Bundy, Special Assistant to the President,  
 dated 10 Jan 63  
 Memorandum from Secretary of Army to Mr. Cottrell  
 Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee on Cuba,  
 dated 11 Jan 63

The attached copies of significant correspondence prepared by  
the British and Canadian Embassies in Cuba are forwarded to you  
as a matter of interest.

*J. D. Alger*  
 J. D. ALGER  
 Major General, GS  
 Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff  
 for Military Operations

NO JCS OBJECTION TO  
 DECLASSIFICATION: DATE 28 AUG 1988  
 REQUIRES CONCURRENCE  
 OF DOS/CANADA/UK

*dest*  
 1 cy - ~~2~~ - 25 Jun 62

SEP 13 1963

DISPATCHED  
 SECRET

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
 OFFICIAL FILE COPY  
 JCS RAIR BRANCH 2B939

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED  
 WHEN SEPARATED FROM  
 CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

10150/63

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH LEGATION

HAVANA

August 30, 1963

Dear Department,

We enclose a miscellany report for the period to August 23.

2. We are sending copies to Sutherland in Washington, to Information Sections in Mexico City and Caracas and to Information Research Department and P.O.R.D.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

American Department,  
FOREIGN OFFICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

9123/2010(0806763)W

CONFIDENTIALPolitical Views of a Farmer

A farmer in the area north of the Escambray mountains (the chief centre of counter-revolutionary bands) recently said that the general feeling amongst farmers in the area was that the Castro Government was worse than the others, but all they wanted was to be left in peace to look after their farms and provide for their families. The area was very quiet; usually nothing was heard of the rebels in the hills. If they became too obvious the militia sent in "about ten thousand men" to clear them all out. He (the farmer) would not give sanctuary to a counter-revolutionary although he sympathized with them, but nor would he give a lift to a Russian.

Coffee Picking

On August 9 the press published target figures, set by the Trades Union Confederation, for volunteer coffee pickers for each province, as follows:

Elmar del Rio	1,500
Havana	11,500
Matanzas	1,500
Las Villas	2,000
Camaguey	500
Oriente	6,000

These figures may give some indication of the incidence of under-employment. That for Oriente is surprisingly high but may perhaps include what is left of the original coffee labour force. Camaguey, which had considerable labour problems during the sugar harvest, has an even smaller quota than we would have expected. Havana is to produce as many volunteers as all the other provinces combined.

Despite Fidel Castro's personal intervention (not made public) earlier this year to prevent students being taken from their studies to perform "voluntary" agricultural work, coffee picking is already proving a grand exception. All mass organisation, including the Union of Young Communists and the Federation of University Students are announced as supporting the voluntary labour campaign. Special examinations are being arranged in December for those who are now going off to pick coffee and who need to pass in "non-basic subjects. These are described as domestic science, music and the visual arts, but there is no indication that "volunteers" will be limited to students of these subjects; indeed plenty of teachers are going off too. Children as young as 14 are encouraged to go to Oriente, and although we are told that arrangements will be made this year for their parents to remain in touch with them, one recalls numerous complaints last season that these arrangements were not working properly. More details can be found on page 5 of HOY for August 28, including the claim that coffee picking is "a way of molting a firm and strong character for the men of the future". HOY of August 29 corrects an earlier report that workers going to Oriente had to go without food on the journey for 7 hours: the figure should have been 37. In many faculties the academic year has not recovered from the confusion into which it was thrown by the demands of military service and various harvests throughout last winter. It looks as if confusion will be further confounded.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

Amplification

An editorial in the Washington Post for July 25 stated that Felix Bryant (see Havana Personalities Report for 1962 No. 37) who in the preceding week had been appointed a major general in the Cuban Army. As far as we know, there is no truth in this, but if anyone has confirmation of it we should be most interested.

Maritime check on small boats

At the month's ago a new chief was appointed to the "Department of Control of Ports and Coasts" in the Ministry of the Interior. He is said to be introducing a system whereby no private boat can leave its mooring without special authorization for each trip and each passenger by name. An announcement that a new census of all fishermen, whether co-operative members, individuals or even part-time fishermen, is to begin on September 1, may also be due to his zeal. In late July most of the Government owned pleasure cruisers at the beach resort of Varadero were brought to Havana, where it is alleged that none of them are being equipped as motor boats, complete with machine-gun turret at the stern.

Gastroenteritis

El Mundo of August 28 quotes a report from Miami according to which an organization of Cubans in exile is claiming that more than 4,000 children died of gastroenteritis in Cuba during the first seven months of 1963. We have previously noticed some reluctance in official announcements to reveal the true state of affairs and it is worth noticing that, instead of giving the statistics which would refute what is probably an exaggerated claim, the newspaper merely pointed on the next of the statement which referred to "clouds of flies, cockroaches and rats", commenting that the ailments were rampant and that all the cockroaches and rats had fled to the United States.

