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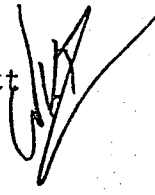
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MEMORANDUM

TO: G. Robert Blakey
FROM: William K. Triplett
DATE: May 11, 1978
SUBJ: Sturgis Deposition



On March 20, 1978, Frank Sturgis was deposed in Miami, Florida.

Attached is a summary of that deposition. The full transcript may be located in JFK Document Number 006649.

STURGIS DEPOSITION - 3/20/78 - Miami, Florida

DPOB -- 12/9/24, Norfolk, Virginia (p 6, 1 12-13)

has been married three times, but cannot remember the first or last name of his first wife (p 8, 1 8-17)

his first contact with USA intelligence was in Santiago, Cuba -- the Vice-consul (p 23, 1 5 etc.) This was when he first started to spy on Castro for the USA (1958).

Tho' offered, he refused to take money from his government (p 25, 1 12).

In '56 or '57, he met Fidel Castro in the USA, and Carlos Prio (p 26)

He first went to Cuba in 1957 (p 27, 1 9).

He met Fidel Castro in Cuba and proceeded to train, go on missions, and purchase weapons (p 28, 1 7 ff)

After Castro's victory, he went to Havana, met Pedro Diaz Lanz, who was Commander-in-Chief of the Cuban Air Force, and he became the Director of Security for the Air Force (p 29, 1 13 ff).

He set up an intelligence operation in the USA for Castro (p 30, 1 9 ff), and then gave the names of the agents to the American government (p 30, 1 22 ff).

He provided names of the agents, and details of various conspiracies in Central America, to Col. Nichols, the American military attache to the Cuban Air Force. (p 31, 1 8 ff).

He suspected the Embassy and CIA were assisting and advising Castro, so early in 1959 he went to Washington D.C. and provided the same information to the FBI (pp 32,33)

His function was just providing intelligence to the CIA and suggesting possible recruits -- including William Morgan (pp 39-40).

He recruited Marita Lorenz to spy for him (p 24, 1 6-11)

He was involved in three "serious" plots to kill Castro (p 43, 1 14-20)

His trip to the FBI bypassing the embassy, to name the communists, was at the direction of Pedro and Marcos Diaz Lanz (p 46, 1 14 ff).

He did not kill Castro because Col. Nichols would not give him the "green light" (p 47, 1 23 ff).

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He left Cuba on 6/30/59, after Sangenis told him to leave since Raul Castro suspected he was working with American Intelligence (p 48, 1 23 ff).

He believes he and Pedro Diaz Lanz were betrayed by the CIA Chief of Station at the American embassy (p 50, 1 14 ff).

Sturgis and the Diaz Lanz brothers were using the B-25, which was taken from Cuba and registered in Sturgis' name (p 56, 1 9 ff)

CIA money was received from Howard Hunt, through Barker, to fit up the plane to broadcast propaganda (p 57, 1 11 ff).

On 10/21/59 Sturgis, the Diaz Lanz brothers, and another Cuban flew over Havana dropping leaflets from the B-25. Cuban gunfire at the plane killed or wounded over 30 people. Castro was mad. (p 59, 1 8 ff)

Sangenis (code name, "Sam Jenis") was the head of Operation 40 (p 66, 1 2 ff)

Operation 40 was the CIA-sponsored intelligence arm of the anti-Castro operations (p 67, 1 7 ff).

When Alex Rorke disappeared on a mission to Central America, Sturgis immediately contacted Naval Intelligence for assistance (p 69, 1 15 ff) He assumed the quickest action would come from ONI (p 71, 1 2 ff)

They raised funds from various private sources, including Bacardi Rum Co. and Dr. Luis Conte Aguerro (p 72, 1 3 ff).

After WW II, Sturgis was operations officer for the CAP in Norfolk, Virginia (p 74, 1 14 ff)

Sturgis did over 100 missions into Cuba -- mostly by plane, some by boat (p 75, 1 4 ff)

The average cost of each mission was \$5,000 (p 76, 1 7 ff)

The CIA Chief of Station in Havana was William Caldwell (p 78, 1 19)

Although Sturgis "never met him personally", Bernard Barker's first control officer was "Eduardo" (p 80, 1 2 ff)

First time Sturgis met Hunt was in 1972 (p 81, 1 18 ff)

He formed the International Anticommunist Brigade in the early '60s, then Jim Buchanan took it over (p 84, 1 1 ff)

He probably knew Loran Hall as part of the Hemming group -- but not Lawrence Howard (p 85, 1 1 ff)

STURGIS DEPO - P. 3

He didn't know William Seymour (p 86, 1 22 ff)

Jim Buchanan can verify Sturgis was in Miami on 11/22/63 (p 87, 1 20)

The International Anticommunist Brigade had no funding, and was completely broke (p 88, 1 5 ff)

On one occasion, Bernard Barker, known to Sturgis to be a CIA agent, asked him to do a domestic assassination. Sturgis told Sengenis. Sturgis asked Barker for the name of the victim, and requested to talk to his control officer about it. The matter was dropped. (pp 90-93)

On one occasion, he worked on an assassination attempt with Marita Lorenz against Castro, with poison (pp 93-94)

Upon returning to the United States, he has been involved in two or three plans or attempts to kill Castro. Orlando Bosch was involved (pp 95-97)

He became a supervisor and inspector of casinos for the Castro government (pp 99-102)

On instructions from Castro, he closed down the casinos for ten days (pp 102-105) He advised Santo Trafficante and Hymie Levine of this action in advance (p 104)

On one occasion, in Santiago, Cuba, he noticed a group of Barbudos surrounding Stretch Rubin and threatening to harm him, since he was a "gangster". Sturgis "saved" him. (pp 106-108)

Later, Rubin brought Hymie Levine to introduce him to Sturgis, since it was unusual to meet an American officer in the Air Force. On that occasion, Fidel came in in his helicopter and walked up and embraced Sturgis. This impressed them. (pp 108-109)

When Castro made Sturgis casino inspector, Levine and Rubin introduced him to various operators, including Trafficante, Mike McClaney and Norman Rothman (pp 109-112)

He met Dominic Bartone when he was trying to sell a plane to the Cubans, and, possibly on one other occasion, but had no connections with him (pp 113-114)

He also met Charles Tourine while inspecting casinos (p 116)

He never met Marcello, Giancana, or Roselli (p 118)

If he feels a need to contact the CIA, he does it through Steve Czukas -- a Customs investigator (p 124)

In the early 1960's he went with Marcos Diaz Lanz to speak with President Ydigoras of Guatemala regarding the setting up of anti-Castro bases there. Upon returning to Miami, he was arrested by INS, taken to court, and advised that he had lost his citizenship. He appealed to Senator Smathers and, somehow, got it back (pp 126-131)

At the time of the deposition, Sturgis claimed to be a news reporter for "El Expresso" (p 133)

He met Ruben Miro in Havana and, later, found out he was supposedly involved in the assassination of Panamanian President Ramon. (p 135-136)

From the time he went to Cuba in 1956, until he left in June 1959, he traveled on behalf of the rebels and ensuing government to Florida, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, The Bahamas, New York, and Washington. The was to maintain contact with the underground organization (p 137)

After returning from Cuba, along with the Diaz Lanz brothers, he supported himself out of the exile community by organizing and planning raids. Funds came from many sources, including Bosch of Bacardi Rum (pp 139-141)

With the Diaz Lanz brothers, in September, 1961, he formed the Hampton Roads Salvage Co. They purchased boats for use on Cuban operations. Though the CIA "had use of these boats", he steadfastly maintains that all funds were obtained from the Cuban community -- not the CIA (pp 141-144)

From 1963 through Watergate, he had a varied employment history (pp 146-149)

On 11/21/63 and 11/22/63 he was in Miami, and has "passed" a polygraph to that effect (pp 152-156)

Marita Lorenz' story is absolutely untrue (pp 157-159)

Over the years he has provided information to various news reporters (pp 159-165)

Sturgis has studied and "investigated" the assassination over the years and believes Oswald was working for Cuban Intelligence (pp 166-170)

He does not recall ever meeting Mitch Werbell, Bernardo de Torres, or Doug Gupton (pp 172-173) -- or David Phillips

There was a rumor that Oswald had been in the Miami area, but nobody could ever substantiate it (pp 178-180)

He formed a "church" to help the poor people in South America (pp 183-185) (pp 186-187)

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INTERROGATORIES

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1978

House of Representatives,
Select Committee on
Assassinations,
Miami, Florida.

The committee met at 10:20 a.m., pursuant to notice, in the Grand Jury Room, U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Court House, 300 Northeast 1st Avenue, Miami, Florida, William K. Triplett, Esq., Staff Counsel, presiding.

Present: Albert Gonzales and Gaeton Fonzi, Investigators; and Edwin Lopez, Researcher.

Also present: Frank A. Sturgis, the witness; and Ellis Rubin, Esq., Attorney for the witness.

Mr. Triplett. We will come to order.

Mr. Shapiro. Sir, I am Herbert S. Shapiro, United States Magistrate. I'm a Federal Judge. Would you please raise your right hand?

(Thereupon, the witness, Frank A. Sturgis was sworn.)

INTERROGATORIES OF THE WITNESS, FRANK A. STURGIS

Mr. Rubin. Before we begin, Mr. Sturgis has a number of friends out there, members of the press.

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1 He has no objections. They've asked if they could
2 be in attendance at this. I thought that I would ask,
3 if it is permissible.

4 The Witness. I would like to correct my Attorney.
5 I'm sorry to do this to you. They're not my friends
6 because the press is not my friends.

7 Mr. Rubin. Personal acquaintances.

8 Mr. Triplett. We full understand that.

9 Mr. Sturgis, it has been the custom and the
10 habit of this committee to conduct closed hearings.
11 And for that reason, I would point out to you that
12 it is not within the purview of this committee to
13 conduct open hearings at this time, and the press
14 would be excluded.

15 The Witness. Well, one reason why I suggested
16 that to my Attorney is to show that -- to give me
17 some credibility that I'm openly and honestly, even
18 in the past, where it pertains to the United States
19 Government, I have nothing to hide naturally. And
20 that's one of the reasons why my Attorney and myself
21 asked that question.

22 Mr. Triplett. We understand that. However, just
23 for the orderly conduct of the hearings we prefer to
24 have the press excluded at this time.

25 Now as you are aware this proceeding is being

1 transcribed and the transcript will be prepared of
2 the proceedings and it's my duty to advise you that
3 my name is William Triplett.

4 Pursuant to House Resolution 222 and Committee
5 Rule 4, I have been designated Counsel on behalf of
6 the committee to take statements under oath and
7 that's what we will be doing today.

8 For the record, you are Frank A. Sturgis. Is
9 that correct?

10 The Witness. Yes, sir. My name is Frank Anthony
11 Sturgis legally. When I was born in Norfolk, Virginia,
12 I was born with the name Frank Angelo Fiorini. My
13 father's name was Angelo Anthony Fiorini. My mother's
14 name was Mary Vona, V-o-n-a. My mother remarried at
15 a later date which in turn, legally through the
16 courts in Norfolk, Virginia, my name was changed to
17 her new husband's name, to Frank Anthony Sturgis.
18 I kept my family name as much as I possibly could.

19 Mr. Triplett. Very good.

20 And for the record, you are here to make a
21 statement of your own volition. This is voluntary
22 and not under any compulsion. Is that right?

23 The Witness. Yes, sir, as I have done before
24 in the Senate Watergate Committee -- well, the Grand
25 Jury -- the Rockefeller Committee and any committee

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1 pertaining to anything, I have always went voluntarily.
2 I was not subpoenaed nor was it necessary to subpoena
3 me.

4 Mr. Triplett. That's right. That was my next
5 question.

6 You're not here under subpoena, are you?

7 The Witness. No, sir.

8 Mr. Triplett. And you do have Counsel present.
9 And for the record, would Counsel identify himself?

10 Mr. Rubin. Ellis Rubin, Miami, Florida. A
11 member of the Florida and the Federal Bars.

12 Mr. Triplett. Now at this time I'm going to hand
13 you a copy of the rules of the House Select Committee
14 on Assassinations, House Resolution 222, 433 and 760.

15 Mr. Rubin. Are we allowed to keep these?

16 Mr. Triplett. Yes.

17 At this time I would request you, Mr. Sturgis,
18 and your Counsel, to read Rule Number 4 in the top
19 pamphlet in that package.

20 Mr. Rubin. Rule Number 4 is entitled, "Statements
21 Under Oath by Designated Counsel."

22 Mr. Triplett. That's correct.

23 Mr. Rubin. Fine. We've read Rule 4 and Mr.
24 Sturgis is aware of its contents.

25 Mr. Triplett. Very good.

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1 Now as I mentioned earlier, this entire
2 deposition will be transcribed and you, Mr. Sturgis,
3 and your Attorney, will be sent the original of this
4 deposition, the original transcription, and asked to
5 sign and verify it. And at that time we request you
6 return the signed and verified copy to the House
7 Select Committee on Assassinations.

8 If you have any changes in the transcript or
9 desire to make any changes, you should get in touch
10 with myself and we will make arrangements for you to
11 make the changes and initial those changes that you so
12 desire to make, and that will have to be done before
13 a Federal Magistrate.

14 I would suggest at this time, possibly, Mr. Rubin,
15 that you might inform the press that it is a closed
16 hearing, since they're waiting outside.

17 Mr. Rubin. All right.

18 Mr. Triplett. Now that the press has been
19 advised, one further matter.

20 Mr. Sturgis, I'm going to hand you a Xerox copy
21 of our Committee Document No. 06327. It's a letter
22 to the Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the
23 Select Committee on Assassinations from the Legislative
24 Counsel of the Director of Central Intelligence regarding
25 your testimony.

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1 The Witness. Fine. Can we have a copy of this
2 also?

3 Mr. Triplett. We have a copy of this for you.

4 Do you understand that letter? Do you have any
5 problems with it?

6 The Witness. No. I understand it. As far
7 as I'm concerned there is no reason why I shouldn't
8 appear to testify.

9 Mr. Triplett. That's correct.

10 Mr. Sturgis, just a few clarifying questions.

11 What was the date and place of your birth?

12 The Witness. I was born December 9th, 1924 at
13 Norfolk, Virginia.

14 Mr. Triplett. And I believe you've already
15 stated your parents full names on the record.

16 The Witness. Yes.

17 Mr. Rubin. Don't volunteer anything. Just answer
18 his questions. It'll go faster.

19 Mr. Triplett. And again, I don't know if you
20 told us what was the date you changed your name?

21 The Witness. I don't recall, but the Government
22 does have the records of when my name was changed in
23 Norfolk, Virginia.

24 Mr. Triplett. And what was the purpose for
25 changing your name?

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1 The Witness. Well, two. One, because my mother
2 remarried a Sturgis; and secondly, I thought it was
3 convenient at that time because there were so many
4 Frank Firoidini's in my family.

5 Mr. Triplett. Just to make it very clear, I
6 believe on the official court records your former
7 name was listed as Frank Firoidino, ending in an "O".
8 Was that a clerical error?

9 The Witness. Well, I've always, since the day
10 I was born, signed my name and knew my name as
11 F-i-r-o-i-n-i.

12 Mr. Triplett. Where did you attend grammar
13 school?

14 The Witness. Holy Rosary Catholic School,
15 Germantown Philadelphia; Roosevelt Junior High,
16 Germantown Philadelphia; Germantown High School,
17 Germantown Philadelphia; later I went to William
18 and Mary College in Norfolk, Virginia, which is the
19 extension of William and Mary College.

20 Mr. Triplett. And when did you attend William
21 and Mary?

22 The Witness. Oh, again we're going back so many
23 years. It would be on record. The Government would
24 have that on record.

25 Mr. Triplett. Well just roughly the year, if you



1 can recall?

2 The Witness. I would say in the '40's, the
3 late '40's I would think, yeah, the late '40's.

4 Mr. Triplett. All right.

5 When were you first married?

6 The Witness. I got out of the Marine Corps in
7 1945. I believe I was married in 1946.

8 Mr. Triplett. And what was the maiden name
9 of your first wife?

10 The Witness. I forget off-hand.

11 Mr. Triplett. What was her first name?

12 The Witness. You've got me in a blank moment.

13 Mr. Rubin. It will come to him.

14 The Witness. It'll come to me. I'm sorry.

15 Mr. Triplett. How many times have you been
16 married?

17 The Witness. This is my third time.

18 Mr. Triplett. All right.

19 What was the maiden name of your second wife?

20 The Witness. These experiences have been,
21 because of the particular time, were very unhappy
22 experiences with me. Like I say now, it's a complete
23 blank to me.

24 Mr. Triplett. Do you recall when and where you
25 married your second wife?

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1 The Witness. At Norfolk, Virginia. My second
2 wife at Norfolk, Virginia and my first wife I think
3 was in Carolina. South Hill, North Carolina, I believe
4 it was.

5 Mr. Triplett. And your first wife. Did you
6 divorce her?

7 The Witness. My first wife? She died. My
8 second wife, we divorced. As a matter of fact I was
9 here and she applied for a divorce and I did not
10 contest it.

11 Mr. Triplett. And do you know where your second
12 wife is presently located?

13 The Witness. No, I don't. I assume Norfolk,
14 Virginia.

15 Mr. Triplett. And you remarried a third time?

16 The Witness. Yes.

17 Mr. Triplett. And what was the maiden name of
18 your third wife?

19 The Witness. Hunt, H-u-n-t.

20 Mr. Triplett. And what is her first name?

21 The Witness. I call her Janet. She calls
22 herself Jan Hunt.

23 Mr. Triplett. And when and where did you marry
24 her?

25 The Witness. Here in Miami, Florida.

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1 Mr. Triplett. Approximately when?

2 The Witness. Oh, it's 15 years, I think. These
3 things are very minor things.

4 Mr. Triplett. So that would be approximately
5 1963 you married her?

6 The Witness. '63. Possibly '62. Sixteen, 17
7 years.

8 Mr. Triplett. All right.

9 And you're still married to her?

10 The Witness. Oh, yes, sir, certainly. Very
11 happily married.

12 Mr. Triplett. All right.

13 When did you first enter the military service?

14 The Witness. I joined the United States Marine
15 Corps, volunteered, when I turned 17. Well, I was
16 17 years old, in Germantown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

17 Mr. Triplett. And going back, approximately what
18 year was that when you were 17?

19 The Witness. It would be 19 what, '42 I believe.
20 Yeah, 1942.

21 Mr. Triplett. And what units were you in? Do
22 you recall?

23 The Witness. I believe so.

24 I took about seven weeks of basic training in
25 the Marine Corps at Parris Island, South Carolina. I

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1 got on the H. T. Allen, they sent me through the
2 Panama Canal; went to American Samoa. I was in a
3 training outfit there and I volunteered for the First
4 Raider Battalion which was on Guadalcanal. I was
5 sent to Guadalcanal to join the First Battalion, and I
6 stayed with the same Company until the end of the war.

7 So First Raider Battalion and then we increased.
8 We were losing the war then. Our actions was commando
9 type activities.

10 The First Marine Battalion, the First Marine
11 Regiment to the First Marine Brigade to the Sixth
12 Marine Division, to the Tenth Army under the command
13 of General Buckner, who was Army Commander of the
14 Tenth Army, which we made the invasion of Okinawa.

15 Mr. Triplett. What rank did you attain in the
16 Marines?

17 The Witness. Corporal. I was discharged -- well,
18 my rank fluctuated. And when I was discharged I
19 really forget. I was a Corporal. I think I was a
20 Corporal when I was discharged.

21 Mr. Triplett. You say your rank fluctuated.
22 Were you higher than a Corporal during times?

23 The Witness. Well, during the times you had
24 acting Sergeants and so forth. And being out in the
25 jungles and out in the islands there, like one time

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1 I went on a bombing raid over Bouganville that I
2 was not supposed to go from Guadalcanal, and when I
3 came back I, you know, lost my rank. But these are
4 the fluctuations.

5 Mr. Triplett. What types of training did you
6 receive in the Marines? Did you receive any special
7 type of training?

8 The Witness. Well, the Marine Corps was a highly
9 specialized, well, a highly trained organization as
10 a whole. But when I joined the Raider Battalion, we
11 were trained specifically to do behind the lines
12 activities. For instances, assassinations, infiltrating
13 enemy encampments. These are the types that we did
14 because we were such a small outfit. We only had
15 500 and some men in the battalion at a particular time,
16 and most of our activities were done by submarines
17 and destroyers, First World War destroyers. Because
18 we were losing the war, so we had to operate behind
19 the enemy lines.

20 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

21 Where did you receive this raider training?

22 The Witness. On American Samoa. And the
23 training continually, naturally, as we went from
24 operation to operation. It was continuous training
25 out in the Pacific.

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1 Mr. Triplett. What type of discharge did you
2 receive from the Marines?

3 The Witness. Honorable discharge.

4 Mr. Triplett. What did you do after you were
5 discharged from the Marines as far as an occupation?

6 The Witness. I came home and because of the
7 influence of my family, the Fiorini family in
8 Norfolk, Virginia, I got on the Norfolk Police
9 Department. I spent -- not at the beginning -- but
10 I was a plain clothes police officer. I did go
11 through training that we had which they called the
12 Police Academy training.

13 And from then I was working as manager of several
14 bars there in Norfolk, Virginia.

15 Mr. Triplett. Did you subsequently enter the
16 military service, any other military service?

17 The Witness. Yes. I was in the United States
18 Naval Air Reserve, stationed at Norfolk Naval Air
19 Station as a Radio Gunner there. And eventually I
20 did receive an honorable discharge.

21 Mr. Triplett. When did you enter the Naval
22 Reserve?

23 The Witness. Oh, that was, I would say after
24 I got off the Police Department. I would think it
25 might have been in '46 or '47. I'm not too sure of

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1 the date.

2 Mr. Triplett. Did I understand you correctly,
3 you were a radio gunner?

4 The Witness. Yeah, in a PBY Squadron on the
5 Naval Air Station.

6 Mr. Triplett. What was your function as a
7 radio gunner?

8 The Witness. Well, we took our training with
9 the PBY's. We learned radio. And weapons was no
10 problem because I had my basic training with the
11 Marines as far as weapons were concerned.

12 Mr. Triplett. And did you receive any special
13 training in the Naval Reserve?

14 The Witness. No, sir. I was already prior
15 trained.

16 Mr. Triplett. What rank did you attain in the
17 Naval Reserve?

18 The Witness. Seaman, or whatever.

19 Mr. Triplett. Again, approximately when did
20 you enlist in the Naval Reserve and when were you
21 discharged?

22 The Witness. Honest, it's a complete blank.
23 You'd have to check with them, you know, the military
24 records.

25 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

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1 Roughly, how many years were you in the Naval
2 Reserve?

3 The Witness. Oh, I would say I stayed with them
4 a couple of years. Maybe more, maybe less.

5 Mr. Triplett. And what type of discharge did
6 you receive?

7 The Witness. Honorable discharge.

8 Mr. Triplett. Did you subsequently enlist in
9 the Merchant Marine?

10 The Witness. Yes.

11 Mr. Triplett. And when did you enroll, or enlist
12 in the Merchant Marine?

13 The Witness. Again, it's so many years back.

14 Mr. Triplett. Early '50's; late '50's; early
15 '60's?

16 The Witness. It could be, yes. I would say
17 in the '50's. Could be the late '40's maybe, or
18 early '50's.

19 Mr. Triplett. And what kind of training, if
20 any, did you receive in the Merchant Marines?

21 The Witness. Actually no training at all. Because
22 I did join the union. In order to get in the Merchant
23 Marine you had to be cleared. You had to get a U.S.
24 Customs clearance, a security clearance, which I
25 did get that security clearance. And I was part of

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1 the union, the Maritime Union in Norfolk, Virginia.
2 And through them I naturally received certain jobs
3 on Merchant ships.

4 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

5 In line with those jobs, did you have occasion
6 to travel?

7 The Witness. Yes, sir.

8 Mr. Triplett. And do you recall, or can you
9 list some of the ports you traveled to during that
10 period?

11 The Witness. Well, I'll give you one in particular.
12 I went to the one up in Greenland, which was one of our
13 biggest air bases that we had, about 200 miles this
14 side of the North Pole. I'm trying to remember the
15 name of it. I forget the name of it, but it's one
16 of our biggest bases we had, military bases we had
17 in Greenland.

18 Mr. Triplett. And did you have occasion to
19 travel back and forth between this country and Europe
20 in the Merchant Marine?

21 The Witness. Yes.

22 Mr. Triplett. Approximately how long were
23 you in the Merchant Marine?

24 The Witness. Not too long. I'd say possibly
25 a year, a year and a half, approximately.

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1 Mr. Triplett. And what was your reason for
2 leaving the Merchant Marine?

3 The Witness. The situation, international
4 situation with the United States Government as far
5 as shipping was concerned, was getting very bad. They
6 were doing it more with foreign carriers than they
7 were with American carriers, and naturally American
8 unions were a little upset with that. So I could
9 not make a living really, by staying with the Merchant
10 Marine.

11 Mr. Triplett. I see.

12 And after you left the Merchant Marine, what
13 did you do as far as an occupation is concerned?

14 The Witness. Well, I had a night club that
15 I was involved with called the Top Hat Night Club
16 on Virginia Beach, Virginia. I also was part owner
17 in that. Mr. Arthur Bass was my patron and also my
18 partner. I had a bar on Main Street in Norfolk called
19 the -- I was part owner in that. It's been so many
20 years ago.

