

## “Most Likely To Go Rogue”

How many times have you heard or read the phrase “Rogue Elements” in regard to the people who pulled off the murder of John Kennedy?

It’s a genius turn of phrase, in this context.

“Rogue Elements.” Fitting.

The word “rogue” is defined as follows by the online version of The Merriam- Webster Dictionary:

Adjective- “Resembling or suggesting a rogue elephant especially in being isolated, dangerous, or uncontrollable; Corrupt, dishonest.”

Noun- “Scoundrel...scamp...tramp...vagrant.”

And under “Verb”, we find- “To go rogue- to begin to behave in an independent or uncontrolled way that is not authorized, normal, or expected.”

**To go rogue- to begin to behave in an independent or uncontrolled way that is not authorized, normal, or expected.**

THAT’s the one.

Whoever did this...they absolutely went rogue. Can’t argue that.

Something drove them to it. They went rogue to solve a problem. They went rogue because...because Kennedy didn’t want to go to Vietnam?

I don’t believe so.

Because Kennedy didn’t want Israel to have nukes?

No, not in my opinion. That’s just... “Conspiracy Buff-Fluff”.

Because Lyndon Johnson told ‘em to?

Lyndon Johnson never “masterminded” a damn thing, in reality– beyond a few stolen local elections in podunk Texas territory– much less Kennedy’s murder. That guy who took to the television airwaves to emphatically state that he’d neither seek nor accept his party’s Presidential nomination was no “evil genius”-type mastermind.

More fluff.

No. The people that decided to be proactive here, the people who decided that setting up a paramilitary-style ambush in an American city in broad daylight for the specific purpose of blowing John Kennedy’s head off was a *good idea*... took this extraordinary step to solve what they considered their own extraordinary problem.

Much has been made in the last 61 years of many people, many groups, many factions that, for many different reasons, had an extraordinary problem of some manner with President Kennedy...and his brother.

Let’s focus a bit on (1) faction in particular. A few individuals, *from* a specific group of 18 individuals. Here’s what I mean:

In late March of 1963, Robert Kennedy's Justice Department put the clamp-down on a carefully chosen list of the most active and most prolific anti-Castro Paramilitary Operatives running privately-funded covert operations and unsanctioned raids into Cuba, confined them to their county of residence, and threatened them with imprisonment if they were caught continuing their efforts to launch raids from US soil.

Despite the public proclamations of support, despite the millions of clandestine dollars thrown at the problem since the late '50s, despite monumental-and-ultimately-futile covert programs such as Operation: MONGOOSE (since scrapped in the wake of The Cuban Missile Crisis), despite the training and guns and ammo and support and cheerleading and no-show jobs and boats and military-surplus gun turrets and envelopes of cash handed out to the wives and safe-houses and front-companies and promises made by agent-handlers...The Kennedys had, in the end— at least in the eyes of a select few of the most well-trained and most dedicated of the anti-Castro Paramilitary Operators— not only abandoned the Operators and their Cause, but had proactively and maliciously moved to pre-empt their efforts to reclaim their homeland.

Shut 'em down.

If the individuals on this list happened to be unfortunate enough to get caught doing exactly what the US Intelligence Apparatus had trained, funded, equipped and encouraged them to do since the Bay Of Pigs disaster? Boats, cars, gear and weapons seized. Possible criminal prosecution.

Shut 'em down.

In my opinion, the motive in Dallas...was Cuba. Cuba was the reason. John Kennedy's perceived acquiescence to The Castro Regime. A perception widely held, and shared by these independent-minded Paramilitary Operators & highly-trained Cuban Exiles— and a select few of their Sponsors and Handlers— who had been *forcibly benched*. A perception that not only were they no longer being supported by The Kennedy Administration, but that The President and his Brother were actively *thwarting* their efforts.

An extraordinary problem. That may have resulted in the most extraordinary of measures.