Food for Sport

In the province of Pinar del Rio, not far from Havana, is a lagoon named "La Macanita", developed before the Revolution by a wealthy Cuban doctor as a duck-shooter's paradise. To encourage the duck to return after the Sunday slaughter it was a rule of the owner that 700 lbs of rice be spread on the water every Sunday morning. The lagoon is now Government-owned and is reserved for the pleasure of ministers, Army commanders and the like. The Sunday-feeding rule is strictly maintained and the equivalent of a week's ration for 140 average Cuban families goes on the water every week. (This report is hearsay, but probably correct.)

The Bus Driver before and after the Revolution

A recent Ministry of Transport poster contrasts in two pictures the relations of the Havana bus driver with his passengers before and after the Revolution. The captions

CONFIDENTIAL

/read



CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

road (more or less) "At one time, now fortunately past, the bus driver and the passengers were irreconcilable enemies; now in the new cabin, they enjoy the close and pleasant relationship of 'brothers'". In fact, Havana was much better supplied with buses before 1959, and they did not break down as they do often do nowadays, causing the passengers of one bus to pile into the next one that comes along. But we suppose there is an element of truth in the idea that under the new conditions the bus driver gets closer to his passengers.

Religious Tolerance?

Radio station CMBC, which had been specialising in programmes of classical music for 14 years, but was nationalised with the revolution, tried to broadcast Stravinsky's "Symphony of Psalms" recently, but were told by the Government that, while the work itself was not forbidden, they should not read over the text of the psalms by way of introduction as this would constitute a religious broadcast and could not be tolerated in a secular state.

The manager of the station told us, incidentally, that there had been many complaints that it was impossible to avoid listening to Fidel Castro when all television and radio stations were linked. He had received a dissemination to continue classical music programmes except in cases where the Prime Minister had something especially important to say.

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
HAVANA.

August 29, 1963.

(1385/63)

Dear Department,

Chancery letter 1385/63 of July 18, 1962 reported the announcement of the signature of a Russo-Cuban Air Agreement, establishing an air service Moscow-Conakry-Havana. As you will be aware from recent correspondence, the use of Conakry as a staging point for the TU114 aircraft operating this route is still in doubt and for many months the service operated - precariously in the judgement of some - directly between Moscow and Havana.

2. The Official Gazette of August 19 has now belatedly published the text of the Air Agreement signed in Havana on July 17 last year. We are forwarding an English translation as soon as possible, with a reference to this letter. Annex II of the Agreement specifies the following routes:-

For Soviet Aircraft

- (i) Moscow-Rabat (Casablanca)-Conakry-Havana, in both directions.
- (ii) Moscow-Oslo (Stavanger-Keflavik-Gander-Havana) in both directions.
- (iii) Moscow-Havana (by the first or the second route) and onward to third countries in both directions, flight points to be specified later by agreement between the appropriate aviation authorities of the contracting parties.

For Cuban Aircraft

- (i) Havana-(Gander-Halifax-Goose Bay-Montreal) Dublin-London-Prague-Moscow.
- (ii) Havana-Bermuda-Azores-Madrid-Vienna-Prague-Moscow.
- (iii) Havana-Port of Spain (Trinidad)-Belem-Recife-Conakry-Rabat-Algiers-Prague-Moscow.
- (iv) Havana-Moscow (by one of the routes indicated above) and onward to third countries in both directions with the ulterior specification, flight points to be specified later by agreement between the appropriate aviation authorities of the contracting parties (who) have the right to omit from the established routes any of the intermediate points which are situated in the territories of third countries.

3. It will be seen that the only route in operation at present is the Moscow-(Conakry)-Havana route operated exclusively by Russian aircraft. The Prague-Shannon-Gander-Havana route, operated by Cuban aircraft in conjunction with C.S.A., presumably falls outside the scope of the present agreement.

It will be noticed that the Cubans probably wish to use Kindley Field in Bermuda, in the first instance at least, for their proposed route (ii).

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to Sutherland in Washington and Chancery at Moscow, and Group Captain Rees at Caracas.

RESTRICTED

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
HAVANA.

September 18, 1963.

(11214/63)

Dear Department,

The Cuban-Spanish Trade agreement of February 10, 1962 reported in Clube's letter 11214/62 to you of February 19, 1962, has now been published in full, and is in the form of a Final Act following the financial and commercial negotiations which took place at that time. Reference is made to the Modus Vivendi of Trade and Payments of October 23, 1959, which was to be extended until the end of 1962. As an Annex I am listing some points of interest taken from this Final Act.

2. Also published is an exchange of notes carrying dates December 18 and 19, 1962 and January 9, 1963, extending the agreement until March 31, 1963 because it would not be possible to have further trade talks in Madrid before February 1963. According to a press report here covering the signing of two contracts these talks took place in March.