21 Anyway, before I went with him to the night club
22 I was part owner at this bar and then when we sold
23 the bar that's when I started to go to the Merchant
24 Marine thing.

25 And one of the reasons why I quit the Merchant

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1 Marine was because he convinced me to go into the
2 business of the night club. Now it's coming back.

3 Mr. Arthur Bass.

4 So I went into the night club business with him.
5 This was another reason why I discontinued going with
6 the Merchant Marine.

7 Mr. Triplett. And how long were you in the night
8 club business with Mr. Bass?

9 The Witness. I imagine a good couple of years.

10 Mr. Triplett. And following that, did you
11 subsequently enlist in the United States Army?

12 The Witness. Yes, I did.

13 Mr. Triplett. Approximately when, if you recall,
14 did you enlist in the United States Army?

15 The Witness. I imagine it would be in the '50's.
16 This was at the time of the Russian blockade of Berlin.

17 When I joined the Army, I signed up in Norfolk,
18 Virginia. I believe it was Norfolk, Virginia. I
19 went to Fort Dix, New Jersey. I passed my OCS test
20 and they were going to send me to Officer Candidate
21 School, and I asked if they had one in Europe and
22 they said yes, they did. And they lied to me.

23 So when I went to Europe I found out that the
24 Army lied to me and they did not have an Officer
25 Candidate School there. That I would have to stay in,

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1 you know, a year in order to come back to the States
2 and go to the Officer Candidate School back here.

3 So I immediately asked to go overseas and a few
4 weeks later -- I did not have to get training because
5 of my prior training and because of my combat experience,
6 I was sent to, I believe it was Marburg (phonetic),
7 Germany, which was a repo depot there, a replacement
8 outfit there, where they sent me to Berlin, Germany,
9 and I was with the Fourth Regiment there, and I was
10 with General Clay's Honor Guard.

11 Mr. Triplett. What was your purpose in asking
12 to be sent to Europe?

13 The Witness. To go through Officer Candidate
14 School.

15 Mr. Triplett. Well, Officer Candidate School
16 was available here, but you said you wanted to go to
17 OCS in Europe. What was your purpose in wanting to
18 go to Europe?

19 The Witness. Well, I wanted to go back to Europe
20 because I had been to Europe before and I liked
21 Europe. And I felt well, I'd prefer to go to Europe
22 and I was having problems with my first wife at that
23 time and I just wanted to get away from the United
24 States.

25 Mr. Triplett. What rank did you attain in the Army?

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1 The Witness. I was discharged a PFC in the Army.

2 Oh, when I left Berlin, Germany, I was having
3 a very close affair with a young lady there who happened
4 to be going with a Colonel on General Clay's Staff,
5 so I was immediately sent out of Berlin back to Marburg,
6 which in turn they sent me to Heidleburg, Germany,
7 which was headquarters, UCOM Headquarters, and I was
8 assigned to Armed Security Agency, which I had the
9 clearance for.

10 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

11 Besides Marburg, Heidleburg and Berlin, were
12 you stationed in any other places in Europe?

13 The Witness. Not that I recall. I went other
14 places in Europe, but these were the places that I
15 was actually stationed.

16 Mr. Triplett. Now will you again describe, you
17 say you had security clearance at Heidleburg?

18 The Witness. Oh, you would have to have security
19 clearance with the Armed Service Security Agency.

20 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

21 Exactly what were your functions there?

22 The Witness. Well my functions were, I was
23 under command of, I believe he was a First Sergeant,
24 who was directly in command of a Colonel and my
25 functions was typing, which if you asked me to type

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1 today I couldn't do because I haven't typed in so
2 many years. I received training for typing at that
3 time before I went there. And one of my duties was
4 to type the "C" numbers on all classified and top
5 secret documents that we burned in the incinerator.
6 And this stuff naturally was activities concerning
7 our headquarters, the UCOM Headquarters in Europe.

8 Mr. Triplett. What functions did you have
9 besides typing?

10 The Witness. That's it.

11 Mr. Triplett. Did you receive any specialized
12 training in the Army?

13 The Witness. My training in the Army, as I
14 went along, was being trained again. Basic military
15 training was not necessary because of my past military
16 training, but specialized training. For instance
17 like Army Security Agency. As you went along you
18 received that particular type of training.

19 Mr. Triplett. Well, I presume you were trained
20 in something other than typing. What, if anything,
21 were you trained in within the confines of Army
22 security?

23 The Witness. Just to type these "C" numbers
24 of the classified documents and top secret documents
25 that were going to be destroyed by fire in the

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1 incinerator. That was my particular job and that was
2 it. I don't think anybody needed specialized training
3 to do that.

4 Mr. Triplett. You also mentioned you were in
5 General Clay's Honor Guard?

6 The Witness. Yes.

7 Mr. Triplett. What exactly was the Honor Guard
8 and what was your function in it?

9 The Witness. Well, the function of the Honor
10 Guard was a specialized group of military personnel
11 that was trained specifically that when any high
12 ranking officer or political VIP that came into the
13 area, at the airport to military bases, the Honor
14 Guard would perform for these particular people.

15 Mr. Triplett. So it was more a show function
16 rather than a military function?

17 The Witness. Military, right. You would call
18 it a military function if a General came in, you know.
19 That would be a show military function for them. It
20 looked good.

21 Mr. Triplett. Okay. Let's get into another
22 area.

23 I want to know if you had any relationships with
24 any United States Government Intelligence Agency, whether
25 it be FBI, CIA, Military Intelligence or whatever. Have

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1 you had any relationships with any of those agencies
2 I enumerated, or any other Federal Government
3 intelligence agencies?

4 The Witness. Yes, sir.

5 Mr. Triplett. And what was your first contact
6 with any?

7 The Witness. Well, I was in the mountains in
8 Cuba with Fidel Castro. My first contact with any
9 was with the Vice-Consul in Santiago, Cuba. One
10 of my missions when I came out of the mountains was
11 to deliver some secret messages to the underground
12 in Santiago.

13 When I was in Santiago I always went to the
14 Casa Grande Hotel, which was the biggest hotel there,
15 and one evening, which was on a Friday, I sat down
16 to play bingo and an American came to my table and made
17 contact with me and was playing bingo, and he identified
18 himself as we went along in a few hours, he told me
19 was the Vice-Consul. Also, he was the Chief of the
20 CIA stationed there in Santiago.

21 And he questioned me and so forth. This is where
22 I first started to spy on Castron forces for the
23 United States Government.

24 Mr. Triplett. So that was your first contact?

25 The Witness. Yes, sir.

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1 Mr. Triplett. And that would have been what,
2 1958?

3 The Witness. I would say it was 1958,
4 approximately. Yes. Now what month I don't know, sir.

5 Mr. Triplett. And this was while Batista was
6 still in power in Cuba?

7 The Witness. Yes, sir.

8 Mr. Triplett. Do you recall the name of the
9 Vice-Consul?

10 The Witness. I did have the name of the Vice-
11 Consul. It's on record. His name is on record.

12 Mr. Triplett. Would it be Clark Wollen?

13 The Witness. No, sir. No. Mr. Wollen, I
14 believe, was the Consul, but the Vice-Consul -- as
15 a matter of fact this gentleman is retired today.
16 It'll come to me. Unfortunately I didn't know what
17 questions you were going to ask me, otherwise I would
18 have written it down because I have it at home. I
19 would have written down his name.

20 Mr. Triplett. But in any event you could provide
21 that name later to Mr. Fonzi or myself?

22 The Witness. Oh, certainly. As a matter of
23 fact I think I spoke to Mr. Fonzi before, spoke to
24 him about him. I gave him the name. But I could
25 give Mr. Fonzi his name. No problem.

1 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

2 While you were gathering this information
3 presumably in 1958, were you paid for these services?

4 The Witness. I was offered money, but I refused
5 it and the reason why I refused it was the fact that
6 I felt that in helping my country at that particular
7 time, I had my own resources which was with Castro.
8 Money was no problem, so I didn't feel that I needed
9 to take money from my own Government who I voluntarily,
10 when he asked, to go ahead and spy for the United
11 States Government there.

12 Mr. Triplett. So you rejected any money at
13 that time?

14 The Witness. Actually, yes.

15 Mr. Triplett. When did you first arrive in
16 Cuba?

17 The Witness. Well, my connection with the --
18 oh, my uncle, after I got out of the Marine Corps,
19 I came to Miami to live and my uncle married a Cuban
20 lady, a young lady, at that time, whose family was
21 here in exile. This is how I had a source -- naturally
22 I had a family, or married into my family. This
23 was on the Vona side. My uncle's name was Angelo
24 Vona. He married this young lady, which he's still
25 married to today. I have not been in contact with them

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1 for a number of years. I don't know where he's at.
2 And my connection with the Cuban colony was through
3 his family.

4 Fidel left Mexico, came to the United States,
5 and I met Fidel here in the United States. This
6 is how I got involved in the Cuban --

7 Mr. Triplett. (Interposing) This was after you
8 got out of the Marines?

9 The Witness. Yeah.

10 Mr. Triplett. Would that be before you went
11 into the Army?

12 The Witness. Yeah. The first contact with the
13 Cuban exile people.

14 Then I met Carlos Prio, the ex-President of
15 Cuba and I had an association with him. As time went
16 on, I believe it was, it might have been '56, or '57,
17 as time went on I tried to convince President Carlos
18 Prio that the people, his gorilla force in the
19 mountains of Cuba was not very active. That I felt
20 that it might be a good idea for me to go there to
21 help in the training of the gorillas and to step up
22 the military actions there.

23 He agreed, but that wasn't the question. The
24 question that he needed was naturally the arms that
25 the gorilla forces needed to fight against the Batista

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1 forces.

2 So it was decided that I would go and join
3 the Castro forces because he wanted to know what was
4 going on with the Castro forces because he was, at
5 times, helping finance Fidel Castro.

6 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

7 This was a decision between you and Carlos Prio?

8 The Witness. Yes.

9 Mr. Triplett. So when did you finally go to
10 Cuba?

11 The Witness. Well, let's make it 1957. Within
12 that range.

13 Mr. Triplett. And where did you reside then
14 when you arrived in Cuba?

15 The Witness. I made contact directly with the
16 Catholic Church. I went to Santiago and I was in
17 touch with certain people in the Church there who
18 took me personally -- I'm sorry, they didn't take
19 me personally -- they told me to go to Motonzos. To
20 go to the Catholic Church there, which I made contact
21 with a priest there who took me out in the countryside
22 to meet a Cuban fellow who was the manager of the
23 Coca Cola plant there in Montonzo. And I stayed at
24 his place where he took me to a farm house this side
25 of the mountains where I waited for a Cuban patrol.

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1 When I say Cuban, I mean a gorilla patrol, to pick
2 me up and take me into the mountains to see Fidel.

3 So I did not see Fidel for a period of about
4 oh, I would say seven or eight days later, that I came
5 across Fidel. I forget the name of the small -- in
6 the mountains -- a small conglomerate of houses that
7 were along the mountain side and this is where I
8 met Fidel again. Because remember, I met Fidel in
9 Miami, Florida before he went to Cuba.

10 Mr. Triplett. All right.

11 Once you met Fidel, I presume you joined up
12 with him, or stayed with him?

13 The Witness. Well, not exactly joined with
14 him because my sympathies were with the Cuban exiles
15 against the Dictator Batista.

16 It was decided later with Prio that I would
17 go ahead and join Fidel's group of people.

18 Mr. Triplett. And prior to Fidel taking over
19 and throwing out Batista, what functions did you
20 perform for Mr. Castro?

21 The Witness. Helped train the gorillas in the
22 mountains; went on missions, secret missions for
23 messages; bought guns and equipment for the Castro
24 forces; delivered these guns and equipment to the
25 Castro forces.

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1 When the revolution was finished, I went to
2 Havana about a week later.

3 Mr. Triplett. Let me interrupt and back up
4 here.

5 You say you went on secret missions. Were these
6 the secret missions you referred to earlier as being
7 directed by the Vice-Consul, or were these secret
8 missions on behalf of Fidel Castro?

9 The Witness. Yeah, these secret missions on
10 behalf of the gorilla forces. But they were aware
11 of most of my activities.

12 Mr. Triplett. All right.

13 And once Fidel Castro was victorious, what
14 functions did you perform at that time?

15 The Witness. Well, I went a week later to
16 Havana and I changed over from the Cuban Army --
17 rather the Rebel Army -- to the Cuban Air Force.

18 My friend, Pedro Diez Leaz, who on one of
19 the other missions during this period of time, him
20 and I left Santiago and came over. That's how we
21 made contact and we got to be very friendly.

22 Pedro was nominated Commander-in-Chief of the
23 Cuban Air Force. I was made the Director of Security,
24 which is a high ranking intelligence position.

25 Now -- go ahead -- this was my position at that

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particular time.

Mr. Triplett. When you say Director of Secutiry --

The Witness. (Interposing) For the Cuban Air Force, or the FAR which is the Revolutionary Air Force.

Mr. Triplett. And what were your functions as Director of Security for the Air Force?

The Witness. I maintained all of the security of all the military bases inside of Cuba. I set up an intelligence apparatus for Castro outside of Cuba, namely in the United States which in turn I notified the Government of the Agents that were being set up here. Set up an intelligence apparatus here in the United States through the Cuban Air Force.

At the same time the American Government was advised of these Cuban agents working in the South Florida area.

Mr. Triplett. Okay.

So that was not clandestine as far as the American Government was concerned?

The Witness. Certainly it was clandestine.

Mr. Triplett. Well, was the American Government aware of the names and activities of these Cubans?

The Witness. Sure. I gave them the names of the agents that was being formed and sent here to spy

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1 for the Cuban Government.

2 Mr. Triplett. And was Fidel Castro or Pedro
3 Diez Lanz aware that you were providing this information
4 to the United States Government?

5 The Witness. I'm not sure whether they were.
6 No, I don't think so because they did not know of
7 my contact with the Embassy at that time.

8 I was advised to make contact with Colonel
9 Nichols. Colonel Nichols was the military attache
10 for the Cuban Air Force.

11 Mr. Triplett. And is he the one to whom you
12 provided the names of these agents?

13 The Witness. Not only provided the names of
14 these agents but also the various conspiracies that
15 were taking place within Havana, of people from
16 Costa Rica, from Panama, people from the Dominican
17 Republic, people from Haiti. The various Central
18 and South American countries came there trying to
19 make contact directly with Fidel or members of the
20 hierarchy, which I was part of this. But they themselves
21 could not get direct contact with Fidel which was
22 very very difficult because of the turmoil that was
23 going on there.

24 I was contacted and I was involved in the
25 conspiracies to overthrow and send gorilla forces into

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1 the Central American countries and these Caribbean
2 things which again the American Government was being
3 advised through me.

4 Mr. Triplett. Were any Castro agents arrested
5 as a result of this information you were giving the
6 American Government?

7 The Witness. No, sir, and I'll tell you the
8 reason why. Because I didn't find out until years
9 later that through many of the meetings that we had
10 had in Havana at the very beginning, many of us
11 suspected that the American Embassy was helping in
12 guiding Fidel Castro, especially CIA.

13 At one of the meetings I was asked to bypass
14 the Embassy and go directly to Washington, D.C. to
15 make contact with Mr. Hoover because being that we
16 were strongly anti-communist and because of the
17 information that many of our people had and the
18 contacts that they had pertaining to the Embassy,
19 had the sympathies of many of the Embassy personnel
20 and also of the CIA personnel assisting Castro which,
21 at that time, we didn't know this definitely. But
22 we suspected it. Later we found it was a true fact.

23 So I did bypass with information pertaining to
24 the Castro brothers and pertaining to many of the
25 Communists who were being put in various positions by

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1 the Castro brothers, which we were definitely against.

2 So I went on a special mission to Washington.
3 Made contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
4 I believe -- I did not speak with Mr. Hoover personally --
5 but I believe I spoke to his right-hand man.

6 Mr. Triplett. Do you recall his name?

7 The Witness. No, sir, I don't. But it should
8 be on record.

9 Mr. Triplett. Would it be Sullivan or DeLoach
10 (phonetic)? Do those names --

11 The Witness. (Interposing) No, sir. It's been
12 so many years I don't recall.

13 Mr. Triplett. Olsen?

14 The Witness. I don't recall.

15 But later on Pedro Diez and Marcus Diez Lanz
16 themselves had, either one of them had contact,
17 personal contact with Mr. Hoover.

18 Mr. Triplett. Now when was this you went to
19 Washington?

20 The Witness. Oh, gee, I'm not sure whether
21 it was February of 1959 or not. I'm not sure.
22 January, February or March. One of those three months.
23 But I'm sure it was immediately in February.

24 Mr. Triplett. And still at this time you were
25 at least outwardly working with and for the Fidel

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1 Castro regime?

2 The Witness. Right. At the same time working
3 with the Embassy and trying to go ahead and find out
4 who you could trust and who you couldn't trust.

5 But that particular time when I went to Washington,
6 nobody at the Embassy knew that I went directly to
7 Washington.

8 Mr. Triplett. Now when you say you were working
9 for the Embassy, who precisely at that time were you
10 working with?

11 The Witness. Well let me say I had an
12 association. I'm sorry, because sometimes I get overt.
13 My association with the Embassy was through Colonel
14 Nichols who was the military attache at the Embassy.

15 Mr. Triplett. And was there anybody else also?

16 The Witness. I beg your pardon?

17 Mr. Triplett. Was there anybody else you
18 were associating with in your capacity?

19 The Witness. The only one I had contact with
20 was Colonel Nichols.

21 Mr. Triplett. All right.

22 The Witness. I went to the Embassy several
23 times. A document, which I'm sure Pedro or Marcus
24 Diez Lanz has, in order to cover my association with
25 the Embassy, named me -- I forget how it is again --

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1 named me the contact between the Cuban Air Force and
2 the American Embassy, in order to protect me being at
3 the Embassy if Cuban Intelligence found out.

4 Mr. Triplett. But this document was merely a
5 subterfuge, is that what you're telling us?

6 The Witness. Yes. So in case the Cuban
7 Intelligence Service wanted to know what I, as
8 Director of Security, was doing at the Embassy, I
9 had a document that it was an official visit because
10 of the Air Force and the American Air Force mission
11 that was there at the time.

12 Mr. Triplett. As a matter of fact, at that
13 time, what was the nature of your association with
14 Clark Wollen?

15 The Witness. Well, Clark Wollen was down in
16 Santiago. When I left Santiago, that was it. I
17 finished with them. Then my contact was with Nichols
18 in Havana.

19 And to be honest with you, the Chief of Station,
20 which was the Vice-Consul, because Clark Wollen was
21 the Consul, the American Consul there, and I don't
22 believe -- again I'm going back so many years -- I
23 don't believe my contact was with Wollen. I believe
24 my contact was with the Vice-Consul and again I'm
25 trying to remember his name. Anderson comes to my mind,

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1 but I don't know whether that was his name or not.
2 Again, I have it at home and I can turn it over to
3 Mr. Fonzi.

4 Mr. Triplett. Could it have been Jim Knowles?

5 The Witness. No, sir. Jim Knowles worked out
6 of the American Embassy.

7 Mr. Triplett. All right.

8 Does the name Stewart ring a bell?

9 The Witness. Jack Stewart? No, sir. I know
10 who you're talking about. He worked out of the
11 Embassy.

12 Mr. Triplett. Did you have occasion to recruit
13 or enlist the support of other people in this
14 intelligence gathering activity?

15 The Witness. Yes, sir.

16 Mr. Triplett. And what would be the correct
17 designation? Recruiting? Enlisting support? Asking
18 for help? How would you describe it?

19 The Witness. Well, I would describe it as
20 making contact with people within the Cuban military,
21 the Cuban political and even the American colony that
22 was there.

23 Naturally my friends Pedro and Marcus Diez Lanz
24 are very pro-American and they had the right contacts
25 with a number of people in the American Embassy

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1 including the Ambassador. And I would say -- well,
2 I can't speak for them because I'm not sure whether
3 they had direct contact through me or to themselves
4 with the Chief of Station at the American Embassy.

5 Mr. Triplett. Any other people besides Pedro
6 and Marcus Diez Lanz that you recall?

7 The Witness. That I asked for help in the
8 intelligence gathering?

9 Mr. Triplett. Yes. Geraldine Shamma. She
10 lives in Hollywood, Florida. She was turned over
11 to Major Van Horne (phonetic). She worked with
12 Major Van Horne in the American Embassy.

13 As a matter of fact this woman here had a close
14 contact with me when she was working in Havana. We
15 had the Brickell House here on Brickell Avenue that
16 the MRR was using. We all gathered there. She had
17 a small apartment in the back of the Brickell House,
18 a safe house. And she was traveling back and forth
19 to Havana. And she was later arrested and given a
20 ten year sentence for spying. Served three and a
21 half years in Guandhi (Phonetic) prison, came over
22 here to the United States.

23 Geraldine and I have been very very close. And
24 unfortunately, physically, this prison sentence that
25 she received hurt her very bad both mentally and

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1 physically. She was of good service to this country.

2 Mr. Triplett. In the same line, regarding your
3 contacts with the American Embassy, did you have any
4 contacts with Colonel Kail?

5 The Witness. I don't recall. I spoke to a
6 number of people, you know, who were attached to
7 the Embassy and I honestly don't recall certain agents.

8 You must understand one thing. When I was
9 associated myself with Colonel Nichols, I received
10 bits and pieces from Colonel Nichols that many of
11 the people -- not many -- his words were somewhat like,
12 you can't trust some of the people in CIA there. As
13 I went along I found out that CIA did help Fidel, guide
14 him into power. The Communists, Cuban Communists Party
15 did make a couple of attempts to kill Fidel and I
16 believe that CIA was advising Fidel of what was going
17 on and so forth. They were very pro-communist, these
18 agents. Jim Knowles, to me, was one of them. The
19 Station Chief.

20 As a matter of fact Ambassador Smith accused,
21 you know, the Chief of Station at a meeting with the
22 other agents of, you know, being pro-communist by
23 having a close association with the Castro brothers.

24 Mr. Triplett. When you're talking about
25 Ambassador Smith, are you referring to Ewing Smith?

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1 The Witness. Yes.

2 Mr. Triplett. Did you have any contacts with
3 him directly?

4 The Witness. No, sir.

5 Mr. Triplett. Were you aware that Colonel Kail
6 was in the CIA?

7 The Witness. No, sir. Like I say the name
8 doesn't, you know, you must understand in intelligence
9 people use code names.

10 Mr. Triplett. Right. Likewise from other
11 resources you do learn their real names.

12 The Witness. Sometimes. And sometimes you
13 don't, you know. You know, like people down here,
14 over a period of years, if you still maintain contact,
15 you know, you do recall because something will come
16 up and you say oh, I remember you, you were working
17 this particular thing because they'll come up with
18 a story and then you'll know that they have worked
19 in that particular position.

20 Mr. Triplett. Other than providing information
21 for Colonel Nichols, or the CIA or what have you at
22 that time, were you performing any other functions
23 on behalf of the American Government or Colonel Nichols?

24 The Witness. Just that. Notifying the Government
25 of the conspiracies. For instances, there were forces

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1 being prepared, the Air Force was involved in it,
2 where there were aircraft on our ramp with no
3 designation, you know, no number, insignias and so
4 forth. They were just plain aircraft. The numbers
5 were taken off, the insignias were taken off these
6 aircraft that were going to be involved in certain
7 invasions of certain countries. For instance, the
8 Dominican Republic and also Panama.

9 And these invasions did occur and they did
10 fail.

11 Bill Morgan, who I tried to recruit for the
12 American Government, which I gave a list to Nichols
13 of people that I felt would be in sympathy with the
14 American Government, would help intelligence wise.
15 Naturally they have their own means of making contact.
16 If it isn't directly through me, they make their own
17 contact of these assets that would be assets to,
18 you know, American Intelligence. And Bill wanted
19 me to be involved in several of these conspiracies.
20 And one was the Panama Canal. I told him I thought
21 he was crazy and he said look, I'll be the overall
22 commander and I want you to be the second in command
23 of this expedition that is being formed to invade
24 Panama.

25 And if I'm not mistaken, later the invasion was

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1 sent to Panama which naturally failed.

2 But this is the type of things that I was doing.

3 Mr. Triplett. You say you tried to recruit
4 William Morgan?

5 The Witness. Well, I told Nichols that William
6 Morgan, I thought at that time, would be an asset to
7 intelligence.

8 Mr. Triplett. Were you involved, or aware of
9 any attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro while you
10 were still in Cuba?

11 The Witness. Yes, sir.

12 Mr. Triplett. Were you involved in any?

13 The Witness. Yes, sir.

14 Mr. Triplett. And when did those occur?

15 The Witness. Well, I don't recall the exact
16 month because of the confusion. It was very
17 difficult at that time because I had to stay alive,
18 number one.

19 Marita Lorenz, I made contact with, I think
20 maybe in February or the beginning of March. She
21 was Fidel's mistress. And I thought, you know, like
22 well she's an American and I didn't know too much of
23 her background at that time because I was hearing some
24 information through my people, through Fidel's people
25 that Fidel was living with her. She went to work as

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1 his secretary. I knew that she was an American,
2 not knowing her background. Her mother was American
3 and her father was German working for the Commodore,
4 I think, but the German Government, but this cruise
5 ship bit.

