



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Las Vegas, Nevada

June 11, 1964

**JACK L. RUBY, ALSO KNOWN AS;
LEE HARVEY OSWALD, ALSO
KNOWN AS - VICTIM**

On June 8, 1964, Mr. Lewis J. Mc Willie was interviewed at his residence, 3627 Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Mc Willie furnished the following information.

He went to Cuba in September, 1958, and immediately went to work at the Tropicana Casino, remaining there as manager until May, 1960, after which he left and worked at the Capri Hotel-Casino from May, 1960 to January 2, 1961, as a pitboss. He stated the Tropicana was Cuban owned and that he did not know the owner of the Capri, but that he worked under one Angelo Di Christofano (Phonetic).

In 1959, date unrecalled, he wrote to Ruby and asked him if he would like to come to Havana for a week. He stated there was no ulterior motive and that he had been a close friend of Ruby's and extended this invitation as one would to a brother. He realized Ruby was working hard with his Dallas night club and felt that Ruby needed a rest. Because the cost of plane tickets in Havana could be paid for by pesos for approximately 1/5 of a cost of a ticket in the United States, he purchased a round trip ticket for Ruby at his own expense and mailed it to Ruby in Dallas, after which Ruby boarded a plane and flew to Havana for a visit.

He arranged for Ruby to stay in a small hotel, about three blocks from the Nacional Hotel, name unrecalled. Ruby, during his stay in Havana, would come out to the Tropicana where Mc Willie was working from nine PM to two AM, and wait for Mc Willie to get off duty, after

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which they would have a few drinks together. He does not know of any contacts made by Ruby, if any, and believes that Ruby was sightseeing as any other tourist during his Cuban stay.

With regard to the relationship between Castro supporters and the Havana gambling community, Mc Willie advised that as soon as Castro came into power, all Americans had to leave and that as far as he knows, prior to this time, there was no understanding between representatives of the gambling industry and Castro's supporters. He recalled that as soon as Castro took over, the hired help, such as the waiters, rebelled against Casino management and American ownership was forced out of the gambling business. Prior to that time there had been only speculation as to the fate of gambling interests should a change in Government come about but Mc Willie knew of no arrangements or liaison between the gambling interests and Castro.

Mc Willie characterizes Ruby as being completely apolitical and to his knowledge has no connections with the Castro or Batista supporters. He never heard Ruby mention politics or any political connections except on one occasion in Dallas. Mc Willie indicated an acquaintance with Congressman Bruce Alger, either a Representative or Senator from Texas, whose wife was a patron of Ruby's night club. This acquaintance was more social and personal than political. Other than Alger, Mc Willie knows Ruby to be well acquainted with virtually every officer of the Dallas Police force and had an arrangement whereby off duty policemen were hired at Ruby's expense to maintain order in his night club. Here again Mc Willie did not feel that Ruby's acquaintance with police officers stemmed from political interests but rather that Ruby had a genuine liking for law enforcement officers. He also noted that Ruby is not a gambler and does not know the gambling business, further indicating to him that Ruby had no motive in visiting Cuba other than for a week of rest and relaxation.

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Regarding prisoners of war, Mc Willie stated that he had not been imprisoned nor were any of his friends; however, he had heard that Harvey Harr, who had worked at the Nacional Casino had been imprisoned for a year after Castro took control. He has since seen Harr in Las Vegas but does not know his present whereabouts. He stated Harr was arrested after he, Mc Willie, left Havana. Mc Willie recalled that diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States were abrogated on January 3, 1961, the day after Mc Willie left Cuba and that Harr had remained in Cuba after Mc Willie's departure. He does not know why Harr was arrested but expressed the belief that all Americans who had not heeded a warning to leave Havana faced arrest. To his knowledge, Harr and Ruby are not acquainted. Mc Willie stated that he personally left Havana to avoid arrest. He recalled a Captain Morgan whom he had known casually who had been with Castro in the mountains and whom he later understood had been arrested by Castro and put before a firing squad because he was not completely sympathetic with Castro's cause. He stated he does not know a Robert Mc Keown.

