

18 JAN 1977

DD/A Registry
File Legal

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ATTENTION : Intelligence Division

FROM : Robert W. Gambino
Director of Security

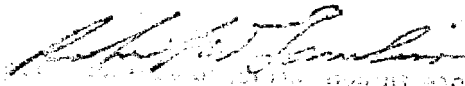
SUBJECT : Colby/Luce Telephone Conversations
Regarding Kennedy Assassination Information

1. Attached herewith are transcripts of two telephone conversations between former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William E. Colby and Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce and one transcript of a conversation between Mr. Colby and Mr. Justin McCarthy. These conversations took place in October 1975. The transcripts contain information concerning the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. According to Mrs. Luce, the source of this information is a former Cuban refugee who was the captain of a boat engaged in anti-Castro activities. Mrs. Luce was concerned with the fact that even though her informant had told her that the information had been passed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), no mention of it appears in the Warren Commission Report.

2. Also attached are a blind memorandum detailing the circumstances of the typing of the transcripts and a news article dated 16 November 1975 which reflects that some of this information was brought to the attention of Senator Richard Schweiker while he was chairman of a Senate subcommittee investigating the Warren Commission Report.

3. This material is being passed for your information and any investigation you deem appropriate.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:



Robert W. Gambino

Attachments

0570060/A

Internal Use Only

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[Redacted]

File with Mrs [Redacted]
talk — She passed
The story on —
CI advised her
to do so to [Redacted]

Date

12/15/75

FORM 5-75 (0) USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

Internal Use Only

Telephone Conversation Between Mr. Colby and Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce
at 12:40 on Saturday, 25 October 1975 (from steno notes of Barbara Pindar
transcribed the same day)

Mrs. Luce: I have a big problem, a case in conscience. I got rather deeply involved during and after the Bay of Pigs, and up to the time of the missile crisis, with a group called the (Directorate Revolucionario Estudiante; Note: the spelling of that is just a guess), the DRE. Whether you know this or not, it was me who fed the missile stuff to Keating. I knew a number of these leaders well; they were going in and out of Cuba, and I paid for one of the motor boats. Bill Pawley did too. We thought we were doing another Flying Tiger. The missile crisis came, and I got a telephone call from Allen telling me that the Secrets Act had gone into effect and that henceforth there would be no voluntary American efforts. That ended that, and I don't know what I was doing -- maybe I went back to Arizona, or whatever. Then came the assassination. The night of the assassination, right after Oswald was caught, one of my boys telephoned me from New Orleans. Didn't I ever tell you this?

Mr. Colby: No.

Mrs. Luce: It was the captain of my boat. It seems that after the missile crisis -- a period of about a year had gone by -- he said that all the young Cubans involved profoundly in all of this had been told to scatter and scam, that he and two of my other lads --

Mr. Colby: When, after the crisis?

Mrs. Luce: (Yes.) (were told) to leave Miami.

Mr. Colby: In 1962?

Mrs. Luce: Yes. They were to stop their efforts to free Cuba; and if they did not, they would be deported. It has a very interesting end involving you. In any event, this one had been told to leave Miami after the missile crisis was over, and he had opened a cell in New Orleans. He telephoned me to tell me that Oswald was -- I am telling you what his view was -- was a hired gun; Oswald had tried to penetrate their little cell; that they turned around and did a counterpenetration job on Oswald; all of this was done several months before the assassination. He said,--telling me on the phone, he was terribly excited -- he said you see he had no money, all of a sudden he began to get money, so we checked him and he had a little "Communists be Free" or "Be Fair to Cuba" group going in New Orleans." He said "We

had tape recordings of what he was telling his group." It was a counter-penetration they went on. He said, "We have photographs of Oswald, passing out handbills on the street, 'Be Fair to Cuba.'" He said, "We are absolutely certain that Oswald was simply one of three assassination teams, that they were working out of Mexico City (or funded in Mexico City) by Castro." He said there were three assassination teams. Then he said, "We have these recordings, these tapes, and we have these photos, what should we do?" These fellows always trusted me. I said, "The first thing you do, the minute you hang up this phone, you telephone to the FBI, give them everything you have got." Working in New York with these Cubans is an extraordinary fellow, one of the most puzzling characters I have every met; he is a devout Catholic -- Justin McCarthy. Justin is the American patron -- although he has no money, never had money -- of all these free Cubans in America. He never worked at CIA, although CIA tried to pick his brains. He tried to help the FBI. I knew Justin McCarthy, and he used to send me bulletins; he said he had been sending them to me for the past six months, and I had never received one of them. Out comes the Warren Report. I have many other things to do, and I assume my lads had reported what they knew, and maybe it had been discounted, but I had taken the Warren Report at face value without poring over it -- and I forgot the whole darn thing. Then, this must be nine years ago, up turns a guy named Lloyd Garrison* -- what was he, a sheriff or something? (* she means Jim Garrison)

Mr. Colby: District Attorney.