6 But I made an approach to Marita and the
7 approach was successful. I had to be very very
8 careful. She could have gotten me killed. And in
9 making an approach to her, I did recruit her to go
10 ahead and do some spying for me, like I did
11 Geraldine Shamma.

12 And also some of my friends in Cuba, who
13 naturally we were all against Castro because we knew
14 about the Communist infiltration and what was going
15 on before I went to Washington. There were some
16 conspiracies going on to kill Fidel and I was
17 involved in the conspiracies. And I told Colonel
18 Nichols, you know, about this. I said hey, you know,
19 like this guy here is a Communist and he's even tried
20 to put Communist people into the Air Force, and I'm
21 trying to keep them out under orders of Marcus
22 Diez Lanz. And I almost got myself killed one day
23 because a Jimmy Gentry (phonetic), who was very close
24 to Raul Castro and who was a pilot, made some very
25 derogatory remarks against Pedro Diez Lanz, and said

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1 he would kill Pedro because Pedro was very anti-
2 communist, and he pulled his gun on me and I in turn
3 took his .45 away from him and marched him to the
4 Air Force office of Pedro. And naturally I ran him
5 off the base. So there was friction there against
6 Raul Castro. But Fidel was more diplomatic and
7 against us, many of the military commanders who helped
8 him, who was in high positions, so Fidel had to go
9 ahead and smooth things over. But he knew who was
10 against him.

11 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

12 On how many occasions were you aware of -- well,
13 strike that.

14 On how many occasions were you involved in plans
15 or attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro?

16 The Witness. Well, I would say -- well, there
17 were numerous plots that I was involved in. And I
18 would say the most serious plots -- I'm talking about
19 the real serious ones that I was involved in -- was
20 about three.

21 Mr. Triplett. Now you mentioned Geraldine
22 Shamma and Marita Lorenz. Other than those two,
23 were other people involved in these plots?

24 The Witness. Well, Geraldine Shamma was not
25 involved in any plots in particular to kill Fidel Castro.

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1 She was strictly intelligence. Strictly intelligence.

2 I've asked Marita Lorenz to be involved with
3 me if and when the time came.

4 I was told, well okay, unless we get the word
5 from Washington, don't do anything. But at the same
6 time I had meetings with military commanders who
7 wanted to kill him.

8 Mr. Triplett. These were Cuban military
9 commanders, or American?

10 The Witness. No. They were Cuban military
11 commanders who wanted to kill Fidel and who were
12 trying to, you know, devise a way. And I offered
13 like, hey, I've got command of the military police,
14 which I was personally training these people. See,
15 at the same time being Director of Security, same
16 time spying over here, same time being involved in
17 all these damn conspiracies, you know, so I had a
18 hell of a time being involved in all of these things.

19 And so I suggested, you know, like hey, Fidel
20 comes to the Air Force Base. If he goes someplace
21 in the country he flies in with a helicopter. He
22 comes over, he sees me, he hugs me, you know, and
23 he has meetings on the second floor of the headquarters,
24 Air Force Headquarters. Hey, supply me with plastic
25 explosives. I'll kill him right there, you know, on

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1 the second floor. Or if you want me to stop him
2 outside the gate I'll stop him outside the gate.

3 Mr. Triplett. Now who are you making these
4 suggestions to?

5 The Witness. Colonel Nichols.

6 Mr. Triplett. Colonel Nichols?

7 The Witness. Yeah.

8 Mr. Triplett. And this again, just to
9 clarify it and make sure we have a good record,
10 this was all during the period you were an officer
11 in the Cuban Air Force?

12 The Witness. Yes. This was the early part of
13 1959.

14 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

15 And you mentioned a little earlier I believe
16 that you discussed this possibility of killing Fidel
17 Castro with Marita Lorenz in February of 1959?

18 The Witness. Well, that's when I first met
19 her, in February. So it might have been in March
20 because I had to get, you know, I don't just come
21 out when I just meet her, you know, I had to gain
22 her confidence. Because it was a very ticklish
23 situation, and she was crazy about Fidel. This is
24 the thing.

25 Mr. Triplett. Putting all this in context though,

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1 Fidel Castro took over in Cuba January 1st, 1959. In
2 relation to that date, when did you first become
3 disenchanted with Fidel Castro and when did you first
4 have a suspicion that he was a Communist?

5 The Witness. All of us -- I'm talking about
6 my friends like Commander Ricardo Lauria (phonetic),
7 Commander Hubamartis (phonetic), Commander Pedro
8 Diez Lanz, Commander Marcus Diez Lanz, myself and
9 other commanders, had various meetings all over
10 Havana secretly. And I would say that by the time
11 of February, 1959, it was definitely decided, because
12 of all the activities that was going on with the
13 various top Communist people, that Raul was trying
14 to get into the military. And so far he couldn't
15 get them into the Air Force because I was running
16 them off, you see. But we suspected and damn well
17 knew that Fidel was a Communist and working with
18 the Communist Party.

19 Also by February we suspected that CIA was
20 guiding Fidel also in this thing.

21 This is why I was sent -- it might have been
22 February or March -- I was sent directly to Washington.
23 To bypass the Embassy.

24 Mr. Triplett. You were sent there by whom?

25 The Witness. By Pedro Diez Lanz and Marcus and

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1 Ricardo Lauria, to go to Washington and give a list
2 of names of all the Communist agents directly to the
3 FBI. Bypass that damn Embassy.

4 Mr. Triplett. If you could give a reason, what
5 would be the reason for the failure of any attempts
6 on Fidel Castro's life at that time?

7 The Witness. Well, I would say that the
8 individual persons that were being used in order to
9 go ahead and kill him. I was in the best position in
10 the world to go ahead and really kill him, if I was
11 in charge of killing Fidel. I was in the best
12 position because I could have stopped him right at
13 that gate there. Every time Fidel would come in, he
14 would come in in a convoy. I would stop the convoy
15 because I was out there one day when I was inspecting
16 and I could have killed everybody. Because I had
17 people and I trained people, you know, to check the
18 roofs, the main street, the main entrance of the Air
19 Force Base. We checked the roofs out, and I could
20 have had machine gunners up there with hand grenades
21 and machine guns and I could have wiped that whole
22 god-damned convoy out. Could have killed everybody.

23 Mr. Triplett. But you apparently were not
24 in charge. You did not have the green light.

25 Who, if anybody, was in charge?

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1 The Witness. Right. Absolutely I did not
2 have the green light.

3 See, my loyalties were divided. To be very
4 honest with you, my loyalties at that time were
5 divided and I'm sorry they were divided because I
6 would have spit at the American Embassy, believe
7 me. If I knew then what I know today I would have
8 spit at the American Embassy and I would have said
9 the hell with the American Embassy and everybody
10 there, see. And I would have listened to my friends
11 and I would have killed Fidel.

12 But because I was an American, my decision
13 was more toward the Americans than my own friends,
14 which I should have went along with my friends. I
15 would have killed that dirty bastard.

16 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

17 But who specifically told you not to, if
18 anybody?

19 The Witness. Nichols said don't do anything.
20 Leave him alone until we get word from Washington,
21 and that's it.

22 So trying to be a good American, forget it.

23 Mr. Triplett. When did you finally leave
24 Cuba?

25 The Witness. June the 30th of 1959, because of

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1 a meeting that I had secretly with the Second Chief
2 of the Cuban Intelligence, Army Cuban Intelligence.
3 His name was Sangenis. I have been friends with the
4 Sangenis family for years. And he asked to speak
5 with me. He sent someone over to speak with me. And
6 I went across the street -- I forget the name of
7 the restaurant across the street, I believe it was
8 across the street from the Havana Hilton. It was at
9 night time because we sat in a dark corner of the
10 restaurant and he said, "Frank, Raul Castro suspects
11 you're working with American Intelligence. So me
12 a favor. When you leave here, pretend you don't know
13 me. That's it. Get your ass out of Cuba tonight,
14 now. Because if he picks you up he's going to kill
15 you."

16 Mr. Triplett. And as a result of that you
17 left?

18 The Witness. I didn't leave until days later.
19 I went against what he said. I didn't leave for days
20 later. As a matter of fact, Pedro Diez Lanz, with
21 all the troubles he was having with the Castro brothers,
22 he was hiding secretly the last month. This was in
23 June. And I went to the American Embassy to try to
24 get him, to get, what do you call it in the American
25 Embassy when a person goes in the Embassy to protect

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1 themselves, sanctuary, asylum in the American Embassy.
2 You know they refused? They refused Pedro Diez Lanz
3 going into the Embassy. Here's a guy that respected
4 this country, respected this Government. At that
5 time the guy was risking his life, like we all were,
6 for the American Government, we thought.

7 But there was a betrayal and the betrayal came
8 out of that God-damn Embassy right there. And here
9 like the dummy that we were at that time, trying to
10 go ahead and notify the American Government, trying
11 to go ahead and help the American Government, all
12 the American Government was doing to us was screwing
13 us. Believe me.

14 Mr. Triplett. When you say there was a betrayal,
15 are you able to pinpoint any specific person?

16 The Witness. I would say the CIA Station Chief
17 in the American Embassy.

18 Mr. Triplett. And do you know who that was at
19 that time?

20 The Witness. That was -- I didn't know the man
21 to be honest with you. I've got his name. I can
22 turn it over. I'm getting a mental block again. I
23 can turn it over to Mr. Fonzi who the Station Chief
24 was.

25 People like this God-damn David Phillips who was

1 there, that pro bastard son-of-a-bitch. Excuse me.
2 That pro Communist bastard son-of-a-bitch. I dislike
3 these people very much for what they did to us in
4 Cuba and which they continued to do in the Bay of
5 Pigs invasion. They're the same people that got
6 involved in the Bay of Pigs invasion and betrayed us
7 again, you know, which cost people's lives. And oh,
8 my mind sometimes gets screwed up. But where were we
9 anyway?

10 Mr. Triplett. I was asking you if you knew
11 who specifically, but apparently you don't have a
12 name at the moment. Let's move along now.

13 Once you returned to the United States --

14 The Witness. (Interposing) That was June the
15 30th, yeah.

16 Mr. Triplett. Were you contacted by any
17 representative of the CIA or the Federal Government
18 for a debriefing or anything of that nature?

19 The Witness. No, sir. No, sir.

20 Mr. Triplett. After you left Cuba, did anybody
21 approach you to perform services or gather information
22 on behalf of the CIA?

23 The Witness. After I left Cuba?

24 Mr. Triplett. Yes.

25 The Witness. No, sir.

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1 Well, let me tell you what happened there. I
2 had to arrange the escape of Pedro Diez Lanz because
3 of the Embassy because they refused him aslyum, which
4 I resented bitterly. Marcus Diez Lanz also. All right.

5 Meantime, at that time we thought CIA was still
6 all right, but we had our suspicions within the
7 Embassy.

8 Marcus Diez Lanz was helped by CIA later to get
9 out. This was, I would say, a month later. But when
10 I came over on June the 30th, I took two aircraft from
11 Cuba over here. One was a C-46D, that was in my name,
12 and a B-25 bomber that was in my name. Okay?

13 Now, so I had to arrange to get those airplanes
14 over here before I defected. I had meetings over there
15 with Pedro and so forth and I wanted to cause an
16 uprising there. I said look, I have command of
17 1,000 troops here at the Air Force Base. Let's get
18 hold of President Arukia (phonetic). I'll put 500
19 men around the Capital, the Presidential Palace, if
20 President Arukia will denounce Castro, you know, and
21 the Communists.

22 President Arukia said no. That Castro was
23 misguided and said no. Well, he was saving his own
24 ass is what he was doing.

25 But also I wanted to go ahead and destroy much

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1 of the Air Force Base. Because I asked Pedro, send
2 our pilots up in the air, get every airplane we can
3 up in the air, get all our troops that we can, put
4 them in the transport planes that we have and send
5 them over to the Isle of Pine. We grab the Isle of
6 Pine. We get the Batista prisoners that Fidel had
7 in the Isle of Pine prison. That would be the nucleolus
8 of an army there. Because we could have took the island
9 and destroyed the base and our fighters and bombers
10 would attack Camp Columbia, try to get Arukia out
11 of the Palace and try to kill Fidel. By having a
12 military coup there, starting with us in the Air Force
13 because we did have some manpower. But they turned
14 it down.

15 Mr. Triplett. Again, these were the people
16 at the Embassy that turned it down?

17 The Witness. I'm not sure the Embassy was
18 aware. At least they were not aware of this
19 particular operation that I wanted to do. They
20 were not aware through me.

21 Mr. Triplett. Okay. Getting back to after
22 you returned to the United States.

23 To your knowledge, were you ever contacted by
24 any representatives of the CIA for any purpose?

25 The Witness. I was contacted by an official of

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1 the Government because I was making arrangements here
2 to get a boat to go into Cuba and get Pedro out and
3 get Marcus out and his family.

4 I was told, Frank, leave it alone. Don't touch
5 it because arrangements are being made by CIA to get
6 them out.

7 Mr. Triplett. Who approached you and told you
8 that?

9 The Witness. Oh, God, I don't know. Let me
10 see. One possibility was -- I can't remember his
11 name. He's in Washington. No, it couldn't be him.
12 Shakter, Schenley (phonetic).

13 Mr. Triplett. Schaklee (phonetic)?

14 The Witness. It might have been Schenley,
15 Shackler. One of the two. Told me, stay here, don't
16 go anyplace. Because I was arranging with Pedro
17 Diez Lanz' half brother, Surgio Diez, to get a ship,
18 to get a boat at one of the yacht companies here,
19 yacht brokers, because I went with him to get the
20 boat.

21 Surgio got in the boat with somebody else, went
22 over to Cuba and got Pedro and his wife out, smuggled
23 them here. The Government knew about it because
24 this was the arrangements that we were making to get
25 Pedro out, but they didn't want me personally to go.

1 So what the half brother did with the boat, we
2 used it, they allowed Surgio to go but didn't want me
3 to go because I was an American and they knew Castro
4 would catch me.

5 Then CIA did make arrangements to get Marcus Diez
6 Lanz out because Marcus was in touch with an agent in
7 Cuba, a CIA agent. And that agent, if you'd like to
8 know who he is, that was Bernard Barker.

9 Mr. Triplett. All right.

10 Now after you returned to the United States,
11 did you have any contact with any Castro Intelligence
12 Agents? Here in the United States?

13 The Witness. No. At least not to my knowledge.
14 Because some of the people we didn't know. No.

15 You would assume that Castro, with what people
16 we knew over here, if they were agents, would change
17 them around. So no. We kept to ourselves.

18 The reason for that is, remember, we were
19 Cuban revolutionaries, all right? We helped overthrow
20 the Batista Government. So the first group of
21 refugees that come over here were the Batista people,
22 or at least the people that were very sympathetic,
23 which they had reason to leave there because Castro
24 was shooting everybody, which was wrong on his part.
25 So naturally when we came here we more or less kept

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1 to ourselves.

2 But as time went by we did start to associate
3 ourselves with certain, at least not myself, but
4 Pedro and Marcus, with certain people who were, you
5 know, of the Batista faction. And then myself later
6 on.

7 Mr. Triplett. Did you receive any money or
8 any pay from the CIA prior to the Bay of Pigs?

9 The Witness. I received -- well, not myself
10 personally. But before the Bay of Pigs invasion, we
11 had a special flying group.

12 Mr. Triplett. When you say we, who?

13 The Witness. Pedro Diez Lanz, Marcus Diez Lanz
14 and myself, using my B-25. Now this is the same --

15 Mr. Triplett. (Interposing) how about the C-46?

16 The Witness. Well, that was not used. We
17 sold that eventually. That was not used in the Bay
18 of Pigs.

19 Mr. Triplett. This was your B-25?

20 The Witness. Well let's say the B-25 was in
21 my name. Registered with the FAA in my name.

22 Mr. Triplett. Well, whose was it if it wasn't
23 yours?

24 The Witness. Well, it was money that was paid
25 for by the revolution, you see, and naturally being



1 part of the revolution and being that the other
2 people were Cuban revolutionaries, they used my
3 name in order to be on the license. My name was
4 used because you couldn't get somebody that wasn't
5 an American citizen.

6 Mr. Triplett. Who else was there?

7 The Witness. Just us.

8 Mr. Triplett. The three of you. Marcus Diez
9 Lanze, Pedro and --

10 The Witness. (Interposing) And myself.

11 Well, the money, before the Bay of Pigs invasion,
12 the monies that went to the repairs of the B-25, was
13 CIA money.

14 As a matter of fact I was told later while I
15 was in prison, by Howard, that Howard -- Howard Hunt
16 I'm talking about -- Howard Hunt said he did give
17 Barker \$10,000 to turn over to Pedro to pay the
18 bills of the B-25. I think we had an L. B. Smith
19 over here at 36th Street Airport being repaired.

20 And one of the things that the B-25 was going
21 to be used, which we were fixing the airplane up
22 because we were going to put on the tail of the B-25,
23 a long antennae that would be stretched out while
24 the aircraft was in flight with tape recordings and
25 radio equipment in the B-25 to broadcast propaganda

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1 in Cuba while the B-25 was in flight. This was one
2 of the operations. And the monies did come from CIA
3 for the repairs and the bill to the B-25.

4 Mr. Triplett. And did you know at that time it
5 came from the CIA?

6 The Witness. Certainly. Sure. I didn't know
7 who it came from because the money came from Barker.
8 Because I didn't know who Barker's boss was.

9 You must understand that a week before -- this
10 I found out through Howard Hunt while I was in prison --
11 a week before the invasion, Bernard Barker was the
12 assistant to Howard.

13 Howard, from what Howard told me, that he
14 disagreed with the policies of what was happening,
15 the change that was happening within, you know, the
16 groups, the CIA and the Revolutionary Council, because
17 he was the political officer of the Revolutionary
18 Council. I had no contact with Howard Hunt. I never
19 knew Howard Hunt at all. I knew there was an Eduardo
20 and Eduardo was Barker's boss.

21 But he left the outfit and Barker was turned
22 over to a new CIA control officer, I believe. And
23 Barker would not tell me. I believe his new boss
24 was Jim Knowles.

25 Mr. Triplett. And what led you to believe that?

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1 The Witness. I'm not sure really. I'll be
2 very honest with you, I'm not sure. I'm not sure
3 whether Howard Hunt told me that Barker's new boss
4 was Jim Knowles or not. Because you know, sometimes
5 you don't say things, you know. I'm not sure. But
6 Barker never told me who his new control officer was.
7 But I believe it was Jim Knowles.

8 Again, this B-25 was the same B-25 that Pedro
9 Diez Lanz and myself as pilots and Marcus Diez Lanz
10 and another Cuban fellow by the name of Itchgoia
11 (phonetic) flew over on October the 21st of 1959,
12 over the City of Havana, and dropped several hundred
13 thousands of leaflets over that City. And several
14 Cubans, I think maybe 31 or 33 Cuban people were
15 killed and wounded on that air raid that we did.

16 Mr. Triplett. Dropping leaflets?

17 The Witness. Leaflets, yeah. Well, you see
18 we were 1,000 foot off the ground over the City and
19 the gunners from Cabana Fortress and the three B-26
20 fighter bombers tried to shoot us down and the shells
21 exploding killed or wounded 31 or 33 people. And
22 Fidel raised a lot of hell about it.

23 And as a matter of fact, charges were brought
24 against Pedro Diez Lanz in Federal Court here about
25 these things and it was thrown out a half hour later

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1 in court. A fact that they could not prove because
2 there was 2,000 Americans there at that time and
3 they watched us throw these leaflets out.

4 Mr. Triplett. Did you have occasion to purchase
5 any other B-25's other than this one?

6 The Witness. No. That's the only B-25, and
7 the B-26 that was ever purchased. And that was in
8 my name, registered with the FAA, or at that time
9 I think it was the CAA, or whatever.

10 Mr. Triplett. Did you have any contact, or
11 have you had any contact with Rafeal Hanscomb?

12 The Witness. I don't know the man.

13 Mr. Triplett. How about Ray Sanstrom?

14 The Witness. Yes.

15 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

16 When was your contact and what was the nature
17 with Ray Sanstrom?

18 The Witness. Well, Ray Sanstrom is an Attorney
19 up in Fort Lauderdale. Ray Sanstrom is also a pilot.
20 Ray Sanstrom, I believe, worked for CIA.

21 Mr. Triplett. What was the nature of your
22 contact?

23 The Witness. He was a lawyer. He still is a
24 lawyer.

25 Mr. Triplett. Was he your lawyer? Did you go

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1 to him for legal advice?

2 The Witness. Yes, I went to him for legal advice.
3 That's the type of association I had with Ray, for
4 legal advice. Things that I would do and Cuba and
5 so forth.

6 Mr. Triplett. Regarding your activities against
7 Castro?

8 The Witness. Yes. That's right.

9 Mr. Triplett. Did you ever have any contact
10 with Carlos Blanco? (phonetic)

11 The Witness. Carlos Blanco? That sounds
12 like that Communist Carlos Blanco in Cuba. Carlos
13 Blanco. The name sounds very familiar. I don't
14 recall.

15 You see many people that knew us in those days,
16 If you never had a close association with them over
17 a period of time, you would forget. But the name
18 sounds familiar. I don't recall.

19 Mr. Triplett. How about Paul Bethel? (phonetic)

20 The Witness. I know Paul Bethel, yes.

21 Mr. Triplett. And what type dealings have you
22 had with Mr. Bethel?

23 The Witness. None whatsoever. But I know
24 Paul. I've spoken to Paul several times.

25 Mr. Triplett. Anything other than social

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1 conversations?

2 The Witness. Cuba. Nothing social at any time.
3 It was strictly about Cuba.

4 Mr. Triplett. Has he sought information from
5 you, or have you provided information to him?

6 The Witness. No. No.

7 Mr. Triplett. Your planned activities?

8 The Witness. No. Not with Paul, no.

9 Mr. Triplett. How about Manola Rebozo? (phonetic)

10 The Witness. Oh, yes. Manola and I, I trained
11 him before the Bay of Pigs.

12 Mr. Triplett. You trained him?

13 The Witness. Sure.

14 Mr. Triplett. And have you been on any raids
15 with him or any other activities with him?

16 The Witness. No. He was involved in the Bay
17 of Pigs naturally. After that he went his way and
18 I went my way, and he got to be the Vice Mayor of
19 Miami.

20 Mr. Triplett. When did you first meet him?

21 The Witness. Well again, before the Bay of Pigs.
22 I imagine he came over to my house on 60th Court that
23 I had at that particular time, or the group had. And
24 that's how I met him and many other people that
25 eventually got to work for the agency.

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1 Mr. Triplett. How about Bernard Barker?

2 The Witness. Yes, I met Barker.

3 Mr. Triplett. When?

4 The Witness. I've known him for many years.

5 Not in Cuba. Here in the United States.

6 Mr. Triplett. What was the nature of your
7 association with Mr. Barker?

8 The Witness. Strictly with Pedro and Marcus.

9 The association with the B-25.

10 Mr. Triplett. Providing you the money? Anything
11 other than that?

12 The Witness. He didn't provide me. He gave the
13 money to Pedro.

14 Mr. Triplett. How about Eugeno Martinez? (phonetic).
15 When did you first meet him?

16 The Witness. Eugeno Martinez? In Cuba. He
17 was working at that time, I believe -- well, he owned
18 several businesses in Cuba and I met him once or
19 several times during my inspection of the casinos.
20 Because one of my other jobs for Castro at one time,
21 he wanted me to take charge of the casinos for Pasternita
22 Nunez, who was in the mountains with me and with Fidel.
23 And if I'm not mistaken, I met Martinez. He was
24 working for the Havana Hilton at that time.

25 Mr. Triplett. And what was the nature of your



1 association with him?

2 The Witness. At that time there was no
3 association at all.

4 Mr. Triplett. How about after arriving in the
5 United States?

6 The Witness. Oh, yeah, when we arrived in the
7 United States. Because of the Bay of Pigs many of
8 us got together. Many people we didn't know, you
9 know.

10 Mr. Triplett. Are you talking about because
11 of the planning for the invasion or the aftermath?

12 The Witness. No. Because of the planning
13 before the invasion. We came in contact with many
14 people we didn't know and some people we did know
15 from Cuba. Like, you know, Nino Diez I knew from
16 Cuba. And Nino was involved in the Bay of Pigs.
17 And Artime. I didn't know Artime in Cuba, but I
18 met Artime here, you know. As a matter of fact the
19 people I was with didn't like Artime.

20 Mr. Triplett. By the way, when and where did
21 you first meet Bernard Barker?

22 The Witness. I met him when he lived in the
23 Northwest section. I met him, I believe, either
24 with Marcus or Pedro Diez Lanz. We went over to
25 his house.

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1 Mr. Triplett. And when was this?

2 The Witness. Oh, like I say -- let's see, the
3 invasion was what, 1961 or '62? '61 I think it was.

4 Mr. Triplett. '61.

5 The Witness. April, '61. So it had to be
6 sometime in '61.

7 Mr. Triplett. Before the invasion?

8 The Witness. Oh, yeah. Either '60 or '61. Yes.

9 Mr. Triplett. All right.

10 By the way, did you ever meet and know Jose
11 Sangenis?

12 The Witness. You're talking about Sangenis?

13 Mr. Triplett. Sangenis.

14 The Witness. Oh, I know the Sangenis family
15 very well since, I believe, 1956 I've known them.
16 I know Roger Sangenis. And I believe that's who
17 you're probably talking about. I knew Louie Sangenis.

