

NY 44-974

"The Herald of Freedom", published biweekly in Staten Island, New York, in its issue of January 17, 1964, contained the following statements concerning JACK RUBY:

"Jack Leon Rubenstein, alias Jack Ruby, the murderer of Lee H. Oswald, was a notorious character who has been close to several people in Chicago who were murdered and to a big time narcotics distributor. He was involved in many rackets, including strip tease 'joints' and party girls and has had contacts in Havana. Rubenstein visited Havana within the past year in violation of State Department regulations. While there, he visited his friend Fraskin who owns and operates a novelty store on the Prado in Havana across the street from the Hotel Seville. Fraskin is a known long-time Castro collaborator. He is a native Cuban married to an American girl. Fraskin is involved in strip tease and party girls as a side line. The above information was received from Havana by one of the best informed men in the United States on Soviet and Castro intelligence operations."

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"The Herald of Freedom" is a four page pamphlet, edited and published by FRANK A. CAPELL in Staten Island, New York. It is published biweekly. CAPELL has described his publication as being "devoted to combating Communism, Socialism, and un-American activities by pointing the whole truth in detail".

"The Staten Island Advance", a Staten Island, New York, daily community newspaper, in its issue of July 13, 1963, carried a front page article entitled "Island Pamphlet Triggers North Carolina Camp Race Riot". According to this article, "reports of integration, nudity, and free love", which were published by FRANK A. CAPELL in "The Herald of Freedom" "caused 400 armed Blue Ridge Bible Belt mountaineers to burn" Camp Summerlane's gymnasium at Rosman, North Carolina, and also shoot up one of their buses. This article reflected that CAPELL "said last night at his New Jersey home that he had published an account in the July 3 issue and that the Rosman Chamber of Commerce had ordered additional copies". This article also indicated that "The Herald of Freedom" was widely distributed among rural folk in the mountain area. This article in "The Staten Island Advance" stated that Sheriff C. R. MC CALL of Rosman told the Associated Press that the mountaineers were incensed because of camp activities published in the pamphlet.

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FRANCIS A. CAPELL, Editor of "The Herald of Freedom", was arrested September 21, 1943, at New York, New York, by agents of the FBI on a charge of bribery.

An indictment was filed April 10, 1944, in the Southern District of New York against FRANCIS A. CAPELL, charging him with conspiracy in the acceptance of a \$1,000.00 bribe intended to influence the decision of investigators of the War Production Board on September 21, 1943, in violation of Title 18, Section 207. A second indictment returned on the same date contained two counts

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and charged CAPELL with the solicitation and acceptance of \$1,000.00 bribe and a \$400.00 bribe intended to influence the decision of investigators of the War Production Board in violation of Section 207, Title 18, United States Code.

CAPELL entered a plea of guilty on May 29, 1945, at the United States District Court, Southern District of New York (SDNY), and was sentenced to one year and one day on each count of a three count indictment, sentences to run concurrently. Execution of this sentence was suspended, and he was placed on probation for two years. He was fined \$2,000.00 on count one, and the fine was to be paid within one year. He was discharged from probation by order of the United States District Court, June 24, 1946. At that time his fine had been paid in full.

FRANCIS A. CAPELL in January, 1952, testified before a Subcommittee of the United States Senate Arms Services Committee relative to illegal hiring for work on overseas bases. CAPELL was then manager of Personnel Service Bureau, Incorporated, New York, New York. The Personnel Service Bureau was one of the few agencies in the New York area to hire men for overseas work.

FRANK A. CAPELL, 56 Bay Street, Staten Island, New York, advised that he is the editor of the biweekly publication, "The Herald of Freedom". He stated that this publication is devoted to fighting Communism and its entire contents are written by himself. CAPELL advised that his material is received from confidential sources and also from public source material.