Mc Willie denied that he had had any contact with anyone concerning sale of jeeps or guns or the smuggling of refugees out of Cuba or release of any of Castro's prisoners. He stated that likewise to his knowledge Ruby had taken no action in behalf of such prisoners. He did recall that Ruby kept a couple of old guns at his residence, although he was not a gun collector. These were kept for his personal use as protection against intruders and not for any active aggressive use to the best of his knowledge. He feels certain that Ruby had no contact with anyone interested in the sale of weapons or jeeps under any circumstances.

With further regard to the air line ticket purchased by Mc Willie, he stated that as best he can recall, the peso evaluation of this ticket was about \$75.00, and that he had personally absorbed the cost.

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He could not be certain whether Ruby repaid him for this ticket after Ruby reached Havana, again explaining that he purchased the ticket at Havana and mailed it to Ruby at 1/5 of what it would cost Ruby to buy a comparable ticket in Dallas. He does not recall standing any other expenses for Ruby in connection with the trip and was unable to state whether Ruby had repaid him for the cost of the ticket or not.

Mc Willie did not see or hear from Ruby after Mc Willie returned to the United States except that in June, 1961, Mc Willie then in Florida, obtained employment at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and en route from Miami to Lake Tahoe stopped in Dallas where he stayed overnight in Ruby's apartment. He saw Ruby only for about two or three hours on this occasion, during which time Ruby did not express any interest in politics or any other item of significance, conversation centering around their personal lives and Ruby's night club operation as separated from any political matters.

Concerning more recent contacts, Mc Willie stated he cannot be certain whether he wrote or called Ruby from Las Vegas to Dallas, Texas, requesting Ruby to obtain a pistol. He stated he knew Ruby could obtain a weapon in Dallas, probably more reasonably than Mc Willie could procure one in Las Vegas and that he had asked Ruby to send a weapon to him. He knows Ruby caused a weapon to be sent to him as he was notified of a parcel at the post office but that he did not want to go to the post office and pick it up and let it return to the dealer without ever seeing the weapon or taking it out of the post office.

He also believes Ruby called him at the Thunderbird Hotel-Casino where Mc Willie is employed regarding some union trouble Ruby was having in Dallas and requesting Mc Willie put him in touch with someone who could help him in this matter. Mc Willie contacted Bill Miller who formerly operated the Riverside Hotel at

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Reno, Nevada, and believes he may have called Ruby back from his, Mc Willie's, residence advising Ruby to contact Miller. He believes Ruby later called him back, not recalling whether at the hotel or his residence, advising Mc Willie that he was going to meet with the American Guild of Variety Artists president in New York. He believes that Ruby later sent him a post card from New York stating that he had met the American Guild of Variety Artists president, and had ironed out all his troubles.

He stated he does not recall ever calling Ruby from the Thunderbird Hotel because of the complications of billing his personal calls through the hotel switchboard and that he definitely did not call from any of the Thunderbird pay stations. He stated that when he called Ruby, the call was on his residence phone and that he can recall no phone calls other than those mentioned above.

He stated he has had no contact with Ruby since the assassination of President Kennedy and could not have anticipated Ruby's killing of Oswald. He stated he had had no contact with Ruby's attorneys but that a reporter had called him from Dallas regarding the sale of arms and jeeps to Castro's interests. He stated that took place during the Ruby trial and that while he did not relish the thought of talking to a reporter, he very truthfully replied to this inquiry that he did not know what the reporter was talking about.

In summation, Mc Willie stated that his association with Ruby was strictly social and personal without any intertwined business interests or gambling interests, knowing that Ruby is not a gambler and does not understand the gambling business. He did not know of any political interests or activities on Ruby's part nor of any particular affinity Ruby might have for former President Kennedy. He stated he can only assume in retrospect from his knowledge of Ruby's personality that Ruby felt he would become a national hero by exterminating President Kennedy's assassin.