Mrs. Luce: And he hit the headlines that the assassination had been a conspiracy. Then it all flooded back into my mind that I had never been quite satisfied with what the Warren Report had brought out. Basically, I was troubled by the whole thing, so I said I thought I would call Garrison. In order to call him, I had to have the names of the Cubans, which had gone out of my bean. So I called Justin McCarthy. He said one of them was now, my lad, was in Miami. I got him on the phone, my fellow, and I said, "You remember your midnight call to me about the assassination of the President, I want to know what happened after that." He said, "We went at once to the FBI, they took all the tapes and photos and all our information and told us to keep our mouths shut, and shortly after that they informed us that if any of us talked to the press or anyone, dire things would happen." He said one of the fellows on the boat was deported to Guatemala or Chile, and one of them was murdered. He said, "I am a lawyer, have two children, I am making my way in Miami, and I never want to hear a damn word about the assassination of Kennedy because you Americans really do not want to know the truth." He said, "We waited, expecting the Warren Committee would want to have us, and we never heard a word." He said, "I want no part of it." Then the Garrison thing died

down, and I am a busy woman, and I forgot about it. Three days ago, a reporter was in here -- a gal -- asking about my life style and said, in passing, "What do you think of the investigation of the assassination of the President?" I am afraid I hit the roof. I said, "I think everyone must be absolutely off their rockers. What possible motive would the CIA have for murdering their own President?" I said, "Even to assume such a thing is beyond belief because where there is a murder or assassination, there is a motive, and there could be no motive." I said, "Who had the motive was Castro; but perhaps not even Castro, possibly just a bunch of Communist Cubans or plain Communists." I said, "They always had a motive for that sort of thing." Schweiker called me up yesterday -- when the reporter said to me, "What is the name of the young Cuban?", I said, "Well, let's call him Julio Fernandez." The Senator said to me "that is a fascinating story." (* I missed the fact that the girl reporter was with Knight Newspapers)

Mr. Colby: You told the story to Schweiker?

Mrs. Luce: He read it in the Knight paper.

Mr. Colby: You told the story to the Knight people?

Mrs. Luce: Not in the detail I told you. Schweiker asked if I could locate any of these men involved for him, and I said I would try. That was yesterday. I used that opportunity to say, "I do not know what you are doing on the Hill." I said, "You are in the (process?) for headlines and destroying this country's security." He said, "If you have this information and you can get your hands on it, it would be a good thing to lay this story to rest." He said, "If you can find me these people, I assure you they will be listened to in closed session." Now comes the big thing. Justin McCarthy runs an animal farm in Nyack: telephone number is 914; 647-8596. I have known him to be a man of complete integrity. He is a devout Catholic. He may or may not be a fanatic. What makes one think he is is what he tells you is just so terribly alarming; as he was the one, along with Bill Pawley, who involved me with these Cubans, I tracked him down and had a two-hour conversation on the phone with him this morning that was really staggering. When I said to him, "Would you tell these things in the closed session in the Senate?", he said, "I would find it more expedient and to shorten the process to hire loud speakers and put them on top of the Empire State Building." He said, "You don't know, Clare, the Cubans have not lost their desire to free their country, and there are plenty of them working

at it, and they trust me, and I trust them, and they all trust me." He said, "All these fellows on the Hill give a damn about is a big headline and political attention, and if this should involve my testifying and some of my fellows got bumped off, or their apparatus shut down, I could not live with myself, no I will not testify." I said, "You know, Justin, if they send for you, you might have to." He said, "They are not likely to send for me unless you tell them." He said, "They do not know who to ask for anyway." (It doesn't appear in my notes, but my memory is that he added that the reason the Hill doesn't get to the truth is that they never know who to ask for.) He told me a story about working once with CIA. He said, "We did this -- DRE did one operation with CIA, as a result of which all the Cubans involved were caught and killed, and I do not want any part with the CIA." He said, "It too can be a sieve." I said, "You have me really over a barrel." I said, "Justin, I have to tell someone, is there anyone you trust?" He said, "There is only one man in this whole country whose word at this point I would take." I said, "Who is that?" and he said, "Bill Colby." He said, "He is a daily communicant" --

Mr. Colby: No, no.