One can only imagine the level of anger...the level of *resentment*...felt by these paramilitary operators— and their trainers/leaders— after being shut down in the spring of 1963.

Would it be enough to make them easy to recruit? I mean, for this particular Kill Team? The Kill Team recruited to assassinate John Kennedy?

In terms of shooters, spotters, after-action damage assessment, drivers...does their particular skill-set, coupled with their own unique resentment for The Kennedys...make them the most likely to go rogue?

The first book I ever read regarding conspiracy in the Assassination of John Kennedy was David Lifton's "Best Evidence," Checked it out at my local public library during the summer of 1982.

That's a heck of a book for an 11 year old to tackle.

Therein lies the beginning of a 42-year exercise in Amateur Analysis. An embarkation into decades of Amateur History Detective-ism.

Since finishing Lifton's book, I've read...more books on The JFK Assassination than I could possibly recount, both pro-and-con conspiracy. (And re-read a lot of 'em.) I can't even begin to conceive of how many hundreds of hours of my life I've spent studying the material: the documents, the eyewitness statements, pouring over the Declassified Primary Resource Material on the case; The archives of The Mary Ferrell Foundation, The Harold Weisberg Archive at Hood College, The National Security Archive, blogs, monographs, research papers, and on and on and on...and on.

And in those 42 years, after all that study, after all that analysis, after all of the context, the content, the claims, facts, speculation, good information AND bad information consumed, considered and coalesced...I have, ultimately, come to be *absolutely convinced of only* three things.

That's it. That's all. Just three things.

To my own satisfaction, I am SURE...of but three things:

1. Lee Harvey Oswald was *Not Guilty*... of the murder of the 35th President Of The United States;
2. A man named Felipe Vidal-Santiago— although he fired no shots in Dealey Plaza that day— most certainly *was* guilty of participation in the paramilitary-style ambush that murdered John Kennedy in 1963;
3. And so was Vidal's paramilitary cohort. A man named Roy Hargraves.

But, hey...that's just my opinion. Albeit a learned one.

And it's an opinion I do not share lightly.

In this field...the field of "JFK Assassination Research"...if you state an emphatic opinion or claim, you'd better be able to back it up. Preferably to the moon and back. You'd better have *something*. Documents. A *single* document. An eyewitness statement. Corroboration *for* said eyewitness statement.

"Prove it!", they demand. "Citations, please!", they insist.

Can I prove it? Vidal and Hargraves? No.

Of course not. Not Beyond A Reasonable Doubt, in a "court-of-law"-kind of way. No more than Fletcher Prouty could prove beyond a reasonable doubt his claim regarding Ed Lansdale in Dealey Plaza.

Our identification of Felipe Vidal Santiago in Dealey Plaza— like Prouty's Lansdale claim— is based *in-part* on the extant photographic record of the Dallas action, both in-progress and in the aftermath. I think we have Vidal on film. Not only that, but we have more than just, say, one solitary far-off black-and-white snapshot of the back of some guy's head, as is the case with the antiquated Lansdale claims.

I believe that we have *multiple* photographs, along with film-footage of Felipe Vidal-Santiago *in* Dealey Plaza participating in the paramilitary operation implemented to kill John Kennedy. It is *my opinion*...that the individual we have come to collectively know as "Dark-Complexed Man" is, in fact... Felipe Vidal-Santiago.

Again: can I *prove* that to be Vidal in those photos? On that film?

Nope. Not even close.

But that's him.

I'm convinced.

His presence in Dallas during November of 1963 is not an allegation. We know unequivocally, undeniably that Vidal *was indeed* in Dallas in November of 1963. *That* is documented.

By The FBI and The INS, no less.

And Roy Hargraves? He straight-up *told* author Noel Twyman that he and Vidal were *there*. *Participating* in the operation. As part of a four-man support team for the shooters.

Privately and off the record, of course.

But I digress.