18 Mr. Triplett. How about Jose?

19 The Witness. You're talking about Sam Jenis?

20 Mr. Triplett. Yes?

21 The Witness. Yeah.

22 Mr. Triplett. You knew him by the name Sam
23 Jenis?

24 The Witness. I knew him, yeah.

25 Mr. Triplett. And what was the nature of your

1 association with him?

2 The Witness. Well, Sam Jenis is a code name
3 that he used. Sangenis is one name. So what he did
4 is cut the name in half and said Sam Jenis. So that
5 was his code name.

6 Mr. Triplett. Code name for what purpose?

7 The Witness. CIA. He was the head of Operation
8 40. One of my Watergate associates, Phillipe Diego
9 (phonetic) was also Operation 40.

10 Mr. Triplett. Now just for the record, what
11 exactly was Operation 40?

12 The Witness. It was an intelligence operation.
13 Understand, before the Bay of Pigs invasion, you
14 had three different groups that the CIA controlled.
15 CIA controlled the Revolutionary Council, which was
16 political. This was where Howard Hunt was in the
17 political end of it. Okay, I had nothing to do with
18 the political end of it, even though I knew Tony
19 Lahone (phonetic) and some of the people in the
20 political.

21 Mr. Triplett. You're talking about the CRC?

22 The Witness. Yeah. Cuban Revolutionary Council.

23 Then you had the Brigade, which another person
24 controlled that.

25 Then you had Operation 40 which Sam Jenis
controlled.

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1 So I had my associations in between really because
2 here we had a special air group that we were
3 associated with, Pedro Diez Lanz and myself, various
4 pilots and myself, towards this special air group.
5 At the same time I had, naturally, association with
6 the Sangenis family.

7 Operation 40, the primary job was intelligence.
8 In other words once a beach head was made inside
9 of Cuba, the people to follow the beach head would
10 be intelligence, which would be Operation 40, which
11 already had contact inside Cuba through the CIA
12 naturally. The Cuban CIA agents would immediately
13 have direct contact with Operation 40.

14 And being an intelligence organization going
15 into Cuba, in other words, to maintain contact with
16 the local populace, the political and the military
17 connections. That both CIA and members of this
18 whole invasion group, whether it was the Revolutionary
19 Council or the Brigade or from Operation 40 or CIA,
20 make contact. And it's understandable that you have
21 an organization like Operation 40 to make contact
22 with certain people. If there's any betrayal with
23 the people you make contact with in Cuba, well
24 naturally it's logical, in order to fend your
25 intelligence operation you would eventually start

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1 spreading out and you'd have to go ahead and kill
2 people, both political or military. That's part of
3 fighting a war, you know.

4 Mr. Triplett. Well, you mentioned Antonio
5 DeVarona (phonetic). Tony Varona.

6 The Witness. Yeah, Tony.

7 Mr. Triplett. When did you first meet him?

8 The Witness. I met Tony here in exile before
9 the Bay of Pigs. Because we all got together trying
10 to get the Cubans together to organize a resistance
11 movement in exile against the Castro Government.

12 Mr. Triplett. When you say get together. Did
13 you have brief meetings with Tony and the rest of
14 the people?

15 The Witness. Myself? No. I went with various
16 other people. For instance I went with Pedro, Marcus.
17 We even went to New York with Marcus Sterling up
18 there. We spoke with ex Presidents, you know.

19 Mr. Triplett. You did have one or more meetings
20 with Tony Varona at the time?

21 The Witness. Not too many. I'll be very honest
22 with you. Not too many.

23 Mr. Triplett. Three, four, half a dozen?

24 The Witness. Yeah, maybe a couple of meetings.
25 Because again I'm not politics and my friends would be

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1 the ones. Because I'm American remember. I'm not
2 a Cuban. So it's better for them to make the
3 contact and talk and talk politics.

4 Mr. Triplett. Up to this point while we've
5 been talking about intelligence, we've been talking
6 primarily about the CIA.

7 Did you have any contacts with representatives
8 of Army Intelligence?

9 The Witness. Well, it's possible. Again, CIA
10 draws from all intelligence services, both Naval,
11 Army, Air Force Intelligence, and takes them away
12 from their own service and then uses them as CIA
13 agents.

14 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

15 To your knowledge, did you provide any
16 information or perform any activities on behalf of
17 Army, Air Force or Naval Intelligence?

18 The Witness. Yes.

19 Alex Roark (phonetic) went on a mission to
20 Central America and I did secure, or I did ask for
21 Naval Intelligence, to ask for help, you know, to
22 locate where Mr. Roark and his pilot -- Sullivan
23 was his pilot who made this trip to Central America --

24 Mr. Triplett. (Interposing) This was the time
25 that Mr. Roark turned up missing?

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1 The Witness. Yeah. Jeffrey Sullivan and
2 Alex Roark.

3 Mr. Triplett. And to your knowledge, did Naval
4 Intelligence provide any assistance?

5 The Witness. Yes, they did. They immediately
6 sent out, I believe, Coast Guard aircraft and I
7 believe possibly Naval Air Force. I'm not sure, you
8 know, what they did, but I know they did go out and
9 provide the necessary search mission for locating the
10 aircraft.

11 Mr. Triplett. And was this because Mr. Roark
12 was a member of Naval Intelligence, or an associate?

13 The Witness. I didn't know too much of Alex's
14 background. Alex was a friend of mine. Very strongly
15 anti-communist. Alex did have an association in the
16 past with the FBI. His association, I would say that
17 he worked for them, not as an informant, but for them.
18 In what position, I don't know.

19 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

20 What was your purpose in approaching Naval
21 Intelligence on his behalf, as opposed to State
22 Department, Coast Guard, Navy in general, Army?

23 The Witness. I'll be very honest with you. At
24 that particular time I didn't know. I wanted some
25 quick action and I got on the phone and I made the call

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1 to Naval Intelligence.

2 Mr. Triplett. It was your assumption that the
3 quick action would come from Naval Intelligence as
4 opposed to any other source?

5 The Witness. Yes.

6 As a matter of fact I did have a meeting with
7 Alex the day before he left on this mission, on this
8 trip, at Opa locka airport.

9 Mr. Triplett. You say he was on a mission.
10 On whose behalf was that mission?

11 The Witness. I don't know at that particular
12 time. All I know is, we had the meeting at Opa locka
13 airport. He told us he was on his way to Central
14 America and then he completely disappeared.

15 Mr. Triplett. Have you had occasion on other
16 occasions to phone Naval Intelligence and ask for
17 assistance?

18 The Witness. No.

19 Mr. Triplett. Or to provide information?

20 The Witness. No.

21 Mr. Triplett. Have you been involved with
22 organizations that have raised funds privately to
23 perform anti-Castro activities? Raids, propaganda
24 or whatever?

25 The Witness. Can you repeat the beginning of

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1 of that?

2 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

3 Have you been involved in any organizations
4 that have raised private money for the purpose of
5 fighting Fidel Castro or providing propaganda against
6 him?

7 The Witness. Yes.

8 Pedro Diez Lanz, Marcus Diez Lanz and myself.
9 Again, they made the connections with various people
10 for funds in order to, you know, operate against
11 Castro.

12 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

13 When you say with various people, could you be
14 more specific? How did they raise the funds and from
15 whom?

16 The Witness. Personal contact. I will go ahead
17 and tell you one of the groups, because most of the
18 people I don't know who they got the funds from
19 because it was not my position to do that. From
20 Bacardi Rum Company, which the Vice-Consul, the
21 Station Chief in Santiago works for the Rum Company
22 after his retirement.

23 Mr. Triplett. And as a result of raising this
24 money, did you personally make any trips into and
25 out of Cuba?

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1 The Witness. Yes, sir.

2 Mr. Triplett. On how many occasions?

3 The Witness. Well -- oh, I'll give you another
4 name. Dr. Louie Conte Aguerro, which is separate
5 of the Bacardi Rum Company.

6 Dr. Louie Conte Aguerro was being trained and
7 being financed by the United States Government, went
8 over to Europe ---

9 Mr. Triplett. (Interposing) Okay. So this
10 wasn't privately financed. This was again Government
11 money?

12 The Witness. I can not exactly tell you that
13 he received the money directly from the Government.
14 But he contacted me at a meeting at the Miami Springs
15 Villa one time with a whole room full of Cubans there
16 who knew me, many of them knew me. One of the
17 persons that was with him was Oscar Mastre (phonetic).
18 They owned like GMQ in Cuba, his family. Which these
19 people naturally had very close CIA connections and
20 had their own financing. You've got to understand
21 a lot of these people, they have their own financing.
22 They would give money and the Government would
23 reimburse them. So it isn't like it's coming directly
24 from the Government. That's how they work. Go through
25 their fronts.

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1 And they asked me to do a series of air raids
2 in Cuba, but to drop nothing but leaflets, which I
3 agreed. I felt that -- there were five operations
4 and they asked me what the operations were, how much
5 money it would cost to do the operations, and I told
6 them approximately about \$5,000 per operation. That
7 would lease the plane, the pilots involved and so
8 forth. And I would obtain the pilots because they
9 wanted me to stay out of it.

10 But unfortunately, because some of the pilots
11 couldn't find their way in the daytime, as well as
12 at night time, I had to go ahead and do them myself.
13 Perform the operation myself personally.

14 Mr. Triplett. By the way, when and where did
15 you receive your flight training?

16 The Witness. In Norfolk, Virginia.

17 Mr. Triplett. Through the military or privately?

18 The Witness. No, sir, privately. I took it
19 through the GI Bill of Rights, my pilot training and
20 so forth, through CAP. I was operations officer for
21 a Civil Air Patrol Squadron Number 1 in Norfolk, and
22 started to get my hours in in single engine aircraft
23 and so forth.

24 Mr. Triplett. During what period of time were
25 you in the CAP?

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1 The Witness. I guess in the '40's or the '50's.

2 Mr. Triplett. All right. Getting back to
3 missions into Cuba.

4 About how many missions in and out of Cuba did
5 you make?

6 The Witness. I would safely say a great number
7 of them.

8 Mr. Triplett. Well, ten, 50, or 100?

9 The Witness. No, I did over 100. Over 100
10 missions.

11 Mr. Triplett. Were these all by plane, or
12 some by boat?

13 The Witness. Boat and aircraft.

14 Mr. Triplett. Were the majority aircraft or
15 the majority boat?

16 The Witness. The majority aircraft.

17 Mr. Triplett. And how again, precisely, were
18 these missions financed?

19 The witness. Some with the knowledge of the
20 Government and some without the knowledge of the
21 Government.

22 Mr. Triplett. When you say with the knowledge,
23 did you receive money from a representative of the
24 Government, or was there a cut out like you described
25 to where some private funds were replaced by the

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1 Government?

2 The Witness. I would say that I myself personally
3 did not receive the money directly from the Government.
4 It was done through other people, which other people
5 got me to do it. For instance, Dr. Louie Conte
6 Aguerro. He directly said, "Frank, what's the
7 operation cost? Here's the money." And I got it.

8 Mr. Triplett. And what was the average cost
9 of each operation?

10 The Witness. About \$5,000. \$5,000 period.

11 Mr. Triplett. And that -- did that include
12 money or reimbursement for you and the other people
13 involved to support your families?

14 The Witness. No. That was money for the
15 particular operation.

16 Mr. Triplett. Well like you say, flying in
17 and out of Cuba, one flight, dropping leaflets, would
18 have cost \$5,000?

19 The Witness. Right. Sure. You've got an
20 aircraft. You've got to pay the pilots. You had
21 to give the pilots like \$1,500 each to do this mission.
22 This was a mission that was a naturally dangerous
23 mission.

24 Yes, as a matter of fact Alex went on several
25 of these missions with me, taking pictures of the

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1 operations and so forth.

2 Mr. Triplett. But you were the pilot frequently?

3 The Witness. Sometimes I was the pilot, yes.

4 Mr. Triplett. Who else went on these missions
5 with you besides Alex?

6 The Witness. Bill Johnson was one of the
7 pilots that I hired to work with me. Alex, naturally.
8 Jeffrey, Jeffrey Sullivan. If I think of any more
9 pilots I'll give it to Mr. Fonzi.

10 Mr. Triplett. We will recess for lunch until
11 1:00 o'clock.

12 (The committee, at 12:05 p.m., recessed, to
13 reconvene at 1:00 p.m.

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(The committee reconvened at 1:30 p.m., Staff Counsel William K. Triplett, presiding.

Mr. Triplett. Let's go back on the record.

Mr. Sturgis advises that he has now recalled a couple of names that he couldn't recall this morning.

The name of your second wife?

The Witness. Juanita Terrell (phonetic) is her maiden name.

Mr. Triplett. And your first wife?

The Witness. Maiden name was Thompson. I'll remember the first name.

The Vice-Consul of Santiago, his name was Patterson.

Mr. Triplett. Patterson, the last name?

The Witness. Patterson. The Chief of Station and Vice-Consul of Santiago.

Mr. Triplett. Patterson.

The Witness. The Chief of Station in Havana, at the American Embassy, was William Caldwell (phonetic).

Mr. Triplett. Okay.

This morning we were talking about money coming either from or through the auspices of Bernard Barker during your activities after your return from Cuba.

Now exactly when and where did you meet Mr. Barker?

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1 The Witness. At his home in the Northwest
2 section and I believe when I met him I was with Pedro.

3 Mr. Triplett. Okay. Who introduced you?

4 The Witness. Pedro.

5 Mr. Triplett. So Pedro Diez Lanz knew him prior
6 to that time?

7 The Witness. Right.

8 Mr. Triplett. And how many meetings did you
9 have with Mr. Barker?

10 The Witness. Oh, numerous.

11 Mr. Triplett. All at his home?

12 The Witness. No. I had meetings at restaurants,
13 at his home.

14 Mr. Triplett. At how many of these meetings did
15 money actually change hands at the meeting?

16 The Witness. Never with me personally. As
17 a matter of fact I received gifts from him, from his
18 boss. Either going out to the Ranch House which was
19 on, close to 36th Street near LeJuene Road. There
20 used to be a Ranch House there. He took me there.
21 He took me to dinner and said the boss told me to take
22 you to dinner.

23 Another time for a Christmas holiday he gave
24 me a bottle of booze.

25 Mr. Triplett. Okay. You received gifts from his

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1 boss?

2 The Witness. Not personally. But through
3 Barker.

4 Mr. Triplett. And who was his boss at that
5 time?

6 The Witness. Again I've never met his boss.
7 Like I say it's possibly one of several agents that
8 was his control officer.

9 Naturally the first one that I know of, who
10 I had never met personally, was Eduardo. The second
11 one naturally I believe it was Jim Knowles, and I
12 think Jack Stewart comes in there somewhere.

13 Mr. Triplett. You had never personally met
14 Eduardo?

15 The Witness. No. We'd all heard in the Cuban
16 colony of Eduardo because he was political. Belonged
17 to the political sector of CIA. And I had nothing
18 to do with the political sector. And that had to
19 be done with the Cuban Revolutionary Council.

20 Mr. Triplett. Do you know who Eduardo was?

21 The Witness. Personally, no. But I knew who
22 Eduardo was. It was Barker's CIA control officer.

23 Mr. Triplett. I mean his actual full name?

24 The Witness. No, I did not know his actual full
25 name.

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1 Mr. Triplett. Do you know now?

2 The Witness. Oh, certainly.

3 Mr. Triplett. And who is that?

4 The Witness. Eduardo was E. Howard Hunt.

5 Mr. Triplett. And you say you've never met
6 him?

7 The Witness. To the best of my knowledge.
8 Because remember at that time you run across a lot
9 of people and unless you actually know who they are,
10 you know, or --

11 Mr. Triplett. (Interposing) Pardon me. Let's
12 clarify this.

13 You have met E. Howard Hunt?

14 The Witness. Oh, yeah. Certainly.

15 Mr. Triplett. And you have, after the fact,
16 learned that Eduardo was in fact E. Howard Hunt?

17 The Witness. Right.

18 Mr. Triplett. So you have met Eduardo?

19 The Witness. Oh, certainly. Yes.

20 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

21 When did you first meet him?

22 The Witness. I believe it was Barker's office.
23 He introduced me to him when I was going into the
24 office and I think he was going out of the office.

25 Mr. Triplett. When?

1 The Witness. I'm not sure of the exact month,
2 but I believe it was 1972. Before, you know, I
3 got involved with the Plumbers Unit. The special
4 intelligence unit formed by the President of the
5 United States.

6 Mr. Triplett. You never met him before 1972?

7 The Witness. To the best of my knowledge I
8 had never met this man before 1972. The name I knew,
9 Eduardo. I did not know E. Howard Hunt was Eduardo.
10 Never personally met this man to the best of my
11 knowledge. Never at all. I don't ever recall meeting
12 E. Howard Hunt, nor did I know that Eduardo was E.
13 Howard Hunt before 1972. Never knew the connection
14 between them.

15 Mr. Triplett. All right.

16 What was your role with respect to the
17 International Anti-Communist Brigade?

18 The Witness. Well, going back, understand,
19 my role was at one time this was a group that I formed
20 which were one of many many groups that was formed
21 in the Miami area. I'm talking about Cuban groups
22 who were anti-Castro groups.

23 And Jerry Patrick Heming (phonetic) had a group
24 of Americans from the United States or from Canada
25 in the area, that these boys were associated with

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1 Rolando Masferer. And we, because we were trying to
2 do operations against Cuba we more or less got these
3 fellows incorporated with us. But we have never done
4 anything with them because it was a raunchy group of
5 men. Believe me. Real raunchy. And they just more
6 or less shifted away.

7 Mr. Triplett. You mentioned Heming and
8 Rolando Masferer. Who else was involved?

9 The Witness. Well, I have never had any
10 dealings with Rolando Masferer. Because you must
11 understand that Rolando Masferer was a Senator in
12 Cuba who, under the Batista regime, had a terrible
13 name for torture and killing and so forth.

14 Mr. Triplett. His nickname was El Tigere
15 wasn't it?

16 The Witness. El Tigere, little tiger.

17 But he was in exile. And we more or less -- when
18 I say we, I talk about people like the Diez Lanz
19 brothers and myself and other Cubans who more or less
20 were anti-Batista, naturally. And so even as the
21 years went by we integrated with certain people in
22 the Cuban colony that had dealings with Batista in
23 the past, but only certain people. And Masferer was
24 not one of these people.

25 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

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1 When did you form the International Anti-
2 Communist Brigade?

3 The Witness. Oh, I don't know. It was, I
4 imagine, in the early '60's, the Brigade was formed.
5 And then I gave up with it really. And then the
6 person who took over the Brigade was Bucanhan, Jim
7 Bucanhan.

8 Mr. Triplett. Jim Bucanhan?

9 The Witness. Who was a newspaper man from
10 the Sun Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale.

11 Mr. Triplett. Well, did you form it all on
12 your own, or were other people involved in the
13 formation?

14 The Witness. I more or less formed it on my
15 own. I had, I think, Ray Sanstrom take care of the
16 legal aspects of it and any letters or correspondence
17 that would come in would go to his office and so forth,
18 and that was it.

19 Mr. Triplett. Were the Diez Lanz brothers
20 involved with the formation of it, or the operation of
21 it?

22 The Witness. No. No, not really.

23 But again my friends, the Diez Lanz brothers,
24 are my friends and anything I would do naturally, I
25 would do with them or without them.

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1 Mr. Triplett. How about Loren Hall?

2 The Witness. That name, until I started to get
3 all this information pertaining to the JFK assassination,
4 I never really, and truthfully never thought that I
5 had met this man, nor did I know this man.

6 But as I came out, people like Jerry Patrick
7 reminded me well, he was with my group and this and
8 that and you met him and so forth. And then there
9 was some things that I read in various books that
10 Loren Hall did leave the Miami area, did go out
11 there and wanted to raise money for the Brigade and
12 so forth, and then I recollected that probably he
13 was one of the persons that I did know here that was
14 with the Jerry Patrick group.

15 Mr. Triplett. Is it possible you knew him by
16 the name of Lorenzo Bassilio (phonetic)?

17 The Witness. I don't think so. Hall is more,
18 you know --

19 Mr. Triplett. (Interposing) How about Lawrence
20 Howard, or Lorenzo Howard? Did you know him? Was
21 he involved?

22 The Witness. No.

23 The only Howard I know was a David Howard. He
24 was a pilot.

25 Mr. Triplett. Would that be Howard Davis?

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1 The Witness. Howard Davis.

2 Mr. Triplett. That everybody called Howard?

3 The Witness. That's it. Well, they called
4 him, yeah --

5 Mr. Triplett. (Interposing) Howard Davie?

6 The Witness. Howard Davie, right.

7 Mr. Triplett. What was his relationship with
8 the group?

9 The Witness. Well, he was one of the people
10 that I met through Jerry Patrick. There was a
11 parachute group, you know, that he was trying to form.
12 A parachute school or group. And they had been
13 associated or involved with various other Cuban
14 organizations to try to get tied up with, and it all
15 boiled down to one thing. The money. Who had the
16 money to do operations, who didn't have the money.

17 Mr. Triplett. Was Howard Davis connected with
18 the CIA?

19 The Witness. At that time, I don't believe so.
20 As a matter of fact I don't know, at that particular
21 time.

22 Mr. Triplett. How about William Seymore? Did
23 you know him? Or was he involved?

24 The Witness. I don't think I know Seymore.

25 Remember, Jerry Patrick had a number of people,

1 a number of Americans with him and I didn't personally
2 know every one individually, you know. Only certain
3 ones that I did recall and some I didn't recall.

4 Mr. Triplett. Well, at that time Jerry Patrick
5 also formed a group called Interpen, or Intercontinental
6 Penetration Force?

7 The Witness. Right.

8 Mr. Triplett. Was that a subsidiary of your
9 group, or were they more or less in tandem, or what
10 was the relationship?

11 The Witness. I don't think there was any
12 relationship because they went off and did their own
13 thing, really. You know, after that they did their
14 own thing.

15 And I personally, like I say, I don't recall
16 when Buchanan decided well, go ahead and use the
17 Brigade, because I didn't care at that particular
18 time. So I disassociated myself, you know, with them.
19 And Buchanan took over the group.

20 As a matter of fact Buchanan also can verify
21 that I was here until around November the 22nd.

22 Mr. Triplett. We'll get to that a little
23 later.

24 What other things were you doing at that time?

25 The Witness. I was doing air and boat operations

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1 at the time with Bill Johnson.

2 Mr. Triplett. Air and boat operations? You
3 mean into Cuba?

4 The Witness. Right.

5 Mr. Triplett. What was the funding of the
6 International Anti-Communist Brigade?

7 The Witness. No funding at all. Completely
8 broke.

9 Mr. Triplett. Just a paper organization?

10 The Witness. Just a paper organization. Just
11 to have an organization to try to do something.

12 Mr. Triplett. Were there any activities beyond
13 a beer party?

14 The Witness. I never went to any beer parties.
15 I don't drink. I'm a teetotaler.

16 Mr. Triplett. I probably said that a little
17 flippedly.

18 Were there any activities of the Brigade
19 conducted whatsoever?

20 The Witness. As an organization at that time,
21 no.

22 Mr. Triplett. Well, what was the purpose of
23 the Brigade?

24 The Witness. As I said before, the purpose of
25 the Brigade was to get a group of Cubans and at that

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1 particular time to get these Americans to be available
2 for any operation.

3 But I decided that I couldn't handle these
4 people and I disassociated myself with Patrick and
5 his group. They were uncontrollable.

6 Mr. Triplett. Was it a corporation? You mentioned
7 Mr. Sanstrom was involved in it.

8 The Witness. It's very easy to find out. I
9 think possibly it was formed as a corporation to try
10 to arrange money legally. And like I said before,
11 there was no money to be raised.

12 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

13 If it was a corporation or even if it was a
14 partnership, it would require more than one person
15 as the organizer. Who else organized it with you?
16 Whose names were on it?

17 The Witness. To be honest with you, my mind
18 is blank on that. If it was a corporation and
19 legally incorporated, Tallahassee would have the
20 papers and the people's names on it.

21 Mr. Triplett. How long were you with the
22 organization before you turned it over to Bucanhan?

23 The Witness. Well I didn't exactly turn it
24 over. I just let it ride and told Bucanhan, oh,
25 forget it. So he more or less started it up himself

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1 and made himself the Secretary General of the
2 organization and so forth.

3 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

4 For how long were you involved with it? Weeks,
5 months, years?

6 The Witness. No. Not that long. The Brigade,
7 it may have been a year possibly, that I wanted to
8 go ahead and be involved with it. But like I say,
9 I just lost interest in the whole thing because of
10 a lack of funding.

11 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever been contacted by
12 any person for the purpose of killing somebody in
13 this country?

14 The Witness. Yes, sir.

15 Mr. Triplett. By whom?

16 The Witness. At that time, a CIA agent.

17 Mr. Triplett. And who was the agent?

18 The Witness. Do I have to tell you? Well, I've
19 got nothing to hide. I'm sorry I even said that.

20 The year, I don't recall the year, but I don't
21 know whether I called this party or the party called
22 me. Anyway we got together and in getting together,
23 I was either asked at his home or at a restaurant,
24 whether I would be interested in doing a domestic
25 assassination. And that surprised me.