Mrs. Luce: I did not disillusion him. In any event, if only to put my own mind at rest since -- he always says, which is fascinating if true, that my lads in New Orleans, yes, they did turn over the tapes to the FBI but they kept copies.

Mr. Colby: Really?

Mrs. Luce: So he says. If so, you are possibly, if -- I think you should get hold of Justin and give him a couple of hours because he has plenty to say. If what he says is true -- he also told me, which I had forgotten -- that during the time of the missile crisis, and I was the one he came to, and naturally the one I went to was Harry (note: this is first mention of a "Harry" maybe I misunderstood; could she have said "Allen"?) because I could trust him. In a way, Justin McCarthy supplied a lot of background material on the Cubans to (note: could not hear what she said). He said a few days ago -- Time is planning to do a (take-out) issue on the assassination of Kennedy. He said that, going back through their files, they came across my name as an informant, and he said "they tracked me down too." He said, then he told me -- I mentioned in passing that there

no this is her husband Harry Luce.

MORI this page

** or maybe she was referring to her husband - Henry Luce? That is as an informant.*

was a wonderful girl on Time that knows more about the Cubans almost than anyone in CIA, Priscilla Badger. He said the Time people are now trying to get information. He said, "I will talk to no one because there are lives at stake" -- except you. For my own sake, if you have a go at him, I would be very happy to know how serious it is.

Mr. Colby: I will report back to you by all means. Let me do a little homework on just where this (looks). You do not remember the name of the Cubans in Miami?

Mrs. Luce: There are so many names; he talked to me so fast. He kept saying "Chilo." I asked who "Chilo" is, and he said that was his code name.

Jose Antonio La Nuza (Note: That last name may be all one word; she said it means "the nut.")

Luis Fernandez Rocha

One of those fellows was the Director of the DRE. Then he also reminded me of a guy who used to come to see me -- Cardona. (He had been told by the American Government to get out of Miami) and he died, having become the President of a university in Puerto Rico. These fellows were scattered all over the place. As I mentioned that to Justin, he said, "I know where they all are." The thing that alarmed me is that -- he does not talk in an excited voice, but the statements are -- he said "People think of the Bay of Pigs and the nuclear showdown and the assassination of Kennedy as the end of the story, it is only the beginning." He said, "If you knew what is being laid on for the U. S.," and he talks like that. I asked him, "What do you think happened?" He said, "Oswald went to the FBI." He said, "I know that, he was selling them information, and they did not believe him." I said, "That is incredible." He said, "I do not know how much you know about the FBI, but no day goes by without desks being loaded with letters saying something will be blown up." (Note: I missed a little bit here due to something else happening in the office.) I said, "What happened?" and he said, "The FBI got the word from on top 'Destroy the letters.'"

Mr. Colby: From on top?

Mrs. Luce: From the President, who was Johnson. I contended that if at that point the FBI had proven that Castro had in mind assassinating the President, we would have been in war with Cuba. It might have been

Telephone Conversation Between Mr. Colby and Justin McCarthy at 3:45 on Tuesday, 23 October 1975 (this transcript was typed on 21 December 1976 from steno notes of Barbara Pindar)

Mr. McCarthy: I am glad to know you, even if it is over the phone.

Mr. Colby: Mrs. Luce talked to me yesterday (sic). She gave me a capsule version of some of her chat with you. It puts me in a bit of a jam, obviously, because there are some things that really hold some potential for being very important in these days (of) post-mortems of everything. I wondered if maybe we should chat about it sometime, or, quite frankly, one of the main things I would suggest is that you might want to go to this Senate Committee looking into this.

Mr. McCarthy: No. There are several reasons why not. I am sure we do not need to discuss them, but there are many reasons. Over the period of time there have been so many things. We were the only ones who had the information about the missiles in Cuba for many months, and we beat our brains out trying to get someone to do something (or believe?) and regrettably (in) Washington there are too many political (opportunists?), but there are too many lives at stake. We risked our neck for all these years. We are interested in doing the right thing.

Mr. Colby: I wondered if you could (slice?) off that New Orleans thing (and not go any further than that?)