CAPELL advised that with respect to the January 17, 1964, edition of his publication, which contained considerable information of a background nature on JACK RUEY, also known as Jack Rubinstein, the data which concerned RUEY's contacts in Havana, Cuba, was received in confidence from a reliable source in the newspaper industry. He advised that he had written that RUEY had been in Havana in the past year, but that accurately speaking, it should have read, "a few years ago."

CAPELL stated that the information regarding RUEY's contact in Havana with one "FRASKIN", was likewise received from the same source in the newspaper field.

He advised that in order to add further credence to his comments about RUEY in Cuba, he added the comment that the information was received from Havana from one of the best informed men in the United States on Soviet Intelligence. CAPELL stated this individual was the original source of the information regarding RUEY's trip to Havana and contact with "FRASKIN". He advised that this individual had furnished the information to his source in the newspaper field.

On 1/27/64 at 56 Bay Street, Staten Island, New York File # NY 44-974  
by SA VINCENT J. SAVADEL/aog Date dictated 1/27/64

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 3055—Continued

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Inquiry concerning an alleged association between JACK RUBY and one (FNU) PRATKINS was predicated upon information received on January 13, 1964, from JOHN MARSHALL, Special Agent in Charge of the Secret Service Office at Miami. Mr. MARSHALL advised that Mr. FRANK WATTERSON, Security Agent, United States Department of State, Miami, had received information from JOSE ANTONIO LANUSA of the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE) (Cuban Student Directorate) at Miami to the effect that LANUSA heard that JACK RUBY had gone to Cuba last year, presumably 1963, by way of Mexico City. According to LANUSA, RUBY shared an office in a tourist agency on the main floor of the Sevilla Hotel in Havana, Cuba, with an American whose name was (FNU) PRATKINS.

On January 23, 1964, JOSE ANTONIO LANUSA, 24 years of age, Intelligence Officer for the DRE at Miami, Florida, stated that his information concerning the association of JACK RUBY and (FNU) PRATKINS was derived from two sources. The first source was a handbill-type newsletter dated December 24, 1963, at Havana, circulated by the clandestine anti-CASTRO organization in Cuba known as Accion Revolucionaria Anticomunista (ARAC) (Anti-Communist Revolutionary Action). This handbill had been sent by letter posted December 28, 1963, in Cuba, to the DRE, Post Office Box 168, Miami, Florida. The handbill, which was mimeographed, set forth the following sentence, as translated from the Spanish:

"The killer of the assassin of the deceased President KENNEDY, JACK RUBINSTEIN, has been proven the owner of a tourist office in the Sevilla Hotel, Havana."

LANUSA stated there was no evidence to support this statement; however, he regarded the allegation as true, since it appeared in the clandestine newsheet disseminated by the anti-CASTRO organization ARAC.

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LANUSA stated that in addition to the information from ARAC, JUAN MANUEL SALVAT, another officer in the DRE at Miami, had received a letter containing additional information pertaining to RUBY and PRATKINS. This letter had been sent from Cuba to an exiled Cuban attorney, (FNU) VALDES FAULI, who furnished it to SALVAT, according to LANUSA. LANUSA said this letter reported that JACK RUBINSTEIN was a habitual visitor to a souvenir store located across the street from the Sevilla Hotel on Prado Street, Havana, Cuba. The store belonged to a man by the name of (FNU) PRATKINS. RUBINSTEIN reportedly visited the store about a year ago, that is, about January, 1963, after flying to Cuba by way of Mexico City.

LANUSA stated that in the first part of January, 1964, on the occasion of a visit by him to the office of Mr. FRANK WATTERSON, State Department, Miami, Florida, he mentioned to Mr. WATTERSON the information that JACK RUBY had gone to Cuba during 1963, and had been associated with the individual PRATKINS in a tourist business at the Sevilla Hotel, Havana.