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1 Mr. Triplett. Who was this person?

2 The Witness. Barker.

3 Mr. Triplett. And approximately when? Do
4 you recall?

5 The Witness. No. I don't recall.

6 Mr. Triplett. Can you put it in a frame of
7 reference, after you returned from Cuba? Before
8 or after the Bay of Pigs?

9 The Witness. This is the problem. It was after
10 I came from Cuba. I don't recall what year. Whether
11 it was before or after the Bay of Pigs. I honestly
12 don't recall.

13 I did tell Sam Jenis about this and he kind of
14 laughed and he said really, you've got to be kidding.
15 Well, find out.

16 So, I pursued it. I told Barker, I said yes, I
17 would do it, a domestic assassination. But first I've
18 got to find out who the person is. Then he started
19 questioning me, well how would you go about it and
20 so forth. And I said hey, you know, it all depends
21 on who the party is.

22 So we went from there and I had a couple of
23 meetings with him pertaining to that. Then finally
24 I was told to pin him down and say hey, I will not
25 do it unless I get word from his control office. And

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1 that's what I did. I said, until your control officer
2 sits down with me and tells me that he wants a domestic
3 assassination done, then I would do it. But through
4 you, no. I want another verification from your control
5 officer. He never came back.

6 Mr. Triplett. Did he ever talk to his control
7 officer?

8 The Witness. Evidently he must have, because
9 he never mentioned it after that particular incident.
10 And I'd been in touch with him up until the day of
11 Watergate, our problems with Watergate. And he never
12 came back and told me whether or not he wanted me to
13 go ahead and continue, you know, whatever the domestic
14 assassination was. Because I said I want to know who
15 the party is, depending on how I would do it. If it's
16 going to be domestic, it's pretty hot stuff, you know.

17 So I told Barker, well, go to the Everglades,
18 you dig a hole, put lye in there and bury the guy
19 or we'll get an airplane or boat and do it out here
20 in the Gulf, you know, blow the boat up and so forth.

21 But I said before I actually do it, I want your
22 control officer to sit down with me and I want it
23 from his mouth that this is national security business.
24 And I would want to know who the party is, depending
25 on how I would do this particular operation, you know.

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1 Because you've got to kidnap the guy.

2 Mr. Triplett. And who was the party he wanted
3 killed?

4 The Witness. I don't know. He never told me.

5 Mr. Triplett. Did he offer you any money or
6 any facilities for the purpose of doing this?

7 The Witness. No. It never got to that point.
8 In other words, after I told him, you know, that I
9 would have to sit down with his control officer, the
10 thing never developed into anything else.

11 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever been contacted by
12 anyone else, or by Mr. Barker, for the purpose of
13 killing anybody else domestically?

14 The Witness. No.

15 Mr. Triplett. Only that one time?

16 The Witness. Yes. Just that one time.

17 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever been contacted by
18 anybody for the purpose of killing somebody outside
19 of the country?

20 The Witness. Since I came from Cuba? No.

21 Mr. Triplett. Specifically Fidel Castro?

22 The Witness. Oh, with Fidel, yes. Yes.

23 Mr. Triplett. Well, that's killing somebody.

24 The Witness. I'm sorry. I'm awfully sorry.

25 Well, Marita Lorenz, but naturally we're going

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1 back I think what, about '60 or '61. That's about it.

2 Mr. Triplett. Just one occasion, or more than
3 one occasion?

4 The Witness. One occasion. That's poison.

5 Mr. Triplett. And again, who contacted you
6 for that purpose?

7 The Witness. For that particular purpose who
8 contacted me to go ahead and set this thing up? No
9 one at all. Just the Cuban groups, you know, here
10 ourselves, trying to go ahead and do penetration work
11 inside of Cuba. We were going to try to kill Fidel
12 naturally.

13 Mr. Triplett. So it was a joint decision of
14 which you were a part?

15 The Witness. A joint decision.

16 Mr. Triplett. Well, whose idea was it?

17 The Witness. Yeah, it was a joint decision to
18 go ahead and try to kill Castro naturally. Which
19 continues until this day. The only exception is
20 that I'm not involved today and haven't been for the
21 last number of years to do anything like that against
22 Castro.

23 Mr. Triplett. How many times since you came back
24 from Cuba have you been involved in planning or
25 attempting an assassination on Castro?

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1 The Witness. How many times? Well, going
2 back many years ago, I would think that after the
3 Bay of Pigs invasion, maybe shortly after that, I
4 more or less lost interest because of not having
5 the proper financing. In order to do that you have
6 to have proper financing, to kill Fidel.

7 I'd say, the Bay of Pigs failed, and I may
8 have tried after 1963 because of the President's
9 assassination, because I was very bitter about that.

10 And I felt, from as early 1964, that the
11 President was assassinated, that Castro's intelligence
12 service was one of others that was behind the killing
13 of the President. And naturally my feeling was
14 continuous revenge against the friends that he
15 executed and would be feeling that he was involved
16 in the killing of the President.

17 Mr. Triplett. So how many times did you attempt,
18 or plan to kill Castro?

19 The Witness. Oh, I would say about, not counting
20 the Marita Lorenz thing at the very beginning, I would
21 say here in the United States, probably about two
22 times, two or three times, approximately.

23 Mr. Triplett. And who else was involved with
24 you on these two or three occasions?

25 The Witness. Myself and a number of Cuban groups

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1 here in town that eventually left, or probably are
2 living in Venezuela, are Venezuelan citizens, or
3 Mexico and Central America.

4 Mr. Triplett. Again you mentioned groups. It
5 had to be individual people.

6 The Witness. Well, individual people who had
7 their own groups.

8 Mr. Triplett. Who were these individual
9 people? I want their names.

10 The Witness. Oh? Well, that's pretty tough
11 because of the years that went by and the connections
12 that we have had. My goodness.

13 Mr. Triplett. How about Orlando Bosch?

14 The Witness. Orlando Bosch, yeah.

15 Mr. Triplett. How about Louise Posada?

16 The Witness. Louise Posada? I don't know
17 whether I know Louise Posada. Louise Posada? But
18 Orlando Bosch, yes.

19 Mr. Triplett. Did you ever discuss the
20 assassination of Fidel Castro or plan the
21 assassination of Fidel Castro with any official
22 of the United States Government?

23 The Witness. No, sir. Not here. When I
24 left Cuba and came here, no.

25 Mr. Triplett. How about an FBI Agent named

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1 Frank O'Brien?

2 The Witness. O'Brien? I don't recall Frank
3 O'Brien. But more or less, over the past years,
4 the FBI has been in touch with me. But I don't
5 recall me discussing anything about killing Fidel
6 with any FBI agents.

7 Mr. Triplett. You say you don't recall, or
8 never did?

9 The Witness. I don't recall.

10 Mr. Triplett. So you may have?

11 The Witness. It's possible. Again I will say
12 that I've been involved in so many things in the
13 past years that I could not say, you know, yes or
14 no. You know, straight out.

15 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever planned, or been
16 contacted by other people for the purpose of
17 assassinating somebody outside this country other
18 than Fidel Castro?

19 The Witness. Other than Fidel Castro? No.

20 Mr. Triplett. Like maybe a Central or South
21 American President or Dictator, or Raul Castro?

22 The Witness. Well, the Castro brothers, including
23 Chang, I have naturally went to various countries
24 and naturally there are always conspiracies going
25 on with some of the Cuban exiles that would like to

1. really nail these people.

2. Mr. Triplett. I'm talking about you
3. specifically?

4. The witness. Myself specifically? Well, I
5. have heard through my associations with various
6. Cubans in the past of wanting to go ahead and try
7. to, you know, kill them on certain visits that they
8. had taken from Cuba to certain other countries. But
9. for myself specifically to be involved in trying to
10. do it, I don't recall that me myself did any planning
11. stage, you know, trying to kill Castro.

12. And to be honest with you, if there was a plan
13. to do it, I would certainly get myself involved because
14. I hate the man. I would have no hesitation.

15. Mr. Triplett. In other words you're not
16. adverse to that sort of plan? Even today? Is that
17. what you're saying?

18. The Witness. Well, let me say this. I won't
19. say that because I'm much older today. Much older
20. and much wiser and you can't buck the system. And
21. if Uncle Sam says don't touch the man, well then you
22. don't touch the man. So I don't touch him.

23. Mr. Triplett. Okay.

24. Let's get back to the time when you were in
25. Cuba. What relationships did you have, if any, with

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1 the casinos, or the casino owners?

2 The Witness. I believe at one of the Staff
3 meetings that I had with Castro, it was either at
4 the Air Force Base or the Prime Minister's office,
5 and it might have been as early as February, Castro
6 wanted me to help Pasternita Nunez, who was a woman
7 that was in the mountains with me, or I was with them
8 in the mountains. She was a minister and all this
9 control came under her. So Fidel wanted me to help
10 her because of the confusion in Government that was
11 going on as early as February.

12 So I, representing the Cuban Government, assisted
13 Pasternita in the, well say control for the Government,
14 of the casinos. I believe there was approximately,
15 maybe 22 casinos at that particular time.

16 My job was, for Castro, to make sure, as he
17 was changing everything around, to make sure that
18 only a set amount of tables in each casino would be
19 operational and that each one of these tables had
20 to have the Government tax stamp on the tables. And
21 my job was to make sure that for instance, the Havana
22 Hilton was a big room there and they had X amount
23 of tables, roulette, black jack, this, that and so
24 forth, that they would have to have each table with
25 a tax stamp, and my job was to make sure that that was

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1 done.

2 Mr. Triplett. And this was at the same time
3 that you were with the Air Force in Cuba?

4 The Witness. Yeah. Right.

5 Mr. Triplett. Had you, previous to that time,
6 ever worked in any of the casinos?

7 The Witness. I have never worked, nor have I
8 owned any gambling casinos in my whole life.

9 Mr. Triplett. Had you ever worked for any
10 of the people who owned casinos at that time?

11 The Witness. No. Never in my whole life. No.
12 None whatsoever. The only contact I ever had with
13 either casino operators or the management is when I
14 would go on an inspection tour to inspect the tables
15 in the rooms and so forth for the Government. And
16 that wasn't too many times because I had my other
17 duties.

18 Mr. Triplett. So you're saying you were
19 essentially an inspector and tax regulator?

20 The Witness. Yeah. To make sure they keep
21 everything honest.

22 Mr. Triplett. Did you have any personal or
23 social connections with any of the people that were
24 involved with the casinos?

25 The Witness. Social, no. But I've had personal

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1 contact with them because as I went to the casinos I
2 introduced myself, who I was. Naturally had to have
3 my identification. I used to have my uniform on,
4 but after awhile Fidel said that anybody who would
5 go to the casinos -- that was one of the rules that
6 anybody in uniform had to keep out of the casinos
7 area, the gambling area. They could go to the clubs,
8 but not in the gambling area. So I had to change
9 my clothes from my military uniform to my civilian
10 clothes and then I went and identified myself. Because
11 I used to go to the casinos and go up to the crap
12 table and I'd grab, if somebody would roll the dice,
13 I would grab the dice and I would look at the dice
14 and I would say excuse me, I'm just checking the dice
15 and so forth. These are things I would do. They would
16 be very angry at me for doing it.

17 Mr. Triplett. How did you go about checking
18 the dice?

19 The Witness. Well, I know something, a little
20 bit. With the dice, you know, they could be shaved
21 and have mercury in them where they would fall a certain
22 way and so forth and they could switch dice and so
23 forth, and I wasn't really up to that. Because Fidel
24 asked me to come to the United States, if possible,
25 to go ahead and get some people who knew about gambling

1 and who knew about how to do the roulette wheel, you
2 know, electronically and so forth. So I was going to
3 go ahead and do that, but unfortunately I didn't have
4 time to do that, to get the proper people to work for
5 the Cuban Government in order that the tables would be,
6 you know, operated in a legal manner.

7 And naturally there came a day where Fidel
8 ordered me to go ahead and close the casinos for ten
9 days, which he wanted to put them out of business,
10 which he did do for ten days.

11 Mr. Triplett. And you personally closed the
12 casinos for ten days?

13 The Witness. Well, I notified the casino -- I
14 did not notify the casino operators -- but I notified
15 the inspectors that the casinos were going to be
16 closed on a certain day. So naturally, Pasternita
17 Nunez, who was the minister, sent out the memorandum
18 form to the casino operators that the casinos were
19 going to be closed. And they got furious about it.

20 When the order came about, that day it was
21 closed, naturally inspectors with troops went to the
22 casinos and made sure that the doors were locked and
23 nobody could enter the casino rooms to do gambling.

24 Then the next thing that followed that actually,
25 was big demonstrations of the families of the casino

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1 operators -- not operators -- but the casino workers
2 because they had a union there. So they had a
3 peaceful demonstration and Fidel was forced, ten
4 days later, to reopen the casinos.

5 Mr. Triplett. Did any of the casino owners
6 personally complain to you?

7 The Witness. No. During this period of time
8 I had no contact with the casino operators because
9 again I was involved in these other things that I
10 was doing for the Cuban Government.

11 Mr. Triplett. But you were occasionally at
12 the casinos inspecting?

13 The Witness. Oh, yeah.

14 Mr. Triplett. So you at least knew them?

15 The Witness. I knew some of them, yeah. Because
16 there were so many people who had pieces of the operation
17 or whatever.

18 Mr. Triplett. So did any of them ever complain
19 to you of this ten day closing?

20 The Witness. Well I, at one time, had a
21 meeting with Fidel, a Staff meeting, and Fidel told
22 me that he was going to close the casinos. He was
23 going to run the God-Damned gangsters out of Cuba.
24 This is what he told me.

25 So during the process of the times that I went

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1 to do my inspections, I told a number of the people,
2 whether it was an operator of the casino or whether
3 it was the management, you know, that was there, that
4 hey, Fidel is going to go ahead and close the casinos
5 and so forth. They didn't believe it.

6 Mr. Triplett. Who did you tell?

7 The Witness. Well, I can say one of them was
8 Santos Trafficante one time. I was at the -- what
9 the hell casino was I at -- and Fidel's sister was
10 there with this movie actor, John -- the one who
11 played Wild Bill Hickcock -- so she called me over.
12 The younger sister. Fidel's younger sister. And
13 I sat down and Trafficante came over and I got up
14 because I knew he was one of the operators of this
15 particular casino. And so I got aside with him and
16 I told him, I said, Mr. Trafficante, I had a meeting
17 with Castro and he said he was going to go ahead and
18 nationalize all American business interests and he
19 was going to run the God-Damned gangsters, or the
20 gambling operators out of Cuba.

21 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

22 Who else did you tell this to, if you recall?

23 The Witness. Well, I told a Mr. Hymie Levine
24 (phonetic). He was there. And I believe that's about
25 all because very shortly, a few days later, naturally



1 the things were closed.

2 Mr. Triplett. When they were closed, did any
3 of the owners or operators complain to you about the
4 closing?

5 The Witness. No. Because I had no further
6 contact with them. When they were reopened again
7 I was seeing to my duties elsewhere. They were so
8 heavy on me, that my inspectors continually worked
9 throughout the casinos, all the different casinos.

10 Mr. Triplett. How long were you actually a
11 casino inspector?

12 The Witness. Well I would say from February
13 until June when I left. That was it. Because I
14 left the 30th of June, 1959.

15 Mr. Triplett. When you left the 30th of
16 June, that was sometime after the ten day closing
17 you previously described?

18 The Witness. Oh, yeah, sure.

19 Mr. Triplett. During this period of five
20 or so months that you were a casino inspector, did
21 you have occasion to make any deals with any of
22 the operators or owners of the casinos?

23 The Witness. I never made any deals whatsoever
24 with anyone. None whatsoever. Because when I came
25 over here, you must understand, my activities here did

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1 not include doing anything with those people. I have
2 no interest in those people.

3 Mr. Triplett. Did you receive any favors or
4 presents from any?

5 The Witness. No. Never.

6 Mr. Triplett. Did anybody offer you any favors
7 or presents?

8 The Witness. No.

9 I would not be in this situation today, the
10 way I am, if I did. Because I understand that people
11 who deal with them have good connections and I am,
12 throughout this whole thing with Watergate, in a
13 very very bad financial situation. All this publicity
14 since Watergate, with the JFK situation, have left
15 me at a very very bad situation financially.

16 Otherwise, I have had tremendous positions
17 offered me, but unfortunately because of the exposure
18 that I have received throughout all of this, it has
19 denied me really to earn a decent living. And if I
20 had mob connections, believe me, then I would be all
21 right.

22 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever heard of somebody
23 called Stretch Rubin?

24 The Witness. Oh, yeah. Sure.

25 Mr. Triplett. Did you have occasion at one time

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1 to save his life?

2 The Witness. Oh, yes. In Santiago. Yes.

3 Mr. Triplett. How did that happen?

4 The Witness. Well, I was in my jeep with some
5 of my bodyguards and I saw a commotion right near
6 the Casa Grande Hotel. I stopped because I heard
7 this American raising a lot of hell and so forth,
8 and I stopped and I jumped out of my jeep between
9 my bodyguards. These were Barbudas (phonetic).

10 I asked them what's happening here? They said
11 well, he's one of these gangsters here and so forth
12 and Rubin is hollering, you know, "They are going
13 to kill me, they are going to shoot me."

14 So I went over and says wait a minute, like
15 what's the problem here?

16 And he said look I just left the business
17 over here, and he had two bags of money. I said,
18 did you steal anything, or what? He said, no. He
19 said I checked the slot machines. They had a
20 gambling room at the Casa Grande Hotel.

21 So I told the Barbudas, I says look -- I told
22 him, look, these people are not going to kill you. I
23 says as a matter of fact I am going to take you with me,
24 you know, so you will be all right.

25 So I told the Barbudas, leave him alone. I am

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1 going to take him with me. And I told him to come
2 with me. Whether I walked with him someplace, or
3 took him into the jeep with me. That is what I did.

4 Mr. Triplett. By the way, I presume Stretch
5 would be a nickname. What was Mr. Rubin's actual name?

6 The Witness. I do not know.

7 Mr. Triplett. All you know is Stretch Rubin?

8 The Witness. Stretch Rubin, right.

9 Mr. Triplett. Did you subsequently see Mr.
10 Rubin on occasion after that?

11 The Witness. Yes.

12 Mr. Triplett. Did he introduce you to any of
13 his friends?

14 The Witness. Yes.

15 Remember, this is Santiago, Cuba. The next time
16 I saw him was when I got to Havana and they came over
17 to the Air Force to see me because I told them I was
18 going to Havana, I was going to the Air Force. So
19 they came over to the Air Force to see me. And he
20 brought another person over to the Air Force, which
21 was a Hymie Levine.

22 Mr. Triplett. Did he introduce you to Mr.
23 Levine at that time?

24 The Witness. Yes.

25 Mr. Triplett. Was there any purpose for the

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1 introduction of Mr. Levine?

2 The Witness. Yes. He was facinated with the
3 fact that I was an American officer with the Rebel
4 forces, especially with Fidel. That day they came
5 out to see me, Fidel came in with a helicopter and
6 he landed and Fidel saw me at a distance, and
7 naturally they were there to see me, and Fidel
8 walked over with his entourage and saw me and gave
9 me an embrazo, you know. So they were highly
10 impressed. The fact, you know, Fidel and here's
11 this American, a Rebel officer. And Fidel left
12 after that.

13 Mr. Triplett. Did Stretch Rubin introduce
14 you to anybody else?

15 The Witness. Well, from that time -- let's
16 see, this was in January. Then remember I didn't
17 have anything to do with -- no, I did not have anything
18 to do with the gambling at that time. Because it
19 came later. In February.

20 But in February, what Hymie did, and Stretch
21 both, they said I am going to introduce you to some
22 of the operators when you identify yourself to them,
23 which I did because I saw them at casinos. So I am
24 not sure which casino it was. I saw them at one
25 casino and naturally they introduced me to one of the

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1 managers who was operating the place.

2 Mr. Triplett. Who was that?

3 The Witness. I forget off-hand who it was.

4 So they mentioned, this is Frank Fiorini. He
5 is Fidel's right-hand man. In charge of this. I mean,
6 this is how this thing went around. So I got to know
7 who was who, you know, and I made my report when I
8 got back to my office with Pasternita, because they
9 really didn't know who was who and so forth. Because
10 many of the documents that they had concerning, you
11 know the ministry concerning the casinos, many of them
12 were missing. So we had to go ahead and find out
13 who was involved in the Hilton operation, who was
14 involved in the Nationale, who was involved in the
15 Capri, who was involved in the thing. You know, we
16 had to go in and try to make a list of these things,
17 of the people involved in the operation of the gambling
18 casinos.

19 Mr. Triplett. Well, who were some of these
20 people that you do recall that Stretch Rubin and Hymie
21 Levine introduced you to?

22 The Witness. I think one of them was Santos
23 Trafficante. Let's see, at the Nationale I think
24 he introduced me -- who was the operator of the
25 Nationale -- McLeaney (phonetic) I think was the one

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1 at the Nationale.

2 Mr. Triplett. Which McLeaney?

3 The Witness. Mike McLeaney. He introduced me
4 to Mike McLeaney and told Mike who I was. And I
5 told Mike, if you don't mind telling your people
6 that if I come here, or my inspectors come here, be
7 courteous with them because this is the way it has
8 got to be with Fidel. It has got to be strictly
9 legit and we are going to find out whether your
10 slot machines -- well, there was no slot machines --
11 but whether your roulette machines are working properly,
12 whether your dice tables, there is no loaded dice.
13 All these other things that I instructed the people
14 I was introduced to, if I was introduced by them.

15 But they were impressing their people that they
16 knew me. Especially Stretch telling them that I saved
17 his life, you know. It's one of those things.

18 Mr. Triplett. Did he introduce you to anybody
19 else that you recall?

20 The Witness. He introduced me to a number of
21 people.

22 Mr. Triplett. Considering these people you
23 were introduced to, other than telling them that they
24 had to keep their slot machines straight --

25 The Witness. (Interposing) No slot machines now.

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1 Because Fidel never told them they could do the
2 slot machines.

3 Mr. Triplett. Okay, that their games had to
4 be legitimate, whatever they were.

5 The Witness. Right.

6 Mr. Triplett. Other than that, what other
7 services, if any, did you perform for these people?

8 The Witness. For what people?

9 Mr. Triplett. These people, Stretch Rubin,
10 Hymie Levine and the people they introduced you to?

11 The Witness. Well, I never performed any
12 services for them because I represented the Cuban
13 Government. Everything had to be a set way for
14 the Cuban Government and that was it.

15 Mr. Triplett. How did you first meet Norman
16 Rothman?

17 The Witness. There in Havana.

18 Mr. Triplett. How did you meet him?

19 The Witness. Introduced by either Stretch
20 Rubin or Hymie Levine.

21 Mr. Triplett. What was the nature of your
22 association with Mr. Rothman?

23 The Witness. The same thing. Introduction,
24 you know. I was going to inspect the casino and
25 so forth.

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1 Mr. Triplett. Did you ever perform services
2 for him at that time, or later?

3 The Witness. Perform services for Norman
4 Rothman?

5 Mr. Triplett. Yes.

6 The Witness. I never worked for these people.

7 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever met Joseph
8 Shilmon?

9 The Witness. I don't know Joseph Shilmon.

10 Mr. Triplett. Shilmon?

11 The Witness. You mean Commandant Schmone?

12 Mr. Triplett. No, that's not the man we are
13 talking about.

14 How about Robert McKewon (phonetic)?

15 The Witness. I don't know. The name sounds
16 familiar. I might have read it in books or something
17 about McKewon. But I do not recall personally ever
18 meeting him.

19 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever met Dominic
20 Bartone?

21 The Witness. Oh, yes. Yes.

22 Mr. Triplett. When and where did you first
23 meet him?

24 The Witness. At the Air Force Base. He came
25 to the Air Force Base. I think his people flew in

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1 in an experimental aircraft and landed at the Air
2 Force Base and they were trying to sell this aircraft
3 to the Air Force. And I put more or less a clout to
4 it because I said hey, what the hell are we going to
5 do with this big aircraft, you know. They wanted
6 some ridiculous amount for it. I think it was a four
7 engine aircraft. And that is how I met Bartone.

8 Mr. Triplett. And have you had any associations
9 with Bartone since then?

10 The Witness. No. I met Bartone one other time
11 in exile, through the exile movement.

12 Mr. Triplett. When you say in exile, you mean
13 here in the United States?

14 The Witness. Here in the United States.
15 Pertaining to equipment necessary to fight against
16 Castro.

17 Mr. Triplett. You may have met him?

18 The Witness. I think I did one time, with
19 Hymie Levine. I'm not sure. I am pretty sure that
20 is the only way because otherwise on my own I never
21 had any connection with him.

22 Mr. Triplett. So you were associating with
23 Hymie Levine after your return to the United States?

24 The Witness. Oh, when I came over here I ran
25 across Hymie Levine one time, yes. Hymie Levine at

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one time said this Dominic Bartone was, I forget, some office he had downtown or something, and I went with him at his office.

Mr. Triplett. Let me make sure I have this straight.

You have seen Hymie Levine one time since you came back and on that one time he probably took you to see Dominic Bartone?

The Witness. I am almost sure it was Hymie Levine that took me to see Dominic Bartone. But now Hymie Levine, over the past years, I have been in touch with Hymie Levine and the reason for that is, Hymie came here from Cuba himself and stayed here all these years.