Mr. McCarthy: As I said to her -- (can't read the next few words). For me to be seen in Washington, it is (can't read the next few words). We do not trust anyone. We did so many operations for so long, and we were entirely successful and never lost a man, and then one day we did an operation for the Government and lost 22 men. Lives depend on it. Someone sent a Top Secret memo, and the one he sent it to left it on his desk and someone came in and read (it) and the men were arrested. She asked, "Would you talk to Bill?" I said I would. We think it would be a good idea -- for me to go down -- I do not want to blow my cover, but I would like very much to chat with you and tell you.

Mr. Colby: My problem is then I get information, and then what are my obligations.

Mr. McCarthy: From the point of view of (seeing?) how to do it through persons other than me -- to get the end result.

Mr. Colby: It might be that one of your fellows aware of some of the things (would not mind telling Schweiker?) under some protection and assurances of anonymity. That would be enough of a (can't read the next word) to get started.

Mr. McCarthy: There is plenty to get started on.

Mr. Colby: Then (he?) could cut your people out as a source.

Mr. McCarthy: She said it would be a closed-door hearing. I said there (would?) still be someone come out of the meeting and (can't read next word) their names in the press. You see Jack Anderson's column on Monday. It is vitally important, and it is true evidence. It is not conjecture. I am concerned about what it ties into -- it is all the same ball of wax. We sat on the information about the missiles. This has been going on for a good twenty years, and we have accumulated an awful lot of information. We are more concerned today than when we had the missile information. It is appalling, and it is frightening, and people do not want to believe it. Last night I enlightened people about some of the things that are going to happen. We feel the time has come that some of this should come to light. It is necessary and essential to go back and bring out some of these things that need to be brought out, but not at the expense of (next word missing). We have done this on our own and at our own expense. One of the reasons my people trust me is -- I am thinking of a book -- we did not want to do a book before. The American public wants to know. It is all part of what went on then. I think it should be clarified and straightened out what went on then. But I am so terribly wary. I went to everyone, including the President, about the missiles. We had evidence -- what ships they were on, where they (docked?), and a few days later they came back and said there is no credibility of what you say.

Mr. Colby: The only thing that bothers me is the story about the existence of some records (you?) still hold. The important part of that is that indicates some (part?) of a failure, or possibly even worse -- that is the kind of thing that does need investigation or (correction?) -- protecting your people that are in on it. The other possibility would be to ask Schweiker or one of his men to go and talk to you or one of your people who would have factual knowledge of it.

Mr. McCarthy: When (Dorothy) told me about you over a period of time -- (Dorothy) said we have been through this so many times -- I took this to editors of Life. That was the time when the guy sent the

Note: I am not positive about the "Dorothy" above, but don't know what else it could be. I had written in long-hand, "Doroth." My only guess at this point is

Dorothy Farmer, Mrs. Luce's secretary.

Top Secret memo and it got left on a desk in Miami and we lost a lot of people on that. Inadvertently so many things happen. We work so carefully. We have information now that no one else has because it has come to the point where so many of the people I work with find they cannot trust people because of the opportunists. I have never met such overbearing and obnoxious (can't read next word). We sat on this year in and year out -- we never know when we might get calls. I was up all night long the night before last. Time is doing a big cover story on the thing -- the next issue -- the Today Show is bugging me. Washington is a funny place. If I -- by and large, when your life is on the line -- one of (our?) guys hung himself after one of the escapades we went through. He committed suicide because he felt guilty about it. Up here it is terrific because I am an animal nut. A lot of the guys divulging some of this stuff that they would not normally do.

Mr. Colby: Let me talk with Clare again as to how we handle this. The main thing is not so much the overall stuff about Cuba -- the main thing is the story about records, about Oswald. That comes at a time when that is a serious subject of study here by the Congress. If we could in some way shake that information loose without putting the finger on any of your friends, I think we are sort of obliged to do this in terms of clarifying the record against the (facts?) -- this is a very key aspect of it and a very serious problem that if it was suppressed at the time.

Mr. McCarthy: That is not all that was suppressed.

Mr. Colby: That is the thing. They are looking into it. Let me talk to Clare again and see if I can figure out some way in which we could talk to you (maybe?) and if you could in the meantime think of a way of (can't read the next word) out or (can't read the next word) out this (feature?) of it so that you give the (final result?) but not the sourcing, and let the investigators (find their own source later on?), we would have done our duty. My problem is that I really cannot sit on it with my obligations. I can be reasonable about protecting other people, and I have to be, but I also have to have the responsibility for responding to proper investigations of things that really should be looked into.