3. The contracts themselves were between CUBATEX, the Cuban textile purchasing organisation, and a Barcelona company "C.H. Hilaturas de Fabra y Coats". One contract is for Cuba to buy 550,500 cones of industrial thread mainly of a make known as "Cadena", and the other is for 2,750,000 reels of thread for domestic use of a make known as "Cometa". The value of these contracts was given as some \$670,000. The goods concerned are traditionally well known in Cuba and will be delivered in 1964.

4. I am sending a copy of this letter to Sutherland in Washington, Commercial Relations and Exports Department of the Board of Trade, J.I.B. and the Commercial Section in Madrid.

(S.D. Eccles)

Economic Relations Department,  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

1123/2010 (18 OCT 63) WJ



RESTRICTED

(11214/63)

Points of Interest from the "Final Act" of  
the Commercial and Financial conversations  
held in Havana between Cuba and Spain dated  
February 10, 1962

Paragraph 3:

In the first months of 1961 there was a high balance of dollars owing to Spain. Moreover, when the balance is more than the \$3 million laid down in Article 18 of the Modus Vivendi, the creditor has to take steps to reduce the imbalance which have an immediate side-effect of slowing down trade in both directions. Hence both Parties agree to keep the balance within the limits of Article 18.

Paragraphs 4 and 5:

*Leaves* The Cuban delegation declared that it had signed contracts to sell its signs to Tabacalera, S.A. and asked that this company be given every assistance. This was agreed to by Spain. The Cubans agreed to continue to reserve 2,000 metric tons of raw tobacco for Spain, and perhaps more when the harvest results were known. Of this total \$2½ million would go to Tabacalera.

Paragraph 6:

Cuba would continue to reserve 60,000 tons of sugar for sale to Spain.

Paragraph 7:

Cuba gave Spain a list of goods she would like to acquire:

Garlic	1,000	metric tons
Fresh almonds	189	metric tons
Rice without husks	20,000	metric tons
Refined olive oil	4,000	metric tons
Emery	423	metric tons
Ferric sulphate	200,000	kilograms
Lead sulphate	12,000	kilograms
Butyl glycol alcohol	15,000	kilograms
Lead stearate	10,000	kilograms
Sodium stearate	10,000	kilograms
Zinc stearate	25,500	kilograms
Magnesium stearate	7,000	kilograms
Sodium double tartrate	5,000	kilograms
Sodium bitartrate	34,000	kilograms
Cigarette paper	310	metric tons
Wire mesh	500,000	metres
Eyelets (sewing)	27,000,000	
"Welding electrodes"	277	metric tons
Drawing triangles	1,000	
Radio receivers, parts and spares	\$250,000	
Abrasives	\$42,000	
Artificial essences	\$100,000	
Printed matter, of all types	\$750,000	
Steel or iron wire	\$150,000	
Chains of all types	\$150,000	
Nuts, bolts and similar items	\$250,000	
Hand-tools, hand-saws and similar items	\$250,000	

RESTRICTED

-2-

Drills and bits, tools	\$ 30,000
Locks	\$ 52,000
Blank keys for locks	\$ 92,500
Electrolytic copper wire	\$200,000
Refrigerators, parts and spares	\$100,000
Bearings	\$100,000
Reducers and multipliers	\$112,000
Metal and plastic stamps	\$ 30,000
Transformers for industrial use	\$100,000
Rectifying valves	\$130,000
Valves and tubes for television and radio	\$200,000
False teeth	\$ 15,000
Fish hooks	\$ 20,000
Various	\$200,000
Industrial refrigeration equipment	\$300,000
Parts and spares for the above	\$100,000
Welded iron mesh, wire and cable of high elastic limit	\$200,000
Chemical and pharmaceutical products	\$150,000

The Spanish delegation expressed concern about this list because it omitted goods traditionally exported by Spain to Cuba. The Spanish authorities would, however, try and give Cuba satisfaction on the understanding that Cuba would try and apportion its needs taking into account the Spanish interest.

Paragraph 10:

Both Governments proposed to hold new negotiations in Madrid in November 1962.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
HAVANA.  
September 19, 1963.

RESTRICTED

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
HAVANA.

(11215/63)

September 19, 1963.

Dear Department,

The Cuban 'Gaceta Oficial' has published the text of a Protocol extending the Commercial Agreement of March 30, 1954 between Cuba and Switzerland for the year 1963. The Protocol was signed in Havana on December 31, 1962.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter to Sutherland in Washington, Commercial Relations and Exports Department of the Board of Trade, J.I.B. and the Chancery in Berne.

(S.D. Eccles)

Economic Relations Department,  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

RESTRICTED

11215/63 (18 Oct 63) w/



CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH CONSULATE,  
HAVANA.