On January 23, 1964, JUAN MANUEL SALVAT, 25 years of age, also in the DRE, Miami, stated he had not actually received the letter from Attorney VALDES FAULI which is supposed to contain the information concerning the relationship of JACK RUBY and (FNU) PRATKINS. He said the information was related to him by a contact of VALDES. SALVAT declined to furnish the identity of the contact, stating he had not obtained this party's consent to involve him.

On January 27, 1964, Mr. CARLOS VALDES FAULI, a Cuban exile living at 2000 S. W. 24th Street, Miami, Florida, stated that he had been an attorney in the Supreme Court system in Havana, Cuba, prior to the advent of FIDEL CASTRO to power in Cuba. He stated he had arrived in the United States as an exile in November, 1961, after spending seven months in jail on political charges.

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Mr. VALDES related that in approximately the beginning of January, 1964, he received a letter from his sister-in-law, GRAZIELLA RUBIO, age 45, who lives in Marianao, Cuba.

Mr. VALDES made available the section of the letter pertaining to JACK RUBY, and a translation from the Spanish is as follows:

"RUBY, the assassin of OSWALD, was in Havana a year ago. He is a friend and a client of an individual named PRASKIN, who owns or manages a souvenir shop located on Prado between Animas and Trocadero Streets in front of the Sevilla Hotel."

Mr. VALDES stated that his sister-in-law writes regularly of conditions in Cuba and information which she believes of interest to Mr. VALDES. With respect to the item on RUBY, Mr. VALDES mentioned it only to his wife and to a friend, CARLOS GONZALEZ PARRA, a man about 60 years of age. Mr. VALDES stated he does not know JUAN MANUEL SALVAT or anyone else in the DRE at Miami. He supposed that either Mr. GONZALEZ PARRA or VALDES' wife had mentioned the item concerning RUBY to someone who, in turn, was connected with the DRE.

Mr. VALDES stated that his sister-in-law, GRAZIELLA RUBIO, is unemployed and lives with an aged stepfather in Marianao. He stated his sister-in-law very probably learned the information concerning RUBY as mentioned in her letter through hearsay. He said she would not normally learn of any activities taking place in the vicinity of the Sevilla Hotel in Havana, and he pointed out that the Havana suburb of Marianao is a considerable distance from the area of the Sevilla Hotel.

EVIDIO BERNARDO PEREIRA ACOSTA was interviewed at his residence, 821 Southwest Second Street, Miami, Florida, telephone number FR 9-6100.

PEREIRA is a Cuban national who took part in the attempted invasion of Cuba in April, 1961. He was captured and imprisoned at Havana, Cuba until December 23, 1962.

While a prisoner in Cuba, PEREIRA was visited by and became friendly with an individual who is associated with the Cuban Red Cross. He had corresponded with this individual after coming to Miami, Florida on December 23, 1962.

Included with his letters, PEREIRA furnished local newspaper accounts of the assassination of President KENNEDY and the subsequent killing of LEE HARVEY OSWALD at Dallas, Texas.

PEREIRA possesses a typewritten letter dated December 3, 1963, at Havana, Cuba addressed to Dr. CARLOS MARQUEZ STERLING and signed "TUICO". He advised these are cover names used for security purposes to protect identity of the writer of this letter.

The letter contains the following paragraph which is translated to English as follows:

"Ruby, the assassin of Oswald, was in Havana a year ago. He is a friend and a client of an individual named Praskin, who owns or manages a souvenir shop located on Prado between Animas and Trocadero Streets in front of the Sevilla Hotel."

PEREIRA has had no further correspondence regarding this matter from Cuba and has no personal knowledge regarding the alleged presence of "RUBY" in Havana. He does not know

On 2/5/64 at Miami, Florida File # Miami 44-1412  
SA GAY R. SHAHAN (A):cmw 2/7/64  
 by \_\_\_\_\_ Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

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the original source of the above mentioned information regarding RUBY's visit to Havana and does not know whether or nor the author of the letter has any knowledge of the person named PRASKIN.

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