And as a matter of fact Hymie Levine did have a stroke. As a matter of fact I took Hymie Levine to my home. Hymie Levine had dinner in my home and I liked Hymie Levine. I liked him. He was a nice fellow. A nice old fellow.

Mr. Triplett. Did you ever meet Sam Benton?

The Witness. I don't recall Sam Benton.

Mr. Triplett. By the way, did Norman Rothman ever offer you money to assassinate Fidel Castro?

The Witness. No.

Mr. Triplett. Never?

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1 The Witness. No. Not to my knowledge.

2 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever met Charles Tourine?

3 The Witness. Charles Tourine? Yes, one of
4 my inspections of the Capri. Yes.

5 Mr. Triplett. Once, or more than once? What
6 was the nature of your association with him?

7 The Witness. Strictly casinos.

8 Mr. Triplett. Have you seen him since you
9 returned to the United States, or talked to him on
10 the phone?

11 The Witness. No.

12 Mr. Triplett. How about Dino Cellini over there
13 in Havana?

14 The Witness. I ran into Dino one time on 36th
15 Street when he was buying some bread, and this is
16 going back a few years.

17 Mr. Triplett. So you've only seen him once
18 since you have been back in the United States?

19 The Witness. Once that I know of.

20 Mr. Triplett. Have you talked to him on the
21 phone?

22 The Witness. Have I spoke to him on the phone?
23 Dino Cellini? I don't recall.

24 Mr. Triplett. How about Santos Trafficante?
25 Have you seen or heard from him since you returned to

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1 the United States?

2 The Witness. All of these years I may have
3 run into him again on 36th Street one time.

4 Mr. Triplett. Was that an accidental meeting,
5 or did you plan to meet him there?

6 The Witness. Accidental.

7 Mr. Triplett. Have you talked to him on the
8 phone?

9 The Witness. Not that I recall.

10 Mr. Triplett. Approximately when was it that
11 you ran into Santo Trafficante?

12 The Witness. Oh, this was years ago. I don't
13 recall just about what year it was. Going back many
14 years ago.

15 Mr. Triplett. How about Donald Edward Browder?

16 The Witness. I don't recall Browder.

17 Mr. Triplett. Joe Marola (phonetic)?

18 The Witness. I ran into Marola two or three
19 times.

20 Mr. Triplett. When did you first meet him and
21 how?

22 The Witness. I don't recall, really, when I
23 first met Joe Marola.

24 Mr. Triplett. You do not recall when you met
25 him? Did you meet him in Cuba or did you meet him in

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1 the United States?

2 The Witness. Possibly I met him in Cuba. If
3 not in Cuba, it had to be here in the United States,
4 in the Miami area.

5 Mr. Triplett. How about Carlos Marcella (phonetic)?

6 The Witness. No. I never met Carlos Marcella.

7 Mr. Triplett. You never met him?

8 The Witness. Not that I know of.

9 Mr. Triplett. Never talked to him over the
10 phone?

11 The Witness. No.

12 Mr. Triplett. How about Sam Giocana (phonetic)?

13 The Witness. No.

14 Mr. Triplett. You've never met him?

15 The Witness. Never met him.

16 Mr. Triplett. John Rozelli (phonetic)?

17 The Witness. No, never met him.

18 Again I will say if these people were ever
19 in Cuba, went back during the time I was inspecting
20 the casinos, I was introduced to several people, you
21 know. And who knows? I may have met these people,
22 hello and goodbye, and that was the end of it. But
23 to my knowledge, today, I don't believe I ever met
24 these people.

25 Mr. Triplett. How about Joe Rivers? When and

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1 how did you meet him?

2 The Witness. In Cuba.

3 Mr. Triplett. And have you seen or talked to
4 him since you returned to the United States?

5 The Witness. I think I run into him one time,
6 possibly.

7 Mr. Triplett. About when was that?

8 The Witness. On the Beach, I guess. I don't
9 know. I'm going back many years ago now.

10 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

11 The Witness. And that was accidental.

12 Mr. Triplett. This last approximately 12 or
13 13 people we talked about -- it might be more, I
14 do not have the exact count -- this last group of
15 people that we have been discussing, when is the
16 last time you saw or talked to any of them?

17 The Witness. Years. Believe me. And I don't
18 recall what year, where at or what. It has been years.
19 I go to the Beach quite often and that is where they
20 stay at. And if you run out to the Beach you are
21 liable to run into them accidentally, you know.

22 Mr. Triplett. You go to the Beach quite often?

23 The Witness. I haven't been at the Beach for
24 awhile, you know, but I used to go quite often to
25 the Beach.

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1 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever had any associations
2 with the Drug Enforcement Administration?

3 The Witness. Yes.

4 Mr. Triplett. And what type of associations?

5 The Witness. Well, while I was in jail, just
6 before I got out of jail on the Watergate thing, I
7 was in the Dade County jail, where I got released here.
8 A friend of mine came to see me and wanted to get in
9 touch with the CIA. And I looked at him and I said,
10 you got to be crazy. I am in jail. How am I going
11 to get in touch with the CIA for you? I said, tell
12 me what it is about?

13 He said well, Frank, it is National security
14 business outside the country.

15 I said well, you are going to have to wait
16 until I get out. Which, in a few days I did get out
17 here. So when I did get out he made contact with me
18 over at my home. His name was Jerry Buchanan.

19 Mr. Triplett. Jim Buchanan's brother?

20 The Witness. Yes. Jim Buchanan's brother.

21 Jerry Buchanan.

22 So I made contact with a Mr. McVaine (phonetic).

23 Mr. Triplett. What was his first name? Do you
24 recall?

25 The Witness. No. I forget his first name. There

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1 is only one McVaine because that's a code name that
2 they use. There's only one agent that uses that
3 particular code name.

4 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

5 The Witness. And in the process of that,
6 making contact with McVaine, I got a call from the
7 Senate Watergate Committee, which I had to go to
8 Washington, D.C. and I was questioned again over
9 the same thing just like I am going over the same
10 thing here, the Rockefeller Committee and so forth
11 questioned me. And then finally the punch line came,
12 have you been in touch with CIA since you have been
13 out of jail? And I said, yes, I have. Who? And I
14 said well, it pertained to National security business.
15 So why don't you get in touch with these people and
16 find out, you know, because I do not even know what
17 kind of National security business it is. I have
18 not even had time to make the personal contact, you
19 know.

20 So I was instructed by the CIA stationed here
21 that any of the Watergate people could not have any
22 personal contact with the local CIA stationed here.
23 Any contact with CIA would have to be done through
24 Langley, Virginia. So they slammed the door in my
25 face here.

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1 So then I had to go through a friend of mine
2 who I knew had direct contact with CIA. So I turned
3 my friend over to another intelligence organization
4 to make contact with them.

5 Mr. Triplett. What other intelligence
6 organization?

7 The Witness. U.S. Customs Investigations.

8 Mr. Triplett. Well, this is very interesting,
9 Mr. Sturgis. My question was, have you ever had any
10 contact with the Drug Enforcement Administration?

11 The Witness. Yes. This is what leads up to
12 it.

13 Mr. Triplett. All right. Keep going then.

14 The Witness. So we had a meeting with the
15 agent in the car, which was tape recorded and Mr.
16 Buchanan was with me. And Mr. Buchanan spelled out
17 everything. It had to do with international drug
18 smuggling.

19 So I told them, I says, well, I am turning him
20 over to you people because that is out of my line,
21 which I did.

22 So a meeting was set up with U.S. Customs and
23 the DEA for Jerry Buchanan to do what he had to do
24 with them. And that is it.

25 Mr. Triplett. And is that the only contact you

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1 personally have had with DEA?

2 The Witness. Yes. Well, that and a few other
3 things. But that is it more or less.

4 Mr. Triplett. Well, a few other things. What
5 few other things? Have you been investigated?

6 The Witness. No, not as an informant because
7 I am not registered with those people. But there are
8 other people that I did, have made contact with these
9 people, to work with these people.

10 Mr. Triplett. Are you familiar with the name
11 Kenneth Bernstein?

12 The Witness. Yes.

13 Mr. Triplett. And what is your association
14 with him?

15 The Witness. I have no personal association
16 with him. This is where Jerry Buchanan comes in
17 because he worked on that case.

18 Mr. Triplett. Bernstein was with DEA?

19 The Witness. Bernstein, at the beginning, was
20 not with DEA, but because of the investigation that
21 Jerry Buchanan was doing as an undercover agent for
22 DEA and U.S. Customs, this is where Bernstein at a
23 later date was recruited by DEA and so forth. You
24 would have to look at the record on that because I
25 was not too much involved in that. This was a Jerry

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1 Bucanhan situation.

2 Mr. Triplett. Are you familiar with the name
3 Steve Czukas?

4 The Witness. Certainly. Yes.

5 Mr. Triplett. And what is your association
6 or knowledge of him?

7 The Witness. Steve Czukas is a U.S. Customs
8 investigator.

9 Mr. Triplett. Is that also the person you
10 contacted with respect to Customs?

11 The Witness. Yes.

12 Mr. Triplett. Have you had any other dealings
13 with Mr. Czukas other than this one you related?

14 The Witness. Any time that any information --
15 yes, I have, pertaining to information concerning
16 Cuban terrorists, that I felt a lot of it was done
17 by Cuban intelligence and so forth, in order that
18 CIA would have a hand in it. This was international.
19 That they would be advised of it through Steve Czukas.

20 Mr. Triplett. Now when you talk about Cuban
21 terrorists, are you talking about any Cuban terrorist,
22 or just pro-Castro Cuban terrorists?

23 The Witness. I am talking about the pro-Castro
24 Cuban terrorists because I am not aware of all the
25 terrorists activity that's going on in this area.

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1 Because I am not in that business. I am not in the
2 business of investigations or anything like that at
3 the present time. But any time I would gather some
4 information through friends of mine, like CIA fellows
5 who were Cubans, this information, if I felt that it
6 was essential to the Government, then I would turn
7 certain people over, make introductions to certain
8 people to Steve Czukas who in turn, if they had to
9 go ahead and take them to either the DEA or U.S.
10 Customs or FBI or CIA. He was my contact with the
11 Federal Agencies to turn these people and the
12 information over to them and I kept out of it.
13 Because I maintained to them that much of the drug
14 smuggling in this country here, which is slowly,
15 Castro is behind it. A lot of the drug smuggling
16 has something to do with the terrorist activities
17 that has been going on here.

18 So these things I am concerned of, which I
19 consider National security to this country. And
20 because I, myself, would not want to be directly
21 involved in any of these things as far as, you know,
22 being the informant or anything like that. I made
23 the connection for these people to go see Steve, go
24 see this, go see that. Get in touch with him, and
25 then they were on their own. I kept out of it.

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1 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

2 Again, why did you use Steve Czukas as a go-
3 between?

4 The Witness. Because he had contacts with CIA.

5 Mr. Triplett. To your knowledge was he a CIA
6 agent or employee?

7 The Witness. Steve Czukas? To my knowledge,
8 I do not know. The only thing I know about Steve
9 Czukas, he is a very influential man with the U.S.
10 Customs for many years and even though his capacity
11 is not as an official of that, but he holds great
12 influence and personally I like him. Tremendous man.

13 Mr. Triplett. Are you familiar with Cesar
14 Diosdado?

15 The Witness. I have heard of him. I am not
16 sure if I am familiar with him or not.

17 Mr. Triplett. Have you had any dealings with
18 the Immigration and Naturalization Service?

19 The Witness. Yes.

20 Mr. Triplett. What type of dealings was that?

21 The Witness. I had my citizenship taken away
22 from me in the early '60's when I came from Cuba.
23 It was because of all the attempts against Castro and
24 my activities against Castro, which I did not know at
25 that time the American Government did not want these

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1 activities to persist. So naturally, not knowing
2 this, the Government put pressure on me.

3 I went with Marcus Diez Lanz to go to Guatemala
4 to speak with President Ydigoras in Guatemala. And
5 evidently the Cuban Intelligence Service found out
6 that Diez Lanz and myself were there and we were
7 eating dinner and here it comes over the television
8 in the dining room, it showed my picture and Diez
9 Lanz' picture, that we were there for the United
10 States, which was not true, for the United States
11 Government, arranging for bases in Guatemala to invade
12 Cuba.

13 So that evening at our hotel, the Chief
14 Intelligence Officer of President Ydigoras told
15 us that for all concerned, it would be much better
16 that we leave Guatemala because of the international
17 pressure that was going on by our presence there and
18 us talking with President Ydigoras. So naturally
19 we left.

20 Marcus Diez Lanz decided on his return trip
21 to the United States we would go by way of Mexico
22 in order to arrange for his reentry, or whatever
23 he had to do, and people he had to see in Mexico,
24 and I would leave Guatemala directly to Miami.

25 When I got to Miami I was detained going through

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1 the gate at Customs and Immigration and they told
2 me that I would have to prove -- evidently my name
3 was on the black list there, and they grabbed me,
4 took me to a side room and they said you are going
5 to have to prove that you are an Amercian citizen.
6 I said, you have got to be kidding. This is my
7 passport. Well, we can not accept it. They were
8 busting my ass. Excuse my language. That is exactly
9 what they were doing. And I got very angry at them.
10 Because there was some shit in Washington going on
11 because of me and Diez Lanz being in Guatemala with
12 President Ydigoras.

13 So they told me, they said, we are going to
14 send you back to Guatemala. I says look, I am an
15 American citizen. I have my passport. In order for
16 me to get a passport I have to have my birth certificate.
17 I was born in this country and you bastards are not
18 going to deport me anyplace because if you deport me
19 back to Guatemala, I will sneak in the country. What
20 are you going to do? You are going to have to put
21 me in prison.

22 Well, they locked my ass up. Would you believe
23 it? They did. They locked my ass up. Right here
24 in this Post Office here. I got out 30 minutes later.

25 Then I had a series of things I had to go to on

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1 Biscayne Boulevard at the Immigration there with Mr.
2 White who is the presiding officer for the Immigration,
3 not knowingly every time I had to go there, the
4 Government, with the Federal Attorney, popped it out,
5 he says well, Mr. Sturgis is no longer a citizen of
6 the United States. Here is a paper, a document signed
7 by the Secretary of State taking away Mr. Sturgis'
8 citizenship.

9 Well, this little Guinnie (phonetic) here blew
10 his stack. And I said, all you queers up in
11 Washington, D.C. in the State Department -- believe
12 me, on record, on tape there. And I apologized to
13 Mr. White. And I looked at that Federal prosecutor
14 and I says, you, and I said if you fall into it with
15 those queers up there that you represent, and believe
16 me, I was so upset that my lawyer was holding me down.
17 And I used every filthy word in the language. Take
18 my citizenship away? Illegal.

19 I contacted Mr. George Smathers, Senator Smathers.
20 Mr. Smathers contacted the State Department and wrote
21 a letter saying you mean to tell me, at the stroke
22 of a pen, that you took the citizenship of this World
23 War II hero -- I don't know if I'm a hero or not --
24 at a stroke of your pen?

25 He says, well, you know, documents are put in

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front of me and I just sign them. He says, is that right? He says then I, as a Senator, somebody can put a document in front of you and you will take my citizenship away from me. He said well, no, it's not like that. And he said, bull shit it is not like that.

That is exactly what happened. Well Senator Smathers told me, he says, Frank -- cooked steak for me at his house with his apron on, and cooked steak for me and Pedro Diez Lanz -- he says don't worry about it. He says, if they do not give you your citizenship back, Frank, I will put a special order in to the Congress or the Senate and you will get your citizenship back. And I got it back eventually.

But can you imagine the Secretary of State signing my citizenship away and that dirty bastard, when the war was going, was out screwing while I was fighting and giving my blood for this country?

Mr. Rubin. Okay. Now let's just answer the questions.

The Witness. Good. But I want it on record because I am still hot at the State Department.

Mr. Rubin. Cool off and let's go.

The Witness. I got hot about it. The more I think about it.

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1 Mr. Triplett. Was that early 1960's or late
2 1960's?

3 The Witness. I don't know. It had to be early
4 1960.

5 Mr. Triplett. All right.

6 The Witness. This was before the Bay of Pigs.
7 Before everybody got the bases in Guatemala and
8 Nicaragua. You know what I mean? So it had to be --
9 I would say exactly 1960.

10 Mr. Triplett. Have you had any other
11 associations with the Immigration and Naturalization
12 Service?

13 The Witness. I do not think so. Not that I
14 recall.

15 Mr. Triplett. How about the United States
16 Secret Service?

17 The Witness. No. Not that I recall.

18 Mr. Triplett. Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms?

19 The Witness. Not that I recall. I mean they
20 used to run after me years ago, you know, the ATA --
21 Alcohol, Tobacco --

22 Mr. Triplett. And Firearms.

23 The Witness. Firearms. The ATF. Years ago,
24 you know, because of my activities against Castro.
25 But otherwise not that I remember. If I did it was

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1 years ago and I do not recall.

2 Mr. Triplett. Aside from you being a police
3 officer in Norfolk, Virginia, have you had any
4 associations with any local law enforcement agencies?

5 The Witness. Here?

6 Mr. Triplett. Here, or anywhere in the country?

7 The Witness. Well here, organized crime -- I
8 have Cuban friends of mine naturally, and we want to
9 know what is going on. And in order to know what is
10 going on, we have contact with everybody, you know.
11 Because that is how we pick up information.

12 For instance this WFC Corporation, what is
13 going on now, this big investigation that is going
14 on now. Naturally the people, I received information
15 that these people were behind certain killings here
16 and we suspect them of being Castro agents. As a
17 matter of fact this Salvadore, however you pronounce
18 his last name, either his brother or his first cousin
19 is a top Cuban General in Cuba. And this guy --
20 look at me. Look at my bank account, and here this
21 dirty bastard come in from Cuba into exile and the
22 guy is a millionaire, see. In exile, coming here,
23 playing footsies. He's a millionaire. Me, I am
24 dying to make a living around here. You know. But
25 that is the way do, you know. They want to play spy

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1 and they want to play their little games. And I
2 get angry at the Government because the Government
3 knows all this and the Government don't do a God-
4 Damned thing about it. And they run around with
5 their big yachts and their Cadillacs and people
6 like me got to struggle in this world.

7 Mr. Triplett. Let's take a five minute
8 break.

9 (A short recess was taken.)

10 Mr. Triplett. Okay, let's get started again.

11 At this point, Mr. Sturgis, we would like
12 to just make a record of your employment history
13 from the time of 1952 when you got a discharge from
14 the United States Army to date.

15 Do you have a record of that available?

16 The Witness. To date -- let me make this
17 record, if my Attorney will look at this also -- I
18 have this newspaper card signed by the Sheriff of
19 Dade County. Show it to Mr. Fonzi.

20 Mr. Triplett. Let the record reflect that
21 Mr. Sturgis is showing us a Dade County Public
22 Safety Department News Media Card indicating he
23 is a news reporter for Elexpresso, which is a
24 newspaper.

25 The Witness. Spanish newspaper, yes.

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1 Mr. Triplett. Okay. Why don't I advise you
2 of what we know.

3 You got out of the Army in 1952?

4 The Witness. Yes.

5 Mr. Triplett. And from '52 to 1954 you were
6 a part owner and manager of the Top Hat night club
7 in Virginia Beach?

8 The Witness. Yes, sir.

9 Mr. Triplett. Did you have any other employment
10 during that period of '52 to '54?

11 The Witness. Well, before that I owned a bar
12 on East Main Street. And I am trying to remember the
13 name of the bar. But it is there because I had to
14 be registered, you know, with the City, in order to
15 have the license.

16 Mr. Triplett. All right.

17 After 1954 what did you do for employment?

18 The Witness. I think I worked with a steel
19 company building a gasoline storage tank, Bethlehem
20 Steel, building storage tanks. I worked real estate.
21 I was a real estate salesman in Norfolk.

22 Mr. Triplett. Were you on salaried employment
23 in these jobs?

24 The Witness. I believe so, yes.

25 Mr. Triplett. During the year 1955, did you have

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1 occasion to be in Panama?

2 The Witness. 1955? I am not sure, sir. In
3 1955? I don't believe so.

4 Mr. Triplett. Did you happen to be in Panama
5 at the time that President Ramon was assassinated?

6 The Witness. No, sir.

7 Mr. Triplett. You were not?

8 The Witness. No. I did know --

9 Mr. Rubin. (Interposing) Now Frank, that is
10 what I mean. Why don't you just answer the questions.

11 The Witness. No, I was not.

12 Mr. Triplett. Well, my next question is, what
13 did you know?

14 The Witness. Again, the Panamanian exiles
15 contacted many of us in the Cuban Government in 1959.
16 One of the persons who contact me, which I found out
17 later supposedly was involved in the assassination
18 of the President of Panama --

19 Mr. Triplett. (Interposing) And who was that?

20 The Witness. I forget his name right now. I
21 did have his name.

22 Mr. Triplett. Could I suggest Rubin Mirrow?
23 (phonetic).

24 The Witness. Right. That is the man.

25 Mr. Triplett. Where did you meet Rubin Mirrow?

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1 The Witness. I met Rubin Mirrow in Havana.
2 And I am not sure whether it was the Air Force Base
3 or not. Or maybe in one of the restaurants. I am
4 not sure specifically the place where I met him.

5 Mr. Triplett. Did you have occasion to visit
6 Rubin Mirrow while he was in prison?

7 The Witness. No. But I knew him before he
8 got in prison. As a matter of fact he sent somebody
9 out to contact me to help him get out of prison.

10 Mr. Triplett. Who was that person?

11 The Witness. I do not remember who it was.

12 Mr. Triplett. Was it a man or woman?

13 The Witness. A man. I think it was a man.

14 Mr. Triplett. During this same period of time
15 did you have occasion to meet a Judith Campbell?

16 The Witness. No.

17 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

18 Going back to 1956, is that when you first
19 arrived in Cuba?

20 The Witness. Approximately, yes.

21 Mr. Triplett. And you remained in Cuba through --

22 The Witness. (Interposing) No. I was traveling
23 back and forth.

24 Mr. Triplett. Who financed this travel?

25 The Witness. These were like Prio. Prio's group.

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1 Some was my own personal finance, but others were
2 on monies, you know, from the group itself.

3 Mr. Triplett. Did you ever have occasion to
4 manage a night club in Cuba?

5 The Witness. Never worked with no night club
6 in Cuba. Never worked for anybody in Cuba but the
7 Cuban Government.

8 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

9 And in traveling back and forth, what was
10 your purpose in traveling?

11 The Witness. Strictly to maintain contact with
12 the underground organization. With their officials.

13 Mr. Triplett. Now in the course of these travels,
14 you were in Florida, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica,
15 Guatemala, Panama, Hondouras, Mexico, the Bahamas?

16 The Witness. Yes.

17 Mr. Triplett. Any other places that you
18 traveled during that time?

19 The Witness. New York, Washington.

20 Mr. Triplett. And then you were still working
21 in or out of Cuba through the middle of 1959. Is
22 that correct?

23 The Witness. Yes, sir.

24 Mr. Triplett. When you left Cuba and came back
25 to the United States, where did you go to work? Or

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1 what was your employment?

2 The Witness. I had a company that was formed
3 called Hampton Roads Salvage Company.

4 Mr. Triplett. Hampton Roads Salvage Company?

5 The Witness. Yes.

6 Mr. Triplett. And was that a corporation?

7 The Witness. Yes, sir. It was a Florida
8 corporation.

9 Mr. Triplett. Who were the incorporators?

10 The Witness. I am not sure. It is going back
11 so many years ago. But it is on record in Tallahassee.

12 Mr. Triplett. Well as a matter of fact, Mr.
13 Sturgis, was not that Hampton Roads Salvage Company
14 incorporated in 1961?

15 The Witness. Was it '61? Possibly, yes.

16 Mr. Triplett. When you first came out of Cuba,
17 what did you do for a living?

18 The Witness. I think we opened up a business.

19 Mr. Triplett. Who is we?

20 The Witness. Marcus, Pedro and myself.

21 Mr. Triplett. What kind of business?

22 The Witness. I think it was on 17th Avenue.

23 We had an office on 17th Avenue. Oh, wait a minute.

24 I had an office in Coral Gables, import-export
25 business. That is right. I forgot all about that.

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1 Mr. Triplett. And how long were you in that
2 business?

3 The Witness. Not too long. Because naturally
4 when I had lost my contacts inside of Cuba -- because
5 I was going back and forth -- naturally that was the
6 end of the business. Because of my connections in
7 Cuba. The fact that my position in Cuba was totally
8 disconnected. So I had to go ahead and close up
9 that office and close up that business.

10 Mr. Triplett. What did you do after you closed
11 that business?

12 The Witness. Well, Marcus and Pedro Diez Lanz
13 naturally were in exile here. And being in exile
14 here, we contacted -- when I say we, sometimes I
15 was with them, sometimes I was not with them -- they
16 were in touch with various business interests in the
17 Cuban colony. Cuban business interests. One would
18 be Barcardi. And then there were other --

19 Mr. Triplett. (Interposing) One would be who?

20 The Witness. Barcardi Rum. And they naturally
21 gave us money.

22 Mr. Triplett. You say a corporation. Who were
23 the people who gave you the money? The corporation
24 doesn't give you the money.