Mr. McCarthy: Let me (can't read next word) this in. Some of our guys (can't read next several words).

Mr. Colby: That is what she said.

Mr. McCarthy: They and I are scared to death. I was Executive Producer of TV programs for years -- I cannot make -- I have earned the respect and confidence of these people over the years. The other night I talked all night long. If I try to push my guys -- Clare said it needs to be laid to rest, and it does. I would like to see it get laid to rest, but my people --

Mr. Colby: I can assure you I am as interested (as) you in protecting that part of it if there were some way of having part of the cake and eating part of it, so that you do not lose the one or the other but to work out some vehicle -- a way in getting the substantive information loose but protecting people involved. There may be ways to do that if we put our minds to it. Let me talk to Clare and see what really -- I will not do anything except with her without your permission.

NOTE: Mr. Colby tried to call Mrs. Luce on 29 October, but could not reach her. He contacted her on 31 October (see separate notes)

MORI This Page

Telephone Conversation Between Mr. Colby and Clare Boothe Luce at 4:07 on Friday, 31 October 1975 (this transcript was typed on 22 December 1976 from steno notes of Barbara Pindar)

Mr. Colby: I got the Restless Youth for you. And I called Justin McCarthy. We had a long chat. He does not want me to do anything about it, but I said you put me in an awful position. (Note: The "you" there refers, I believe, to McCarthy.) I understand what you mean about his strong manner of talking. I think both of us are (hung?) with a rather tantalizing story.

Mrs. Luce: If I had not known the guy for 25 years, I would take him much less seriously.

Mr. Colby: The only real point is the thing about the tapes and the photos and the allegation about the FBI. I tried to (argue?) him into figuring out some way in getting rid of those but keeping himself out of the act.

Mrs. Luce: He called me back and said he talked with you and that you left him in a box, and I think he feels now that there is some kind of a question of conscience involved. He said, "I am going to let you and Bill Colby decide what is best to do."

Mr. Colby: I said I would be in touch with you and try to figure out something sensible.

Mrs. Luce: Why don't we suggest that he bring you or me -- perhaps he feels safer with me -- the tapes and photos if he has copies of them.

Mr. Colby: And then you pass them over to Schweiker.

Mrs. Luce: And let them decide, and I will maintain his cover -- he keeps saying it is not worth it to him after all these years to blow that -- the paradox, he tells me he is going to have to write a book (and whether he is indeed going to?) so that he is not altogether a crackpot. On the other hand, what he is doing is sufficiently crackpot. He is taking care of broken-down animals from his entire area. However, --

Mr. Colby: I think that is a good idea. You say that you and I have talked, and we are all in a kind of box at this point, and we really in conscience cannot sit on this stuff -- all these charges that there is remaining evidence that (can't read next word) was held back and disappeared

into the FBI, and maybe the way to do it is for him to provide it to you, and you to Schweiker, and then I would just as soon drop out -- it does not really have much to do with me -- and in that way you would protect him from Schweiker, and you would say you got it from a friend -- and the source is whatever he and you agree on.

Mrs. Luce: I will do that.

Mr. Colby: I think that is the best thing to do. If he does not buy that, I do not know what we do about Schweiker.

Mrs. Luce: (I am going to ignore it if Schweiker comes to me.)

NOTE: The conversation continued, but it did not pertain to this subject.

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<p><i>of OGC have reviewed the transcripts & see no reason why this information should not be passed to the FBI.</i></p>			
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<p>I have been requested to send the attached to FBI. Would you infallly check with OGC to see if they have any problem with our doing so. (2) for OGC check PLB</p>			
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FORM NO. 1-67 237

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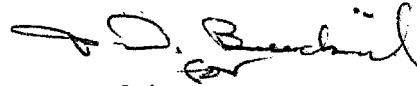
ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

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	R-1252	DATE 6 January 1977

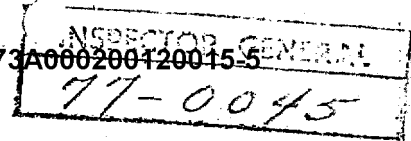
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building) 7049	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
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1.	OLC	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
		1/6	1/6	OLC	SUBJECT: Attached Transcripts The OLC and the IG concur that the attached transcripts should be provided to the FBI. A blind memo is also attached. It is requested that the O/S pass the package to the FBI.  John H. Waller
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4.	Director of Security				
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Internal Use Only