In late March of 1963— just days days before someone fired a bullet at the head of Hard-Right ex-US Army General Edwin Walker in Dallas (a shooting which will posthumously be blamed on Lee Oswald)-- Felipe Vidal Santiago became one of the first recipients of what RFK's Justice Department called a "Special Notice Of Prevention Of Departure." Hereby "confined to county".

The Shut-Down.

On April 1, 1963, The New York Times published an article detailing the DOJ's efforts to curtail these independent Cuban raids, and the issued "Notices Of Prevention Of Departure". The article, "United States Curbs Miami Exiles To Prevent Raids On Cuba", read in part:

**"Washington March 31- The government moved today to enforce its policy of preventing Cuban refugees from using US territory to organize and launch raids into Cuba. The Justice Department placed restrictions on 18 Cubans in the Miami area.... the Department did not disclose the names of those restricted. Dispatches confirmed that some members of two exile groups already involved in raids had been given the restriction orders. These were the Alpha 66 and The Second Front Of Escambray groups...Violation of the orders, issued through The Immigration & Naturalization Service, could be enforced by arrest or deportation... In its announcement yesterday that it planned to take 'every necessary step' to prevent raids, the Government expressed sympathy for the anti-Castro cause...The Administration's dilemma was reflected in the careful wording of yesterday's statement. Washington fears that, should the exile attacks continue, the Soviet Union or Cuba would be provoked to retaliate, either against American shipping or against the American reconnaissance planes that now fly over Cuba daily with impunity...'We intend to take every step necessary to insure that such raids are not launched, manned, or equipped on US territory', one official said, 'the sympathy of the US Government and the American People are with those Cubans who wish to see their country free from Communist control...but this understanding does not mean that we are prepared to see our own laws violated with impunity or to tolerate such activities which might provoke armed reprisal...'"**

The US State Department, The Department Of Justice, The Federal Bureau Of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Services, and United States Customs, and CIA would all be

working the problem together. Working together to shut down the autonomous anti-Castro operatives.

The two anti-Castro organizations mentioned in this NYT article— Alpha66 and The Second National Front Of Escambray— were but two of the autonomous exile organizations that had, by that time, absolutely become *gigantic* pains in President Kennedy's ass. These guys were getting more and more brazen, less and less concerned with potential political fallout resulting from their ops. Examples: During the month prior to The Shutdown alone, Alpha66 and The 2nd National Front collaborated on high profile attacks aimed at two Russian ships, opening fire on the Soviet merchant ship *L'Gov* in Cuban waters on the night of March 17-18, and attacking a Soviet ship called *The Baku* in the Cuban port of Caibarién on March 27. The USSR filed immediate Official Diplomatic Protests in both instances, pointing out that The US had strict laws against *exactly* what the Cuban Exiles were continually getting away with. On the regular.

And if these guys weren't already a little cocky, they got cocky. On March 19, they rubbed the first attack right in The Kennedy Administration's grille. Alpha66 and The 2nd National Front got together and held a big joint press conference— in Washington, DC, no less— to announce— and take credit for— the attack on the *L'Gov*. They also— surprise!— vowed to do it again. Which they did, just eight days later.

**To go rogue- to begin to behave in an independent or uncontrolled way that is not authorized, normal, or expected.**

During an Executive Committee Meeting on March 29, Lyndon Johnson suggested using the United States Military to go after the autonomous Cuban Raiders, opining that, "...we would be criticized for letting them go on the one hand, or stopping them on the other", and that the US Military should take all actions necessary "...to halt the unauthorized raids."

McGeorge Bundy was also in favor of shutting them down.

CIA Director John McCone? Leave 'em alone, he said.

JFK and RFK decided to shut 'em down.

Not *all* raids. Keep that in mind. Don't misunderstand; the Kennedys *loved* them some covert ops, just not *others'* covert ops, so much. And there were still *plenty* of covert paramilitary shenanigans planned for Fidel and his lil' rag-tag band of revolutionaries moving into Kennedy's second term.