25 The Witness. That would be Bosch himself,

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1 personally. The owner of Barcardi. Other people
2 who gave money, they had an office here and their
3 main office was in New York, was this Cuban newspaper.
4 It was one of the biggest newspapers in Havana at
5 that time and they came into exile. And, what's
6 the name of this magazine, Spanish magazine? The
7 biggest one in Cuba. And they gave money to the
8 Diez Lanz'.

9 And these are the monies that we more or less
10 lived on in order to continue our resistance, you know,
11 against the Castro Government.

12 Mr. Triplett. So essentially you were supporting
13 yourself by either planning or carrying out raids
14 against Cuba at that time? That was your source of
15 support?

16 The Witness. Yes. From the Cuban colony itself.
17 Yes.

18 Mr. Triplett. The Spanish magazine. Would that
19 be Bohemia? (phonetic).

20 The Witness. Bohemia. Right.

21 Mr. Triplett. Did you ever receive any funds
22 from the Catherwood Foundation?

23 The Witness. Who?

24 Mr. Triplett. The Catherwood Foundation?

25 The Witness. Myself, no.

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1 Mr. Triplett. Well, your organization, or
2 were you aware of any support received from them?

3 The Witness. I was not aware of it. No.

4 Mr. Triplett. Then in September, 1961, you
5 incorporated the Hampton Roads Salvage Company?

6 The Witness. Of Florida.

7 Mr. Triplett. With Pedro and Marcus Diez Lanz.
8 What was the nature of that business?

9 The Witness. Well, we tried to do some salvage
10 work. Buying and selling of boats and so forth.

11 At the same time it was to be used in the
12 operations against Cuba.

13 Funding for that corporation came from the exile
14 community who did have contact with the Government.

15 I, myself directly, had nothing to do with receiving
16 the funds personally, but the Diez Lanz brothers did
17 receive the funds which was put in the account for
18 Hampton Roads Salvage Company.

19 Four boats were bought. A PC boat was bought.
20 Another boat called the Qusa was bought. Two moppies
21 (phonetic) were bought from Bertrum's Yacht Company
22 and these boats were used -- primarily the idea of
23 the company, was to be used in CIA operations.

24 My boat -- well, our boat -- this one moppy, went
25 on numerous operations where another friend of mine, a

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1 Cuban, his name is Salvador Garcia who worked for
2 the Central Intelligence Agency, went on infiltration
3 supply missions to Cuba and so forth. This primarily
4 was what the company was used for.

5 Mr. Triplett. Primarily for CIA operations?

6 The Witness. Well, let me say, primarily for
7 us to make a living. Even though it was funded by
8 the Cuban business community, but CIA had use of these
9 boats.

10 Mr. Triplett. On a contract basis?

11 The Witness. Anytime they wanted, the boat
12 was available. Plus we were available also to do
13 the operations.

14 Mr. Triplett. Oh, they paid for it then? Is
15 that yes or no? Did you receive pay for it?

16 The Witness. I have never received any pay
17 from CIA.

18 Mr. Triplett. Did the company -- not the
19 company meaning CIA, but the company meaning Hampton
20 Roads Salvage Company of Florida -- receive funds
21 for these --

22 The Witness. (Interposing) From the Cuban
23 business colony.

24 Mr. Triplett. In other words, it wasn't
25 contributing the services? There was some sort of

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1 pay from somebody?

2 The Witness. Yes. Right.

3 Mr. Triplett. Now you mentioned a boat named
4 the Qusa?

5 The Witness. Yes.

6 Mr. Triplett. How did it get that name?

7 The Witness. Well, this is the name, when
8 Hampton Roads Salvage Company bought the boat. I
9 believe Bertrums was the seller of the boat and
10 Hampton Roads Salvage Company bought it from Bertrums.

11 Mr. Triplett. Well, Bertrums is a boat dealer,
12 isn't it?

13 The Witness. Broker.

14 Mr. Triplett. Broker. So who was the previous
15 owner?

16 The Witness. I don't know. They would have
17 the records.

18 Mr. Triplett. And it had that name when you
19 got it?

20 The Witness. I think so. Yes.

21 Mr. Triplett. What did that name mean to you,
22 if anything?

23 The Witness. Nothing. The boat meant something
24 but the name does not mean anything to me.

25 Mr. Triplett. Qusa being spelled?

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1 The Witness. Q-u-s-a. Qusa.

2 Mr. Triplett. How long did the Hampton Roads
3 Company exist?

4 The Witness. A couple of years, I imagine,
5 approximately. More or less.

6 Mr. Triplett. And were you involved with this
7 operation in day to day activities during that period?

8 The Witness. Part of it, yes. Part of it, yes.
9 Part of it, no.

10 Mr. Triplett. Did you have any other sources
11 of income at that time?

12 The Witness. Just what I told you.

13 Mr. Triplett. What, from the raids?

14 The Witness. From monies received from the
15 business community in order to do operations. Which
16 in particular this is one type of operation that we
17 did.

18 Mr. Triplett. Well now to make it very clear,
19 you received money from the Cuban business community.
20 To your knowledge, either then or now, was the
21 source of that money somehow from some other place
22 than the Cuban business community?

23 The Witness. Yes. Because the Cuban business
24 community had an association with the United States
25 Government on a very very high level. With the

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1 President of the United States which was President
2 Kennedy; directly with Bobby Kennedy himself, because
3 Bobby Kennedy did take a direct hand in controlling
4 the Cuban operations before and after the Bay of Pigs
5 operation. Oh, wait a minute. Before, yeah, and
6 after the Bay of Pigs operation, right.

7 My friends, many of the Cuban leaders, had
8 personal contact with both Robert Kennedy and the
9 President.

10 Mr. Triplett. And who were these friends that
11 you are speaking of?

12 The Witness. Well, I am sure Diez Lanz and
13 others besides them.

14 Mr. Triplett. Pedro and Marcus?

15 The Witness. Yes. And others besides them.
16 Marlona Arttime who naturally I know. The Diez Lanz
17 brothers. Dr. Louie Conte Aguerro. Ricardo Lauri
18 (phonetic). Nino Diez.

19 Mr. Triplett. Did you know Minola Rye (phonetic)
20 at that time?

21 The Witness. Minola Rye? Yes.

22 Mr. Triplett. Could he be one of those that
23 was in contact?

24 The Witness. Yes. Sure.

25 Mr. Triplett. How about Tony Varona?

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1 The Witness. Yes. Certainly.

2 These people had contact on a very high level,
3 which I did not. Even though I did meet the President
4 later myself. But they more or less, as far as
5 operational procedures with Cuba, they were on that
6 level. I was not.

7 Mr. Triplett. After the Hampton Roads Company
8 dissolved, or whatever --

9 The Witness. (Interposing) Just faded away.
10 Right.

11 Mr. Triplett. Faded away around 1963 -- if my
12 figuring is correct, some two years after it was
13 started -- what was your employment or source of
14 income after that?

15 The Witness. Same thing. With the Cuban business
16 colony.

17 Mr. Triplett. How long did that relationship
18 continue?

19 The Witness. For a number of years. Myself,
20 with the Diez Lanz brothers, more or less. He had
21 other things to do. Pedro, I think went on a
22 lecture tour. And we were struggling when we were not
23 getting financial assistance from the Cuban colony. It
24 was a struggle, you know.

25 Mr. Triplett. Did you have any other employment

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1 at that time?

2 The Witness. I probably did. But I don't
3 recall specifically. It is going back so many years,
4 you know. I could not nail down the specific
5 employment I had at that particular time. But I was
6 continually doing, I know, operations and again
7 receiving financing from the Cuban business colony.

8 Mr. Triplett. During that period of time did
9 you have occasion to sell stories to newspapers and
10 magazines?

11 The Witness. At that time, yes. Yes.

12 Mr. Triplett. Do you recall which newspapers
13 and magazines?

14 The Witness. Not off-hand, no.

15 Mr. Triplett. Have you maintained any income
16 records for the period of say 1950 to the present?

17 The Witness. Well naturally, when I did go to
18 work I paid my taxes when I did work. I paid my
19 taxes. So I would have some records when I did work.
20 You know, I paid my taxes.

21 Mr. Triplett. So those would undoubtedly indicate
22 from W-2 forms where and when you had worked, wouldn't
23 they?

24 The Witness. Yes.

25 Mr. Triplett. Would you have those available, say

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1 for Mr. Fonzi at sometime to review and just check
2 with you where you were working?

3 The Witness. Yes. Certainly. Yes. I would
4 think my wife does keep our records for the last five
5 years. We may even have them longer than five years.
6 Oh, yes.

7 Mr. Triplett. Or Mr. Gonzales, if he is a
8 better accountant.

9 The Witness. Certainly. Well, I worked
10 for Pan American, Pan American Aluminum Corporation
11 for a great number of years.

12 Mr. Triplett. In what capacity?

13 The Witness. I was a window and door installer
14 for them.

15 Then I went into the sales end of the department.
16 This is before Watergate, naturally. And then
17 Watergate, you know.

18 Mr. Triplett. Who owned the Pan American
19 Company that you worked for?

20 The Witness. Oh, I don't know. Some Jewish
21 fellow. It is a very large company. Pan American
22 Aluminum Corporation? Yes. They're off of Biscayne
23 Boulevard and 183rd Street. As a matter of fact
24 they sent my work record up to the Watergate
25 investigators during the Watergate trials. So they

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1 have a record.

2 Plus when I got out of prison I worked for a
3 friend of mine who had an equipment outfit. His
4 name was Pedro Martinez. I worked for him a short
5 period of time until he sold his equipment.

6 Then I went to work with a friend of mine called
7 Alfredo Navro (phonetic) who had, whose brother and
8 him had their business at Dodge Island here, called
9 Dodge Island Repairs. And I worked for him for
10 awhile and then they sold their business.

11 Then I went to work again for my friend Pedro
12 Martinez. When he sold his equipment he went into
13 the egg business and I was working with him in the
14 sales department of his egg business. Then he sold
15 that.

16 And from the egg business -- that is all down
17 there, you know, in the income tax file.

18 Mr. Triplett. Then that will be available for
19 us to check?

20 The Witness. Yes. Sure.

21 And if you can't get them from me -- I am sure
22 I have those records because my wife does keep the
23 records year after year. So there is no problem there.

24 Mr. Triplett. Very good.

25 You mentioned Manuel Arttime --

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1 The Witness. (Interposing) That is Marlona.

2 Mr. Triplett. Marlona Arttime.

3 The Witness. Right.

4 Mr. Triplett. You mentioned Marlona Arttime as
5 one of those that had contact with high people in
6 the government.

7 The Witness. Yes.

8 Mr. Triplett. What exactly was your relationship
9 during the early 1960's with Marlona Arttime?

10 The Witness. Well, I knew Marlona Arttime.
11 Marlona Arttime came out of Cuba working with the CIA.
12 He went into South America and then he came up to --
13 because we more or less founded here in exile, the
14 MRR movement and with the funds that the MRR movement
15 was getting from Central Intelligence Agency, one
16 of the safe houses that we had was on Brickell Avenue,
17 and Marlona occasionally came there to Brickell Avenue
18 because we used that as an office. And many of the
19 Cuban exiles who worked for the Agency and did not
20 work for the Agency, coming out of Cuba, this was the
21 first place they would come to, the Brickell Avenue
22 safe house.

23 Mr. Triplett. Now you say Marlona Arttime came
24 out of Cuba working for the CIA. To your knowledge,
25 was he working for the CIA before he left Cuba?

1 The Witness. I am not sure really. Because
2 again I will say I did not know Marlona Arttime in
3 Cuba. I only met Marlona after he came out of Cuba.

4 When he came out of Cuba, I do not know where
5 he made his contact with CIA or they made contact
6 with him. Either in South America or here in Miami.

7 When he came to Miami he was under the control
8 of CIA.

9 Mr. Triplett. I see.

10 And the Brickell Avenue -- you would refer to
11 that as a safe house, at Brickell Avenue?

12 The Witness. Yes. That is what it was.

13 This is where Geraldine Shamma had her little
14 apartment in the back up on the second floor. Because
15 downstairs was the garage. I do not know whether it
16 was a double or triple garage. It is still there on
17 Brickell Avenue today.

18 Mr. Triplett. You had, I presume, various
19 meetings there?

20 The Witness. Yes. All there, yes.

21 Mr. Triplett. And that included yourself and
22 the Diez Lanz brothers?

23 The Witness. Yes. And many others.

24 Mr. Triplett. Eduardo?

25 The Witness. No. Eduardo never came there. At

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1 least not to my knowledge. Eduardo never came there.
2 Because he did not have direct contact with us.

3 Mr. Triplett. Well, he did in a sense have
4 control, did he not?

5 The Witness. Well, the political. Again the
6 political aspects of the thing. Remember, I was
7 military.

8 Mr. Triplett. But the financing too, was
9 dependent upon the political aspects, were they not?

10 The Witness. Yes.

11 Mr. Triplett. So in that sense he did have
12 a fairly important control over the operations?

13 The Witness. Yes.

14 But that is people other than myself. For
15 instance like Arttime and other people. They had
16 direct control with him. I did not.

17 Mr. Triplett. I see.

18 You, I am sure in many interviews, both
19 official and unofficial, have been questioned as to
20 where you were on November 22nd, 1963.

21 The Witness. Yes.

22 Mr. Triplett. My first question in this area,
23 is where were you on the evening of November 21st, 1963?

24 The Witness. I am quite sure that I was here
25 in Miami.

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1 Mr. Triplett. On what do you base that assurance?

2 The Witness. I really can not say. I was here
3 on the 22nd --

4 Mr. Triplett. (Interposing) The 22nd is the
5 day of the assassination. I am talking about the
6 evening prior.

7 The Witness. I had to be here. I had to be
8 here.

9 Mr. Triplett. Again, I know in your own mind
10 it is clear, but if you can verbalize it, how do
11 you know you had to be here?

12 The Witness. Well, the only thing I can say
13 is the witnesses who have told me, for instance, my
14 mother-in-law, my nephew. He lived with me. My
15 wife, myself and I believe Jim Buchanan, I believe
16 Bill Johnson, because we were involved in air
17 operations at that time.

18 Mr. Triplett. Are you saying you later discussed
19 it with all of these people?

20 The Witness. Oh, when this thing started
21 coming out, naturally, certainly I discussed it with
22 them. Because I had to put clear in my mind where
23 I was before. I knew where I was that day because
24 I saw it on television. I saw it on television.

25 Mr. Triplett. Did you see it when it occurred, or

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1 on reruns?

2 The Witness. I imagine it was reruns on
3 television that day.

4 As a matter of fact when Marita Lorenz made
5 these accusations and I went to New York and I was
6 arrested by the New York Police Department, and I
7 was released on bond, I immediately told my Attorney,
8 that I wanted to take a polygraph examination.

9 In the past, I volunteered to take a polygraph
10 examination with the Watergate Committee, with the
11 Rockefeller Committee, and volunteered with every
12 committee to take a polygraph.

13 Now here, with this mess that Marita Lorenz
14 created, I asked my lawyer, I want to take a polygraph.
15 And I did take a polygraph and I passed the polygraph.

16 Mr. Triplett. Well, when you say you passed,
17 you are telling us that the finding was that you were
18 not deceptive in your answers?

19 The Witness. That is right. And if you would
20 like to ask me questions of what I was asked and what
21 my answers were, I would be very happy to tell you.

22 Mr. Triplett. Frankly I do not want to get
23 into a second hand account of some other polygraph.

24 The Witness. All right.

25 Mr. Triplett. And again, just to make our record

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1 clean, I know you have been asked and answered these
2 questions many times before. But where exactly where
3 were you on November 22nd when President Kennedy was
4 assassinated?

5 The Witness. At my home at 2515 Northwest 122
6 Street, Miami, Florida, zip code 33167.

7 Mr. Triplett. And that is still your home today?

8 The Witness. Yes.

9 Mr. Triplett. What were you doing at that time
10 at your home?

11 The Witness. Possibly I was sleeping or I
12 was in the bedroom. And I believe my mother-in-law
13 came, you know, and said that there was some news
14 on the television that the President was assassinated.

15 Mr. Triplett. I believe there is two hours
16 time difference between Florida and Texas. So that
17 would have made it about 2:30 in the afternoon, on
18 a Friday afternoon.

19 Were you unemployed at that time? Why were not
20 you at work?

21 The Witness. I was again doing operations,
22 before, during and after that particular time.

23 Mr. Triplett. I see.

24 And who else was at your home at that time?

25 The Witness. Just the people I mentioned. It

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1 was my mother-in-law, my nephew, my wife, myself.
2 And as a matter of fact, Jim Buchanan did mention to
3 me during all this exposure over the JFK assassination
4 that he came over, he told me that he came over to
5 the house that afternoon and that I left with him that
6 afternoon. So there is a possible outside witness
7 other than my family who knew that I was there that
8 particular day.

9 Mr. Triplett. Jim Buchanan?

10 The Witness. Jim Buchanan, yes.

11 Also a William Johnson, who was doing a series
12 of operations with me. I believe that he can verify
13 that I was in town before and after the assassination.

14 Mr. Triplett. Do you know where William Johnson
15 is currently located?

16 The Witness. Yes, sir. He lives in Miami today
17 and he lives off of Brickell Avenue in Sansusi Estates.
18 I do have his phone number. His phone number is
19 893-6013. His address I don't know because I know
20 how to get there, you know. But I do have his address
21 in my address book in my automobile. It is no problem.
22 If he wishes to have it, I will give it to Mr. Fonzi.

23 Mr. Triplett. Now you have mentioned a couple
24 of times in other answers, the allegations recently
25 made by Marita Lorenz.

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1 Let me ask you specifically, did you, in the
2 company of Marita Lorenz, Leon Oswald and others,
3 drive to Dallas a day or two before the assassination?

4 The Witness. Sir, that is an absolute lie. I
5 have never been with Marita Lorenz and Osie, as she
6 calls him, or with Pedro Diez Lanz, or Marcus Diez
7 Lanz, or Dr. Orlando Bosch, or Jerry Patrick, which
8 she claimed all of us besides some other Cubans, were
9 in two automobiles and left Miami, Florida two days
10 before the assassination of the President of the
11 United States. She is a liar. I took a polygraph
12 examination to that effect that I have never been
13 involved in any conspiracy to kill the President of
14 the United States, nor did I kill the President of
15 the United States, nor was I with her at any time
16 conspiring to kill the President of the United States,
17 nor was I with her in any automobile with these people
18 or any other people going to Dallas to plot to kill
19 the President of the United States. She is an absolute
20 liar.

21 Mr. Triplett. Well, not getting into her
22 character, which I am certain you have very strong
23 emotions about, it is your testimony then that that
24 is not true? You never made such a trip?

25 The Witness. Not only not true, she is a liar,

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1 and I believe --

2 Mr. Rubin. (Interposing) No. Just tell him,
3 did you make the trip?

4 The Witness. No. I did not make the trip, sir.

5 Mr. Triplett. Very good. Thank you.

6 At any time during the year 1963, were you in
7 Dallas, Texas?

8 The Witness. I have went, because of operations
9 that I had been doing and so forth, traveled through
10 Texas into Mexico, into Central America, in and out.
11 And I would say yes, sir, I probably have been through
12 not only Dallas, but other cities in Texas. Yes, sir.

13 Mr. Triplett. Now specifically around June
14 or July of '63, did you go to Dallas for the purpose
15 of purchasing weapons?

16 The Witness. I have never been to Dallas where
17 I stayed at any particular instance in order to buy
18 any weapons or anything in Dallas or anyplace in Texas.

19 Anytime I went through Texas it was strictly
20 transient.

21 Mr. Triplett. Your answer begs a question a
22 little bit. Whether or not you stayed in Dallas for
23 the purpose of buying weapons. Did you ever go to
24 Dallas to buy weapons around June or July of '63?

25 The Witness. No, sir.

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1 Mr. Triplett. Were you ever in an automobile
2 with Heming, Bosch and Marita Lorenz in the Florida
3 Keys?

4 The Witness. No, sir.

5 Mr. Triplett. Never?

6 The Witness. No, sir. With Marita Lorenz, Dr.
7 Orlando Bosch and Jerry Patrick Heming?

8 Mr. Triplett. Correct?

9 The Witness. No, sir.

10 Mr. Triplett. Now you have mentioned both
11 Jerry and Jim Buchanan in a lot of your other answers.
12 And it is correct, is it not, that they are primarily
13 journalists by trade? Newspaper men?

14 The Witness. Primarily. Yes, sir.

15 Mr. Triplett. And have you, on occasion,
16 provided them with information to incorporate into
17 articles, or which they did in fact incorporate into
18 articles?

19 The Witness. Some. Yes, sir.

20 Mr. Triplett. And could you give us some
21 estimate on how many occasions this may have occurred?

22 The Witness. No, sir. I couldn't give you a
23 correct estimate. No.

24 Mr. Triplett. But would it be a fair statement
25 to say that you have provided them with information

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1 that they have used in articles on numerous occasions?

2 The Witness. Some. Some of the articles they
3 used. Some. Yes. I won't go into details. Some
4 of it, yes.

5 Mr. Triplett. And this would be both about --
6 well first -- some of this information would have been
7 about your anti-Castro activities?

8 The Witness. Yes, sir.

9 Mr. Triplett. And some of the information
10 would have been your views, or reactions regarding
11 the numerous allegations concerning the assassination
12 of President Kennedy?

13 The Witness. Some, yes. Because I do not
14 agree with everything the newspaper reporters write.

15 Mr. Triplett. Well, I am sure we all understand
16 that.

17 But you have provided them on occasions with
18 information regarding your views as to the assassination?

19 The Witness. Yes, sir.

20 Mr. Triplett. And the allegations?

21 The Witness. That is right.

22 Mr. Triplett. Would it be fair to say the
23 same regarding Paul Mescal (phonetic)?

24 The Witness. Yes, sir.

25 Mr. Triplett. You have provided him with such

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1 information on occasion and has subsequently been used
2 in articles?

3 The Witness. Yes, sir. Even though I do not
4 agree with everything he writes, yes, sir.

5 Mr. Triplett. And how about Andrew St. George?

6 The Witness. He is a lying son-of-a-bitch.

7 Mr. Triplett. I did not ask about his
8 character.

9 The Witness. It is not his character. He is
10 a liar.

11 Mr. Triplett. Have you had occasion to be
12 interviewed by him, or have him ask you for information
13 that has subsequently been used either for or against
14 you in articles and publications?

15 The Witness. I have never given this man
16 information during the Watergate trials, and what
17 he has written about his association with me pertaining
18 to a number of things, this is why I say he is a
19 lying son-of-a-bitch.

20 But in the past, yes. Because in Cuba, he was
21 there as a free-lance photographer, reporter and so
22 forth and he was in touch with me. Yes. But I have
23 not seen him after we left Cuba. The last time I
24 saw him was just before the Watergate thing.

25 This man is typical of some of the news media

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1 reporting. And I say some of them, because not all
2 of them are that way.

3 Mr. Triplett. So, you are saying that from
4 at least June 1960 until the early 1970's, you did
5 not see Andrew St. George?

6 The Witness. Not to my knowledge. In all those
7 years I have not seen Andrew St. George.

8 Mr. Triplett. Has he ever tape recorded an
9 interview with you?

10 The Witness. It is possible. I don't know.
11 I'm not sure. I do not think so. At least I am not
12 aware of it.

13 Mr. Triplett. Have you talked with him over
14 the phone during that same period?

15 The Witness. Yes.

16 Mr. Triplett. How many occasions?

17 The Witness. On a number of occasions. He was
18 trying to get me to sign a contract to write a book.
19 And because of my feelings of his underhanded ways of
20 going about it and with him not wanting to have my
21 Attorney look over the contract, I did not sign a
22 contract with him. So I blew the deal.

23 Mr. Triplett. Now have you personally had
24 occasion to investigate the various allegations
25 regarding the assassination of John F. Kennedy?

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1 The Witness. As much as I could financially.
2 Because again, my financial -- this thing has not
3 come about until after the Watergate situation and
4 my financial situation since Watergate has completely
5 destroyed me. But what monies I did have and so
6 forth, in buying certain books and researching them,
7 and also obtaining from friends of mine who at one
8 time did have a connection with CIA and documents that
9 these people have shown me and given me, I have tried
10 by best to show that there was a link between Ruby
11 and Oswald, which would show that there was a
12 conspiracy to kill the President of the United States.

13 Mr. Triplett. Have you worked with, or
14 cooperated with Jack Anderson in any of these
15 investigative efforts?

16 The Witness. Well, when you say worked, no.
17 I have never worked for Jack Anderson.

18 Mr. Triplett. Have you provided information
19 to him, possibly the results of your own investigative
20 efforts?

21 The Witness. Well I would say Jack and I have
22 been in touch over the period of years since I came
23 from Cuba. I met Jack in Washington, D.C. with
24 Pedro Diez Lanz, and he was trying to help us. He
25 was one of the first newspaper people in this country.

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1 to denounce Fidel Castro as a Communist. Especially
2 with an interview that he had with Pedro Diez Lanz
3 and myself.

4 And also the fact that Pedro Diez Lanz, myself
5 and his brother drove from Miami to Washington to
6 the Senate Committee on -- I forget the correct name
7 of the Committee -- but pertaining to the Communist
8 infiltration in the Cuban Government and military,
9 notifying the American Government of the Communist
10 infiltration, you know, naturally, in Cuba.