7 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Transcripts of October 1975 Telephone Conversations
Between Director Colby, Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce and
Mr. Justin McCarthy

1. Attached herewith are transcripts of two telephone conversations between Director William Colby and Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce and one between Director William Colby and Mr. Justin McCarthy. The conversations took place in October 1975 and discuss Mrs. Luce's concern that certain information regarding the President Kennedy assassination, from a former boat captain, a Cuban refugee, reach the proper authorities. While the information in these transcripts has been provided to investigating authorities, they may be of some assistance to the House Select Committee on Assassinations as it investigates various allegations.

2. The transcripts were received by the Agency Inspector General on 22 December 1976. The transcript of the 25 October 1975 conversation was typed by Ms. Barbara Pindar on the same day. The other two transcripts were typed by Ms. Pindar on 21 December 1976 from her stenographic records while clearing out the remainder of Director Colby's files. Ms. Pindar was Mr. Colby's secretary during his Directorship.

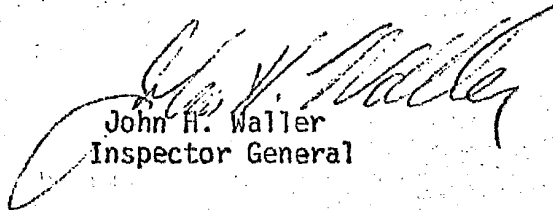
3. A version of the telephone conversation transcript was published in the Washington Star on 16 November 1975 (attached). A staff member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, on 10 December 1975, inquired as to what the Agency thought of the story. (SSC request 75/3637, attached). The Agency oral response was that it had nothing to add to the newspaper story and that since this query involved U.S. resident Cuban refugees, the FBI would be the proper agency to contact.

4. The attached transcripts indicate that the matter was brought to the attention of Senator Schweiker and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (telephone conversation between Mr. Colby and Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce on 25 October 1975, pages 2 and 3).

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5. Copies of the three transcripts were forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on 6 January 1977 by the Office of Security (OS 70060).


John H. Waller
Inspector General

Attachments: a/s

cc: OLC
OGC
DDCI

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Review Staff: 75/3637

Date 10 December 1975

TO : CIA Task Force
FROM : The Review Staff, Walter Elder
SUBJECT : SSC/HSC Request
RECEIVED: Date _____ Time _____

Paul Wallach, SSC staff, asks what we think of the attached. He is not writing a formal request and will be satisfied with an oral reply.

Comments:

	Action	Info
SC/DCI		X
A/DDA		
A/DDI		
A/DDO	X	
A/DDS&T		
OGC		
OLC		
IG		
B. Evans		

Clare Boothe Luce Weave a Fascinating Tale

Betty Beale

One day in the latter part of October, Clare Luce received a call from Sen. Richard Schweiker, R.-Pa., chairman of the subcommittee investigating the Warren Commission Report. He wanted her to persuade the Cubans she had known — Cubans who had known Harvey Oswald — to testify before his committee. Mrs. Luce's efforts to locate the Cubans led to a somewhat bloodcurdling warning. But let her tell the story from the beginning.

"The year is 1961, a year of great American drama," she began her narration to recent dinner guests in her aqua-colored Watergate apartment. "I had a friend named Bill Pawley who was brought up in Cuba and who was Truman's ambassador to Peru and Brazil. I got to know Bill very well in India and China where he had built up a voluntary outfit called The Flying Tigers. Bill was also called in by the CIA to recruit Cubans for the Bay of Pigs operation. Afterwards he was a very unhappy man.

"One day he called me up and said, 'How would you like to get in on the Cuban Flying Tiger operation?' He had in mind a fleet of motorboats subsidized by Americans and manned by Cubans who had been in the Bay of Pigs operation — all these young kids who had been stranded after the Bay of Pigs.

"I said, 'Fine.' So I helped to finance a motorboat. The three lads who manned mine came up to see me several times. They would leave the coast of Florida and land in Cuba and come out with information. The information they came out with was remarkably accurate — that the Russians were building missile sites in Cuba. I was told that the information was eventually passed to Sen. Ken Keating and was passed on to the White House. You remember what an impression it made and how accurate it was.