But that's another several dozen stories.

See...the thing is...when I look at the list of the independent paramilitary operators shut down by The Kennedys, I see a list of individuals who certainly possessed the means to carry out the operation in Dealey Plaza— specialized training, equipment, and real-world covert operations experience. And they certainly had *plenty* of motive.

But, of the people who received these "Notices Of Prevention Of Departure", did any of them— other than, apparently, Vidal— avail themselves of the *opportunity*... to solve their particular extraordinary problem? The problem of The Kennedy Administration and Cuba?

Among the individuals shut down by The Kennedys in April of 1963 were *more than one* who would later be either linked to, suspected of participating in, alleged to have confessed to

participating in, or alleged to have revealed having personal knowledge of The JFK Hit. Case in point, another operative on the list: Antonio Cuesta Del Valle.

Tony Cuesta.

Tony Cuesta (CIA cryptonym: AM/DENIM-14) was a storied and legendary guy. One of the founders of Alpha66 and its splinter-group Commandos L, and a planner/participant in the aforementioned attack on *The Baku* that embarrassed the hell out of The Kennedy Administration. He was *active*, guys. Entrenched, trained, dedicated and *active*. The Real Deal. Connected to many names that we as an historical research community have had reason to study over the decades.

On May 29, 1966, a Tony Cuesta-led Cuban raid was intercepted by Castro's gunboats off the coast of Miramar, Cuba. And as you might expect, a firefight did thus ensue. End result? Cuesta— blind from an explosion and now missing a hand, captured alive. Most of his team dead.

The purpose of this covert op had been to infiltrate two guys— one Armando Romero and one Herminio Diaz Garcia— into Cuba with the mission to assassinate Fidel Castro at The El Comodoro Hotel in Miramar using rocket-fire.

No sooner than these guys managed to get the rockets planted and quasi-aimed at the hotel, no less than eleven of Castro's gunboats were right on top of them. It was over pretty quickly.

Four of Cuesta's six-man team killed, Cuesta and one other man wounded and captured.

Both of the team's would-be assassins— Diaz-Garcia and Romero— were killed in the firefight. Cuesta would spend the next twelve years in prison, in Cuba. He was eventually released as part of a prisoner swap negotiated by the Carter Administration in 1978.

Ever hear of a thing called "The Nassau Conference"? 1995. Some of the most well-known and learned minds who were at that time studying This Thing— some very well known authors and Assassination Researchers— took a trip to the Caribbean for the purpose of having a sit-down with the by-then-Retired Cuban Major General Fabian Escalante, formerly of Cuba's Ministry Of The Interior. This guy was a *Big Deal* (For those of you listening to this rather than reading the transcript, "Big Deal" is in italics.) He was, for decades, Castro's Numero Uno Counter-Intelligence Chief. ( Think "Angleton's job with military rank, but without the paranoia & alcoholism.")

Now, this traveling band of history detectives were looking to have a look at some of The Castro Regime's JFK Assassination files whilst down in the tropics, and to hear from Escalante himself re: what the Cubans knew— and suspected— about Dallas.

And according to Escalante, Cuesta confessed to Escalante *knowledge* of the inner workings of the plot that murdered Kennedy, and named two of the shooters in Dealey Plaza.

It's important to note here that Cuesta did not say "*I was involved*". He said, "*I knew some guys who were.*"

Now, *some* will claim that Cuesta confessed Involvement.

They would be incorrect.