11 Jack Anderson, over the period of years has
12 been in touch with me where it pertains to anything
13 that goes on in Latin America because I am aware of
14 it, because of my close connection in the Cuban colony.
15 I am aware of a number of things that goes on in a
16 number of the countries, especially in Cuba.

17 Where it comes that Cuba is involved in many
18 things, I will go out to see my friends who give me
19 information because we try to keep up to date on the
20 Cuban situation in this hemisphere. And Jack has
21 asked me certain things which I will not give Jack,
22 as a newspaper man, a lot of information that I feel
23 he should not have.

24 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever given, or passed
25 on information to Jack Anderson at the request or

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1 suggestion of any Government Intelligence Agency?

2 The Witness. No, sir, I have not.

3 As a matter of fact when I came from Cuba years
4 ago, Jack Anderson thought I might be a good asset
5 to the CIA and wanted me to be introduced to an Admiral
6 who at the time was a high ranking CIA official, and
7 I refused. Because of my involvement here naturally.

8 Mr. Triplett. Now wait, I do not understand
9 that.

10 You refused to be introduced --

11 The Witness. (Interposing) To a high ranking
12 CIA official who was an Admiral. Had the rank of
13 Admiral at that time.

14 Mr. Triplett. And why?

15 The Witness. Because of my work that I was doing
16 here that I did not want to tell Jack of my association
17 with my friends with the United States Government in
18 this area.

19 Mr. Triplett. And your friends. You are talking
20 about CIA assets here, or the anti-Castro Cubans?

21 The Witness. I am talking about my Cuban friends
22 who had close connections with the American Government
23 from the President all the way down, and the Agencies
24 that were involved.

25 Mr. Triplett. Now I believe I asked you this

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1 already, but I just want to make it very clear.

2 Did you ever conduct an investigation into
3 the assassination of John F. Kennedy?

4 The Witness. As much as I could on my own,
5 you know, my own financial status in the last number
6 of years. Naturally, by talking with friends of
7 mine who have past CIA connections.

8 Mr. Triplett. Was any of this ever in
9 conjunction with E. Howard Hunt?

10 The Witness. No. No, sir.

11 Mr. Triplett. Did you ever do any investigation
12 into the assassination as far back as 1964?

13 The Witness. Well, as far back as 1964, this
14 turmoil of the President being assassinated naturally,
15 you know, had a great effect on us here in the Cuban
16 exile colony. So naturally we tried to go ahead and
17 get all the information that we possibly could.

18 And the information that I have received was
19 that Castro's Intelligence Service was involved in
20 the assassination.

21 Mr. Triplett. And did you turn that information
22 over to the Warren Commission at that time?

23 The Witness. No, sir. The information that
24 was turned over by my friends were turned over to a
25 Mr. Al Tarabuchia here in the South Florida area, and

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1 also to the FBI through friends of mine.

2 Mr. Triplett. What is Mr. Al Tarabuchia's
3 position, or what was it at that time?

4 The Witness. I forget. I think he worked --
5 I couldn't exactly tell you the correct name because
6 I could be wrong and you know, I don't know, but he
7 did work with the Government. Whether it was
8 internal security, but we did know that he had
9 somewhat of an involvement even before the Bay of
10 Pigs invasion, you know. He was a conduit, let's
11 say, for the Government in this area here.

12 And I could possibly go as far as saying that
13 Mr. Tarabuchi also was a person who might have been
14 in touch with the Dade County, you know, the local
15 law enforcement agencies for the Federal Government
16 at that time.

17 Mr. Triplett. You say there was an involvement
18 by Cuban Intelligence in the assassination? Is that
19 what you said?

20 The Witness. Yes, sir.

21 Mr. Triplett. On what evidence do you base
22 that?

23 The Witness. Most of it hearsay evidence, sir.

24 Mr. Triplett. Okay. What is the nature of the
25 hearsay evidence, other than the conclusion that it

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1 was somehow involved with Cuban intelligence? In
2 what way?

3 The Witness. Well, when I say it was mostly
4 hearsay, for instance, Oswald left the United States
5 so easily to go into Russia, when at that particular
6 time it was so difficult for any foreigner to get
7 into Russia, and difficult for any Russians to leave
8 Russia. Here, Oswald had an easy entry into Russia;
9 Oswald spent approximately two, two and a half years
10 in Russia; he spent his time in Minsk where there
11 was an intelligence school there for Cuban intelligence
12 officers. We believed at that particular time, and
13 I believe until this present day, that Oswald's
14 contact was with the Cuban Intelligence Service because
15 of this school that was there.

16 He left Russia so easily, taking a Russian wife
17 whose uncle was a high ranking intelligence officer.
18 Took his child that was born in Russia so easily and
19 came back.

20 One or two people who had an association with
21 the American Embassy made contact with Oswald in
22 Russia, which I believe either work for the Central
23 Intelligence Agency, or they were briefed before
24 talking with Oswald, or briefed after the interview
25 with Oswald. Again, Oswald coming into the United

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1 States, into the area of Dallas and New Orleans and
2 so forth, the Mohrenschildt's close relationship
3 with him, which I suspected the Mohrenschildts was
4 working or had an association with Central Intelligence
5 Agency.

6 Oswald's contact with Cuban Intelligence Agency
7 in that area. Oswald going to Mexico City, making
8 contact with the Russian and Cuban Embassy, spending
9 five days there. And if anybody has been to Mexico
10 City, you know that you just don't lay around Mexico
11 City. It costs a lot of money. A great deal of money.

12 And all these, with some evidence pertaining
13 to this association and the connection between Ruby
14 and Oswald, with the evidence that was turned over
15 to the FBI in Dallas by individuals who had physical
16 control of this evidence, the FBI sent it to headquarters
17 in Washington, getting a receipt that this evidence
18 was put in the National Archives. And that eventually
19 when the FBI returned, and other people investigating
20 the assassination finding out about this evidence,
21 went to the Archives to find this evidence which
22 linked Oswald and Ruby, this evidence completely
23 disappeared.

24 So systematically over the years, many people
25 investigating the National Archives have found that

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1 there is evidence that has been systematically lost
2 or stolen or destroyed. But there is record that
3 this evidence was there.

4 Mr. Triplett.. I understand what you're saying,
5 Mr. Sturgis, what you related. Now the basic
6 evidence which has been discussed in virtually
7 hundreds of books to date, and which is used for
8 the premise of at least half a dozen theories on who
9 was or may have been involved, and I still don't
10 understand the connection you use to put this evidence,
11 to say okay, that indicates to me, Frank Sturgis,
12 that there was involvement of Cuban Intelligence as
13 opposed to any of a half-dozen other potential groups.

14 I think my question is, is there anything
15 specific that indicates to you, above and beyond what
16 we already have in the books, that yes, Cuban Intelligence
17 was involved as opposed to other possible -- well, I'll
18 admit I am asking you to speculate.

19 The Witness. Only what I have turned over to
20 the Government in the past. Information and documents
21 that I have turned over in the past, which they have
22 and which is on record. That is the only thing I can go
23 by.

24 Mr. Triplett. All right. There are just a
25 few more names that I want to ask you about to see if

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1 you have any knowledge of them or had any associations
2 with them.

3 Are you familiar with a Rich Lauchli, spelled
4 L-a-u-c-h-l-i?

5 The Witness. Yes.

6 Mr. Triplett. When and how did you first meet
7 him?

8 The Witness. I do not know how I met him, but
9 I know at one time another friend of mine who has
10 been a newspaper man -- his name is Yamas Montez
11 (phonetic) -- Yamas Montez is a person who was in
12 close contact with General Wesson in the Dominican
13 Republic, but I won't go into that because it has
14 nothing to do with this.

15 Mr. Triplett. Your association with Rich
16 Lauchli.

17 The Witness. And him and I took a trip over
18 to Rich Lauchli. I think it was in Chicago. He
19 had a farm, or at his home, or something in Chicago,
20 where we bought a number of equipment from him. And
21 he belonged to an organization. I'm trying to remember
22 the name of the organization. The Minute Men
23 organization. And somehow we found out, because
24 evidently they must have sent people into this area
25 here. And it is possible that I met him down here in

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1 this area here, trying to go ahead and sell the
2 Cuban revolutionaries guns and equipment that we
3 would need to fight against Castro.

4 Now I do not know how I met this man, but I
5 did meet the man and I did go get some minor equipment
6 from him. From this Richard Lauchli. And after
7 that I never had any more contact with him.

8 Mr. Triplett. That was during the early 1960's
9 you were talking about?

10 The Witness. Yes.

11 Mr. Triplett. Did you ever have an occasion
12 to meet a Mitch Warbell?

13 The Witness. I do not recall ever personally
14 meeting Mitch Warbell, but I have spoken with Mitch
15 Warbell. And Mitch Warbell says he knew me 15 years
16 ago, and I do not recall.

17 Mr. Triplett. Well, if you spoke with him,
18 sometime or another you met him. Correct?

19 The Witness. Well, not personally. Over the
20 telephone.

21 Mr. Triplett. I see.

22 The Witness. I don't ever recall meeting the
23 man personally.

24 Mr. Triplett. Are you familiar with a man
25 named Bernardo DiToros (phonetic)?

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1 The Witness. No. I do not recall the name.

2 How do you pronounce that name again?

3 Mr. Triplett. DiToros?

4 The Witness. No.

5 Mr. Triplett. How about a man named Doug
6 Gupton (phonetic)?

7 The Witness. No.

8 Mr. Triplett. David Phillips?

9 The Witness. He is another son-of-a-bitch.
10 Chief of Western Hemisphere Division, CIA.

11 Mr. Triplett. Did you ever have any
12 association with him at any time?

13 The Witness. I honestly do not know whether
14 I met him at the Embassy in Havana. But he was
15 stationed at the Embassy in Havana. And if he was
16 stationed there, which supposedly he was when I was
17 there, he is nothing but a pro-communist bastard.
18 You will have to excuse my language, but this is
19 what I think of people. I am so strongly anti-
20 communist and so strongly anti-Castro, that these
21 are the type of people that made a lot of my friends
22 get killed in Cuba for nothing.

23 Mr. Triplett. But to the best of your recollection
24 at this point, you do not recall any meetings with him?

25 The Witness. With Phillips? No.

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1 Mr. Triplett. All right.

2 Have you ever met with John Martino?

3 The Witness. Yes, sir.

4 Mr. Triplett. When and where have you met with
5 him?

6 The Witness. In Havana, Cuba.

7 Mr. Triplett. And would you please relate what
8 occurred at that meeting, or those meetings?

9 The Witness. Well, he came to meet me because
10 he heard about me being with the Castro forces and
11 he introduced himself to me and that was it, really.

12 Then I think he got in some trouble in Havana.
13 And the reason why he got in trouble in Havana was
14 because he was black marketing, selling Cuban money.
15 Buying and selling Cuban money. That is why he was
16 arrested.

17 And that is all I know about Martino except
18 he came to the United States and I believe he did come
19 over to my house at 60th Court at another time and
20 so forth. That is the only thing I remember.

21 Mr. Triplett. What happened when he came to
22 your house?

23 The Witness. I don't know. I said I believe
24 that he probably came over to my house. Because I
25 had a lot of people come over to see Pedro and myself.

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1 My home on 60th Court was like, you know, the
2 headquarters for our organization.

3 Mr. Triplett. Okay. John Martino got arrested
4 in Cuba. You said you met with him?

5 The Witness. He met me in Cuba. Under what
6 circumstances I forget really, where I first met Martino
7 in Cuba.

8 Mr. Triplett. You do not recall any purpose
9 for meeting with him?

10 The Witness. No. He came to meet me. There
11 is a lot of people that came to Cuba wanted to meet me
12 because I was one of several Americans who were with
13 the Castro Gorilla Forces.

14 Mr. Triplett. Okay. But you do not recall
15 the purpose? Why he came to meet you?

16 The Witness. No. Not really. He just wanted
17 to meet me. I do not recall the purpose. No.

18 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever had any association
19 with Opus Dei?

20 The Witness. No. Not that I recall. I don't
21 know the man.

22 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever been involved in
23 an assassination attempt on Fidel Castro in company
24 with Lionel Gomez?

25 The Witness. I know Lionel Gomez. Myself personally

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1 no. An assassination attempt with him? No.

2 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever planned an
3 assassination with him?

4 The Witness. He discussed it with me, you know,
5 and all that.

6 Again, you can talk about something and unless
7 you have got the funding, you can't do nothing.

8 Mr. Triplett. Okay. So he discussed it with
9 you and so you discussed it with him, right?

10 The Witness. Well, he discussed it with me.
11 I told him to forget about it. No possible way.

12 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever been involved in
13 any operations with Joe Rabell?

14 The Witness. I don't know Joe Rabell.

15 Mr. Triplett. You never met a Joe Rabell?

16 The Witness. Unless he come under a different
17 name. No Joe Rabell.

18 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever had any associations
19 with Cliff Childress (phonetic)?

20 The Witness. I don't think I know him. The
21 name is not familiar.

22 Mr. Triplett. How about Norman Diez (phonetic)?

23 The Witness. That name is not familiar.

24 Mr. Triplett. Now you already clarified your
25 response to the allegations of Marita Lorenz.

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1 The Witness. Yes.

2 Mr. Triplett. At any time, to your knowledge,
3 prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, did
4 you ever have any contact with Lee Harvey Oswald or
5 have any knowledge of his attempting to contact you
6 or your organization?

7 The Witness. Well, before the assassination
8 of the President of the United States -- this is
9 where the confusion comes in because Jerry Buchanan
10 told me -- Jerry Buchanan, how I met him was part
11 of the Jerry Patrick group of many Americans and
12 Canadians that was in this area.

13 Mr. Triplett. The Jerry Patrick group. For
14 the record, are you talking about the Interpen
15 organization?

16 The Witness. Well, the group before he had
17 Interpen. There was a group of Americans that lived
18 off of 17th Avenue in some woman's house, a nice
19 woman's house and so forth.

20 And Jerry Patrick was -- I mean rather, Jerry
21 Buchanan was part of this group with the Masferer
22 people. And Jerry Buchanan seemed to be a real nice
23 kid. He was a young kid. And I used to tell him,
24 look, Rolando Masferer is not the type of people
25 for you to be with because if this man ever goes to

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1 Cuba, you have the Cuban people that don't like him
2 and naturally they are not going to like you because
3 of his reputation under the Batista regime.

4 So this is how I got to meet Jerry Bucanhan.

5 Now I forgot what the question was.

6 Mr. Triplett. Whether or not there was any
7 approach to you or your organization by Lee Harvey
8 Oswald.

9 The Witness. Oh. So with his brother, Jim
10 Bucanhan being a newspaper man up there at the
11 Sun Sentinenal in Fort Lauderdale, Jerry spoke to
12 me one day and mentioned the fact, after the
13 assassination, he mentioned the fact to me, he says
14 well, he says there is a possibility that Oswald was
15 down here in this area trying to infiltrate the Cuban
16 exile groups here before the assassination. But there
17 was nothing definite. Because I found out through
18 my own connections and so forth that Oswald was not
19 down in this area, at least that I knew of. That he
20 was not down in this area and that he tried to go
21 ahead and infiltrate our group and other Cuban groups.

22 There was a student directorate group that was
23 operating here also and they have made statements to
24 the effect, and also to us, that there was a possibility
25 that Oswald -- now there might have been a communication

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1 gap there because they had their group also down
2 there in New Orleans, you know, and that Oswald
3 possibly would have been in this area here.

4 So this is where it came about that Oswald was
5 possibly in this area trying to infiltrate the Cuban
6 exile groups.

7 Mr. Triplett. Well, aside from the word that
8 was essentially just around that he might have been
9 in the area trying to infiltrate, do you know of
10 anybody that said yeah, I saw him trying to infiltrate,
11 or saw him in the area?

12 The Witness. Well Jerry told me that he thought
13 he had a fight with him.

14 Mr. Triplett. Jerry Buchanan?

15 The Witness. Jerry Buchanan.

16 Mr. Triplett. Or Jerry Patrick?

17 The Witness. No. Jerry Buchanan. That is
18 what he told me.

19 Mr. Triplett. Upon what did he base that?

20 The Witness. I don't know. Maybe because of
21 the times and with the possibility of the information
22 going in the Cuban colony, that there was a possibility
23 that Oswald was in this area. But we found out later
24 that it was not so.

25 Mr. Triplett. And how did you find that out?

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1 The Witness. Through word of mouth. Through
2 our people in the Cuban colony.

3 Not only that, the Federal Agents in this area.
4 You know, when the assassination occurred, you could
5 imagine, everybody in this area, from the local police
6 department to the Dade County Sheriff's Department,
7 to every Federal Agency in this area here, was on
8 alert doing their own investigation into, you know,
9 this assassination. Doing their own private
10 investigation. And we could find nothing in this
11 area.

12 And I think the CIA boys in this area at that
13 time were asked about Oswald being in this area and
14 so forth. Because many of my friends again, for
15 instance line Salvadore Garcia, who worked for the
16 Agency and who gave me certain documents to turn
17 over to the committees and so forth that tried to
18 show the link between Oswald and Ruby, also -- like
19 I say, there was no way to find out. No proof. You
20 know, strong proof that Oswald was in the area.

21 Mr. Triplett. Let me ask you, you know, I have
22 run through a lot of names and I have got a few more.

23 The Witness. Go ahead.

24 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever had any association
25 or ever met David Morales (phonetic)?

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1 The Witness. David Morales? That sounds
2 familiar. I don't recall off-hand. It sounds familiar.

3 Mr. Triplett. It is our understanding that he
4 also was known as Elinio (phonetic). He was a Mexican
5 American.

6 The Witness. Like I say, it sounds very familiar.
7 There is a possibility. I'm not sure and I can't
8 put in my mind where I heard the name, or if I met
9 this person.

10 Mr. Triplett. All right.

11 How about a Giffrey Pinchot?

12 The Witness. Is that how you pronounce it?
13 How do you spell that last name?

14 Mr. Triplett. P-i-n-c-h-o-t.

15 The Witness. P-i-n-c-h-o-t? I'm not sure.
16 I'm thinking again with Alex Roark introducing me
17 to somebody in New York that had some name that
18 started with a "P" on the end of that. And I'm not
19 sure of the phrasing of the name. An elderly man.
20 At that time he was an elderly man.

21 Mr. Triplett. Who was this person you were
22 introduced to in New York?

23 The Witness. I'm not sure really who he was.
24 I am not sure, really.

25 Mr. Triplett. Well, was there a purpose for

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1 the introduction?

2 The Witness. Not really. Because Alex
3 introduced me to a lot of people in New York. Not
4 a lot, but a number of people in New York. Because
5 he wanted to introduce them to me because of my
6 being a Rebel officer in Cuba.

7 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever met a Ricardo
8 Morales?

9 The Witness. I'm not sure of the name. I'm
10 not sure of it.

11 Mr. Triplett. Ricardo Morales. The nickname
12 would have been Elmono?

13 The Witness. Elmono? Oh, the monkey? Morales
14 the monkey? I'm not sure. Believe me, I'm not sure.
15 But I know who he is. I think maybe I did meet the
16 monkey. Morales is the one who is in Venezuela. He
17 was the one that got in a fight with another friend,
18 not a friend, an acquaintance that I know by the name
19 of Mavaretti (phonetic). As a matter of fact he shot
20 Mavaretti. Mavaretti is in prison today.

21 Morales is the guy that is in Cuba today. I
22 think he is Chief of Airport Security there. All the
23 Cubans know who he is.

24 Mr. Triplett. What, if any, association did you
25 have with him?

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1 The Witness. I don't know really, if I had
2 any association with this man or not. I'll be
3 honest with you. Because he has been involved in so
4 many things. And again, you know, unless I'm close
5 with them, you know, if they're friends of mine.
6 But this man here, I may have run across him in the
7 past, met him in the past.

8 Mr. Triplett. Have you ever had occasion to
9 form a church?

10 The Witness. Yes. Right. Independent Church
11 of God.

12 Mr. Triplett. When was this?

13 The Witness. This was before Watergate. My
14 intentions of this church, because of the nature of
15 me being with the special intelligence unit, I felt
16 that once I would be, you know, after these particular
17 operations, I wanted to go ahead and raise funds and
18 put missions in certain Central American countries
19 or South American countries for the purpose of helping
20 the poor people in that area. But I never got around
21 to it because I went to jail and that flopped.

22 Mr. Triplett. So the purpose of this church
23 was to raise money?

24 The Witness. Yes. I would have to go ahead
25 and have a fund raising campaign. And I wanted Jim

1 McCord to help me on that because of his contacts
2 in Washington.

3 Mr. Triplett. Well, with respect to this church,
4 were you or any of your friends ever ordained as
5 ministers?

6 The Witness. Well, the church charter had,
7 how do you say, it was formed where if you wanted to
8 ordain ministers, you can ordain ministers for the
9 purpose of, you know, doing exactly what I said.

10 Mr. Triplett. Who chartered the church?

11 The Witness. I did. I formed the charter
12 and chartered it with Tallahassee. Anybody can do
13 that.

14 Mr. Triplett. I understand that.

15 But was there any affiliation with any other
16 organization?

17 The Witness. No. Strictly on my own. Strictly
18 on my own. It was my personal thing.

19 As a matter of fact, if I ever get in the
20 financial situation, I wish to form a new organization
21 to either do the same thing, if the money can be
22 raised through professional advertising and professional
23 fund raisers, to do the same thing. You know, helping
24 people having missions, to help people.

25 Mr. Triplett. Now when I first asked you the

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1 question about the church you said because of my
2 relationship with the special intelligence unit.
3 What unit were you referring to?

4 The Witness. The unit that was formed by the
5 President of the United States and the unit I belonged
6 to, and my other three companions. The so-called
7 Plumbers.

8 Mr. Triplett. Let's take a five minute break.

9 (A short recess was taken.)

10 Mr. Triplett. All right. Just a few more
11 questions and we'll be done, Mr. Sturgis. Let me
12 throw one more name at you.

13 The Witness. All right.

14 Mr. Triplett. Do you know, or have you ever
15 met a Francisco Rodriguez Tomio (phonetic), his
16 nickname is El Mexicano?

17 The Witness. Yes, sir.

18 Mr. Triplett. When and where did you first
19 meet him?

20 The Witness. I believe I met him probably one
21 time in Cuba and in exile here one time. And that's
22 about it.

23 Mr. Triplett. And what occurred, if anything,
24 at those meetings.

25 The Witness. Well, he was in a Cuban restaurant

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1 when I came by dressed in his Rebel uniform. He was
2 here in exile, with his beard and I ran across him,
3 and hi, and so forth. That's it. No conversation
4 That's it.

5 Mr. Triplett. Okay.

6 Who is Janet Mann?

7 The Witness. My wife. Her name was Janet Hunt.
8 She married a Mann, divorced and naturally I married
9 her.

10 Mr. Triplett. And who is Lora Norris?

11 The Witness. Who? Lora Norris?

12 Mr. Triplett. Yes?

13 The Witness. I believe you are talking about
14 my sister-in-law.

15 Mr. Triplett. I see.

16 The Witness. Who is the sister of my wife.

17 Mr. Triplett. And did the three of you have
18 occasion to form a corporation at some time?

19 The Witness. Oh, yes. If I'm not mistaken
20 it was the church. I put them as officers of the
21 church.

22 Mr. Triplett. I see. So the three of you
23 formed the church, at least on paper?

24 Were either of them active at all in the
25 formation other than being incorporators?

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1 The Witness. No. Just being on there as
2 names.

3 Mr. Triplett. I see. Was this prior to your
4 marrying your wife Janet?

5 The Witness. I don't know. You will have to
6 check the dates really.

7 Mr. Triplett. Well, I think you said you have
8 been married for quite some time. When did you form
9 the church?

10 The Witness. I forget. No, I think I was
11 married at that time.

12 Mr. Triplett. Well, if I told you that on
13 the incorporation papers the name is Janet Mann rather
14 than Janet Sturgis?

15 The Witness. Well then, it had to be before
16 I was married.

17 Mr. Triplett. All right. Let me get this
18 correct.

19 Lora Norris is Janet's sister?

20 The Witness. Yes.

21 Mr. Triplett. So the two sisters and yourself
22 incorporated the church before you married Janet?

23 The Witness... Yes.

24 Mr. Triplett. Did you have any -- let me
25 change that a little. Have you ever met or had any

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1 dealings with a General Biddle?

2 The Witness. No, sir.

3 Mr. Triplett. All right. I don't think I have
4 any further questions at this time. You have been
5 very helpful in answering the questions so far and
6 I know you have brought some information with you.
7 Rather than putting that into the record, I would
8 suggest, could you make it available to my
9 investigators for copying and analysis for use in
10 our investigation?

11 And also it is customary when we have hearings
12 before the committee, at the conclusion of the
13 questioning of a witness, for the Chairman of the
14 Committee to tell the witness that he has five minutes
15 if he wishes, to make any statement on the record.

16 While this isn't a hearing, I think it is a
17 fair custom to follow and if you have any brief
18 statement you want incorporated into the record at
19 this time, feel free to state it.

20 The Witness. No. Satisfied with all the
21 questions.

22 I would like to give copies to Mr. Gaeton Fonzi
23 or Mr. Al Gonzales pertaining to this information
24 which is about Marita Lorenz.

25 Mr. Triplett. Fine. We appreciate it. Thank

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1 you very much.

2 This record is now closed.

3 (Whereupon, at 4:05 p.m., the record was closed.)

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