"THEN CAME THE MISSILE showdown. Soon after the showdown I got a telephone call from Allen Dulles saying the Neutrality Act had been invoked and all Americans must cease and desist in any further efforts towards the liberation of Cuba. Of course, we desisted."

Two years later she and her husband Harry (Henry) Luce were sitting in their New York apartment listening to the televised reports of President Kennedy's assassination when around midnight she received a

phone call from New Orleans. "It was the captain of my motorboat," said Clare, "A young man not more than 25, a young student lawyer. He said, 'Mrs. Luce, I want to tell you about Oswald.'

"He said that immediately after the 1961 missile showdown, FBI men had come to Miami and told the Cubans to break up all resistance groups and disperse. He and the other two members of his crew had moved to New Orleans where they started another "Free Cuba" group. They had been there a year and a half when who made contact with them but Oswald!

"The Cubans all thought he was a kook. Oswald bragged about having been in Russia and said he was an ex-Marine. He said he could shoot anybody and he would be happy to shoot Castro. He had no money, he was living with his wife in New Orleans and it looked like he was presenting himself as a hired gun. They didn't like the cut of his jib so they turned him off. But they followed him and found he was in a Fair Play for Cuba Communist cell to whose members he was giving the same line.

"And I remember this from the telephone conversation — Oswald was telling the cell that he could shoot anyone, including the secretary of the Navy. The Free Cubans continued to tail him and found that suddenly he had money, and he started going to Mexico City. He made several trips. They continued their penetration of the Cuban Communist cell. He said they made tape recordings of some of Oswald's meetings and they had taken photographs of him distributing handbills for the Fair Play unit. The next thing they knew President Kennedy was shot.

"THE YOUNG CUBAN WHO called me," continued former Ambassador Luce, "said that there was a Cuban Communist assassination team working somewhere — in Dallas, New Orleans or wherever — I don't remember, and that Oswald was their hired gun. Oswald, he said, had tried to report the Communist plans to the FBI some time before the assassination. But because he was out for the dough they didn't believe him.

continued.

I suppose that the FBI must hear from a thousand such 'crackpots' a week.

"In any event, on the telephone my young friend told me that they had these tape recordings of Oswald and photographs and what should they do? I said, 'Go to the FBI and tell them everything you know.' That having been said I put the whole thing out of my mind. Comes the Warren Commission and says Oswald alone was responsible and I forgot the whole matter.

"Then, in 1967, a fellow named Jim Garrison, district attorney in New Orleans, hit the headlines charging that the assassination was a conspiracy. At that moment I was reminded of the information I had received and I began to wonder whether or not the Warren Commission had got all the facts. I couldn't remember the names of the Cubans but I finally located one crewman who was living in Miami again and I asked him what happened after he went to the FBI.

"He said, 'We turned over copies of everything. We were then told to keep our traps shut and that we would be deported if we said anything publicly.' He said one of the crew was deported to Guatemala, and one was murdered — stabbed in front of a store.

"THEIR INFORMATION, HE SAID, never appeared in the Warren Commission report. He said, 'I am married now, I live in Miami and I don't want to get involved in it ever again.'"

When Sen. Schweiker made his request of Clare Luce less than three weeks ago, she telephoned another Cuban friend to see if he could locate and persuade the young man to testify behind closed doors. Replied the older Cuban, if the testimony was behind 13 closed doors it would still become public.

"Americans think they are playing games," he told her. "They don't know they are involved in a life or death business. No, I won't tell you where he can be found. The people working for a free Cuba would lose their lives. A lot of them have already. They are not interested in making political headlines for politicians. You think the Bay of Pigs, the nuclear missiles, the assassination of the president was the end of the story? I tell you it is just the beginning. What you Americans don't understand is, there are trained Communist terrorists, assassination, kidnapping, bombing and sabotage teams all over the country and the world."



— Wide World Photos

Clare Boothe Luce

"A year of great American trauma."

The very day after that conversation, observed Clare gravely, bombs went off at the State Department here, at the U.S.-U.N. mission and four banks in New York and at three places in Chicago. And close to the same hour she was recounting the whole fascinating story to her guests, a Cuban, anti-Communist leader was exploded into bits in his car in Miami.

Approved For Release 2005/06/02 : CIA-RDP80-00473A000200120015-5

Mr. Blake,

Per your request, attached is the letter from Mr. Gambino to the Bureau, which was referenced in the OLC Journal of 17 February.

Del 7 March
Approved For Release 2005/06/02 : CIA-RDP80-00473A000200120015-5