The following is from General Fabian Escalante's own book, "JFK: The Cuba Files- The Untold Story Of The Plot To Kill Kennedy" (published in 2006 as part of Escalante's "The Secret War" series):

**“Shortly before his release, years later, Antonio Cuesta- probably prompted by gratitude for the medical and humane attention he had received in detention, as he had been blinded and maimed in an explosion aboard the vessel he was captaining at the time of his arrest- affirmed that Herminio Diaz-Garcia and Elladio Del Valle were part of the Kennedy Assassination Operation. According to Cuesta, they arrived in Dallas on November 20, 1963 and subsequently handled large sums of money. He affirmed that he learned this from Herminio Diaz, who had referred to it on one occasion.**

**The revelation took us by surprise. Sadly, despite our insistence, we were unable to discover anything more about the event. He probably knew a lot more than he said, but feared for his family or his fate if he returned to Miami. In any event, he offered us nothing more...It was important because, without a doubt, Antonio Cuesta was deeply involved in the Cuban Exile movement, particularly in New Orleans, up until 1966. In addition to its open CIA affiliation, his group was one of those selected for the notorious autonomous operations conducted in 1963...he was one of the key links to the New Orleans Mafia, and as such, participated in smuggling arms out of Dallas in that period.”**

As you and I are painfully aware, the internet is awash with bad information, disinformation, and non-information. If you study the JFK Assassination for a long enough period of time, you kinda feel like a magnet for that stuff.

It's everywhere.

And it matters not, dear reader and/or listener, just which *subtopic* related to the JFK Assassination– be it an individual or event– that you choose to focus your attention upon. You *will* be confronted with inaccurate Bravo Sierra related *to* said individual and/or event.

So beware. Example: Recently, I read in two different places on the internet and in one *actual book*– on the same day, no less– that Tony Cuesta had actually *confessed* to General Escalante that *he*, Cuesta, had been involved in The JFK Hit.

He did no such thing.

Had this actually happened, I'm almost positive that General Escalante would have included it, a tidbit of that magnitude, somewhere in the previously quoted passage from his previously cited book. Or maybe said so in Nassau?

Neither occurred. Therefore we must conclude that Cuesta never made this admission to Escalante.

But hey, the one JFK Assassination book in which I read *that* particular piece of disinformation was ghostwritten for an ex-professional wrestler with a soft-spot for feather boas.

Know what I'm saying?

“Oswald And The CIA”, it *ain't*.

Right below Tony Cuesta on our list of Cuban exile detainees is the name Pedro Diaz Lanz (CIA cryptonym: QD/BIAS). In 1963, by-then-long-time-friend of future Watergate burglar Frank (Fiorini) Sturgis and covert operations cohort of the aforementioned Felipe Vidal Santiago. Indeed, we have a big ol' fistful of CIA documents showing that Diaz Lanz, his brother Marcos, and Vidal were working hot and heavy together in the run-up to Dallas. These documents were generated by Frank Sturgis creeping these guys, then ratting out their plans to his CIA case

officer Bernard Barker, another future Watergate burglar. Barker would *then* dutifully alert The FBI and a Miami Customs Agent named Caesar Diaz of the planned operation.

Part of the shut-down.

As ordered by the Kennedys.

Pedro Diaz Lanz was a bonafide Hero Of The Revolution. By all accounts an ace fighter pilot with a well deserved reputation as a Pro. Joined up with Castro in 1957 and spent the Revolution flying guns into Cuba to fuel said Revolution, and On January 1, 1959, Diaz Lanz was named Chief Of The Revolutionary Air Force by Premier Castro his-own-bad-self. Diaz-Lanz's time occupying this prestigious post lasted just shy of six months.

Diaz-Lanz realized pretty damn quickly that Castro was leaning unabashedly Communist, and made his displeasure regarding this loudly known. He was thus relieved of his post as Air Force Chief, and defected post-haste. Arrived in Miami with his family in a small boat on July 1st of 1959, and wasted no time becoming Active. Putting his aviation-type skills and reputation as a military leader to work in The Secret Cuban War, right off the bat.

Regarding the JFK Conspiracy, Pedro Diaz Lanz and his brother Marcos (CIA cryptonym: QD/CHAR) fall squarely into the "outright accused of participating in"-category. Both were cryptonym-carrying members of a murky, shadowy covert network called The AMOTs (Pedro was AMOT-5, Marcos AMOT-6). This was a super-secret, elite group of Cuban Exiles personally recruited and trained by CIAs David Morales to become Cuba's Intelligence Service after the fall of Castro. The AMOTs are thought by some who study this stuff to have been the perfect "covert mechanism" through which an operation like The Kennedy Assassination would have/could have been run.