(1397/63)

September 25, 1963.

Please refer to my letter 1397/63 of June 20 about the Cuban merchant fleet.

2. The "Aracelio Iglesias", referred to in paragraph 4, arrived in Havana on its maiden voyage on September 25. All the details given in paragraph 3 of my letter under reference are applicable to this ship. It is claimed that the new ship has the most modern electronic navigating equipment, and the following additional data has been provided:-

Two-stroke engine generating 7,200 h.p. at 110 r.p.m.;  
Fuel capacity - 935 tons of heavy petroleum and  
395 of diesel oil;  
Dead weight - 11,700 tons; range - 1,200 miles;  
There are 16 hoists of 3 tons and one each of 10, 25  
and 50 tons.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Sutherland in Washington, Chancery at Warsaw, and Senior Naval Officer, West Indies, and an enclosing an extra copy for the Ministry of Transport.

(S.D. Eccles)

J.H. Brown, Esq.,  
American Department,  
BRITISH CONSULATE, HAVANA.

CONFIDENTIAL

1397/63-25



1011/63

SECRET

BRITISH

HAVANA

September 26, 1963

Paragraph 2 of Sutherland's letter 10621/63 of September 12 to ~~Parsons~~ invites our comments on the article by Che Guevara entitled "Guerrilla Warfare: a Method" which appeared in the September issue of Cuba Socialista. The magazine will have reached its usual recipients by now. I attach a summary of the article, which has also appeared in the September 22 issue of Verde Olivo, in Bohemia and in a summarised form with a commentary by Bernardo Callejas, in the latest issue of the student magazine Lella (no date).

2. Che Guevara's article, an essay on the philosophy of guerrilla warfare as a means to the achievement of revolution, is a rehash of his own book on the subject and of the Second Declaration of Havana which he quotes at length. Its interest lies in the timing of its publication and the extent to which it may mark yet another change in the constantly fluctuating approach of the Cuban Government towards revolutionary change in Latin America.

3. As you will remember, Castro, in January of this year, advocated violence as the only way to achieve the necessary social change in Latin America. He was sarcastic at the expense of those who thought that peaceful means might work. (See in particular his speech to the Congress of Women of All America on January 15 - our telegram No. 1 Saving of January 17). From about the end of January until July 26 there was a period in which Castro avoided the subject of Latin America and put all the emphasis on internal development. This line seemed to have been confirmed during Castro's visit to Moscow when it looked as though he "had worked out" a compromise with the Russians involving an acceptance of the Russian view that some countries were open to peaceful change. This was expressed in two ways, first in the formula that it was the duty of each country to choose its own way and by Castro in speeches and conversation making a distinction between the two categories, those susceptible to peaceful change and those where violence was necessary. He still adhered to this distinction in his speech on July 26 although that speech marked a return to preoccupation with the Latin American situation and to violent language directed not to the whole of Latin America but to the selected countries said to be ripe for revolution. Since July 26, my impression is that the Cubans have stepped up their propaganda output on the need for revolution in the selected countries.

4. Che Guevara's article seems to mark a return to the pure doctrine of the Second Declaration of Havana. He

/does

A. D. Parsons, Esq.,  
American Department,  
FOREIGN OFFICE.

2373

6474

SECRET

9193/2010 (18 OCT 63) WJ

SECRET

- 2 -

does not concede that there may be countries where revolution can be achieved by peaceful means. He argues that guerrilla action is the "central axis" of the struggle in the Americas and that the struggle must be continental in scope in response to the continental measures taken against it by the United States. The task of deciding when conditions are right in each country is one for the revolutionaries in that country but the development of the struggle must be related to the general strategy and progress in one country has effects on the neighbouring ones.

5. I can, of course, only speculate on the reasons for the reversion to this more aggressive line and the extent to which it may be related either to internal differences of approach among the Cuban leaders or to Cuba's position in the Sino-Soviet argument. As we have reported elsewhere, Castro for some time has been in a bad temper over the cold-shouldering of his overtures to the United States and the signs of increased activity on the part of counter-revolutionaries. He may perhaps also be reacting to a fear that once again, as over the withdrawal of the missiles, he may be left out of a direct rapprochement between Russia and the United States. There is also the question of how the failure to sign the Nuclear Ban Treaty fits into the picture and the extent to which all of this represents a movement away from Russia and towards China. This whole field is one in which it is easy to get confused but difficult to provide the answers and I think that for the moment we must suspend judgement. Perhaps Castro's speech on September 28 will provide another clue.

6. I am copying this letter to Iain Sutherland in Washington, Tom Barker in Mexico City, Robin Edmonds in Caracas and to Chanceries in Moscow and Peking. I also enclose an extra copy for I.R.O.

(P. H. Scott)

SECRET