The Diaz Lanz Brothers have been considered suspect in regard to the Attack in Dallas since the 60s, and certainly have been accused of involvement by more than one.

Marita Lorenz is just one example.

Marita Lorenz is pretty legendary herself. She met Castro when she was still a teenager, when the cruise ship captained by her father docked in Havana and hosted Fidel for dinner. Castro was extremely taken by her, and she fast became Castro's mistress. After that tryst ended horribly for her, she found herself skillfully manipulated and recruited into The CIA's Secret Cuban War by...Frank Sturgis.

Yep. Same guy.

Eventually Lorenz returned to Cuba on a mission to assassinate Castro— with poison— all by herself. At Sturgis' behest.

And it almost worked.

But it didn't. Lorenz returned to South Florida and The Secret Cuban War and the Exiles and the training camps and the gunrunning and the safehouses and gunboats...and Sturgis. And his buddies.

And as noted earlier, Pedro Diaz-Lanz was certainly Sturgis' buddy. They had worked together in Cuba, fought together *for* Cuba, grown to distrust Fidel together, and run numerous missions in and out of Cuba together since Diaz Lanz's defection.



It's also in this context– the continuing activity of paramilitary operators specifically forbidden by The Kennedys from *actually operating*– that Lorenz's accusations regarding Sturgis, The Diaz Lanz Brothers and The Kennedy Assassination emerge.

It was a caravan, Lorenz said. A caravan of cars, paramilitary anti-Castro personnel, and sniper rifles. From South Florida to Dallas.

In November of 1963.

There are several different versions of Lorenz's recollections of the weekend of The JFK Hit out there, but the version I'll share with you *here* is written in her own hand. In July of 1977, Marita sat down and composed a 17-page letter and gave it to a long-time US Customs agent out of Miami named Stephen Csukas to deliver to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. On November 7 of that year, Csukas hand-delivered the letter to members of the Committee. The version-slash-copy that I'll be reading from is an HSCA document, matter-of-fact, that I found in The Baylor University John Armstrong Archive, there at the Poage Library website, complete with a receipt for the "green notebook" in which her letter was contained, made out to Csukas and signed by a Committee staffer.

In her letter, Lorenz goes into great detail about her initial meeting with Castro, their courtship, the murky circumstances surrounding her removal from Cuba, her recruitment into Frank Sturgis' "International Anti-Communism Brigade", and her failed mission to kill Castro. She also tells of being operational with Diaz-Lanz, and– along *with* Diaz Lanz– meeting a person she is *sure*...was Lee Oswald. He was introduced to her as "Ozzie".

In 1963.

In Florida.

That's right. Florida. Allegedly.

Beginning at the bottom of Page 4 of her letter, Lorenz details this pre-assassination meeting attended by herself, Pedro Diaz-Lanz *and* Lee Oswald in Miami. According to Lorenz, the meeting was arranged by Sturgis, and occurred at the home of prominent and uber-violent Cuban Exile Orlando Bosch.

Lorenz writes:

**"A month or so before November 22, 1963, I joined Frank Fiorini (Sturgis), Ozzie (Lee) and the other Cubans in our group and drove in two cars to the home of Orlando Bosch...This certain 'highly secret meeting' in Bosch's home was to discuss certain streets in Dallas, Texas...There was talk of a 'highly powerful rifle' and discussions of 'feet', 'buildings', 'timing', 'contacts', 'silence', etc...The word 'Kennedy' spoken by Frank and Bosch made me say, 'What about him?' All eyes were on me, studying me when Ozzie started a dispute with Frank and Bosch about my presence. I then told Frank, 'Who needs this slimy bastard?'...In Bosch's house that evening I called Ozzie a 'chivato' to Frank, and when Ozzie challenged me I asked him, 'How did you know the meaning of that word?' (It was Fidel's favorite word for 'informant', 'traitor'). He said he heard it in Cuba..."**

Florida. *And* Cuba.

On page 13 of her handwritten letter, Lorenz begins detailing her experience with Pedro Diaz Lanz, Sturgis, Oswald *and others*... on the weekend of The Kennedy Hit:

**“Sometime in November of 1963, I told Frank ‘sure’, I’ll go with him and others, in two cars to Dallas...we left after midnight in two beat-up looking cars– about 8 or 9 of us with Frank’s ‘baby’, a high-powered rifle, scope and silencer attached, in the trunk of our car. Before we left, we were briefed by Frank, Bosch, and Pedro Diaz-Lanz. No phone calls, no speaking Spanish in Texas, no leaving for a restaurant, complete obedience...”**

According to Lorenz, after arriving in Dallas with Pedro Diaz-Lanz, Sturgis and others, three visitors were received by this traveling band of assassins in their roadside motel room: Lee Oswald– who delivered a newspaper– Jack Ruby, who spoke to Sturgis privately outside, and a balding guy called “Eduardo”, whom Lorenz says she later I.D’d as infamous CIA troublemaker E. Howard Hunt.

Regarding the man Lorenz I.D’d as Jack Ruby:

**“I later told Frank, ‘Where’d you get the Mafia punk? What the hell are we really here for?’ Frank studied me and escorted me outside. He replied by saying, ‘You make the men nervous. I made a mistake, this is too big. I want you to go back to Miami’...I agreed and told him that I didn’t like his selection of men– Ozzie and Ruby– who were new and not team members...I had a feeling, a suspicion, that Frank’s group were in Texas to kill somebody, because of the secrecy of the whole thing. Never in a million years did I put two and two together, or was there ever even hinted as to what they were up to. All I know is that everything I have written, and am writing, is the truth, so help me God.”**

Often, I am *starkly* reminded of just how small this “Covert Universe Of 1963” that we study really was. This circle...this mix of...mafia...intelligence officers...intelligence assets, intelligence and paramilitary operatives, gunrunners, conmen and mercenaries that We The Research Community have come to believe gave birth to this Conspiracy...like Dirk Gently says: “Everyone is connected”.

They really are, with this collective of operators. One-to-three degrees of separation, in a lot of cases.

It *really* is a small circle that we study. And Pedro Diaz Lanz was absolutely a member of this circle. As were his brother and Sturgis.

But whatever they may have done, whatever he may have known, however he may have participated in the attack in Dallas...he took it all to the grave.

Pedro Diaz Lanz died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in 2008, at the age of 81. After, it was reported, years of poverty, ill health and depression.

The last paramilitary exile recipient of The RFK Justice Department’s “Notices Of Prevention Of Departure” that we’ll discuss is, as I said, one of two individuals I am *convinced* took part in the Dealey Plaza Op: Felipe Vidal Santiago.

Actually, you know what? Full stop.

Let's back up.

I've gotta amend everything I said at the top of this thing. Total change-up.

I think I'm actually absolutely convinced of...*four* things. Not three.

Let me explain.

While I've been putting this together for my dear friend Alan Dale and The AARC, I've *also* been simultaneously writing a presentation for the "November In Dallas 2024" JFK Assassination Research Conference, presented by JFK Lancer Publications. That presentation will (or *did*, depending on when you, the Listener and/or Reader, are experiencing *this* presentation) focus on a different group of guys: Guys later connected to and/or suspected of involvement in the attack in Dallas who were— at some point— locked up in a Cuban prison called Trescornia by Fidel Castro.

One of those guys was John Martino.

And I gotta say— upon further review— I think Martino is right there with Vidal and Hargraves for me.

I'm pretty well damn convinced.

See, like Vidal and Hargraves, Vidal and Martino were tight.

And like Hargraves, Martino *confessed*.

Martino was a mob guy. Pinched in Miami in 1935 for a numbers racket, loan-sharking in 1947. By 1959, he was working at The Deauville Casino (owned by Santo Trafficante, no less) in Havana, Cuba. That year, Martino was arrested and imprisoned by The Castro Regime after a pro-Castro hotel employee dutifully reported Martino to the authorities, for making anti-Castro statements.

Martino would spend 3 years and 3 months languishing in various hellish Cuban prisons for not being able to keep his Yanqui opinion to himself. He finally made it home to Miami in October of 1962.

Martino released a book about his experiences in Cuba and then dove ass-over-elbows-head-first into the paramilitary anti-Castro cause. The list of people he managed to meet and become operational and active with between his October '62 return and November 22nd of '63 reads like a "Who's Who Of Shady Dudes" *later* connected to The Assassination by researchers over the ensuing decades: People like CIAs "Rip" Robertson, Roy Hargraves, Gerry Hemming, General Edwin Walker, future Watergate burglars Eugenio Martinez & Frank Sturgis, Santo Trafficante, CIAs David Morales, Loran Hall, and Vidal.

According to Martino's wife & son, his behavior on November 22nd, 1963 was...abnormal at best. First, he nervously insisted that his son stay home from school. Totally out of character. His nervousness never abated, only becoming more noticeable as the morning progressed. And later— while watching a television report on President Kennedy's campaign swing through Texas— Martino turned to his wife and said, "They're gonna kill him, Flo. They're gonna kill him when he gets to Dallas."

Allegedly.

But hey, it's not me making the claim. His *widow* did. I just happen to believe her.

Martino died in 1975, but apparently spilled the beans regarding his participation in The Plot to at least (2) different individuals outside of his family before his death: His business partner Fred Claasen, and journalist John Cummings.

Martino revealed that the main-movers on the ground in The Plot were Anti-Castro Cuban Exiles. That Lee Oswald *was*– although not a shooter– involved in the plot, and that Oswald had been approached, recruited, and set up by Anti-Castro Cubans representing themselves to Oswald as *Pro*-Castro Cubans. Martino described his own role in the operation as kind of a “facilitator”– making trips to Dallas and New Orleans, delivering money, supplies, messages and instructions. Oswald, Martino revealed, had been murdered by Ruby because Oswald screwed up the plan by somehow managing to be taken alive by the Dallas police..

In the weeks following Kennedy’s murder, a steady stream of misinformation regarding Oswald being a Castro Agent began spilling forth from all kinds of different sources, but in essence the same story, same inaccurate details. An orchestrated campaign. American hard-right organizations and CIA-connected anti-Castro organizations, mostly.

But also from John Martino, at speeches and book-signings. Almost word for word.

In February of 1964, the FBI decided to visit Mr. Martino at his home in Miami to find out just where the hell he was getting his bad information.

The interview took place on February 15th, 1964. According to the reporting agents, Martino spent most of the interview deflecting questions, preferring to complain about how– as *he* saw it– The US State Department had absolutely refused to assist him in any way in gaining his release from Castro’s correctional system.

But he *did* introduce the agents to his houseguest that day.

Reading now from the FBI document:

**“...During the interview at MARTINO’s residence, MARTINO introduced to the interviewing agents Cuban exile FELIPE VIDAL SANTIAGO, who is the subject of Bufile 105-85523, Miami file 105-6466. VIDAL has been active in anti-CASTRO activities and may be one of MARTINO’s “unidentified” sources on Cuban matters...”**

Damn.

That’s what I thought the first time I read this particular document. 2014, I think.

“Damn”, I thought to myself. “Two of ‘em. They had *two* of ‘em. Cornered. In the same room.”

Still kinda blows my mind.

But where do I begin with Vidal? Again, nothing I could possibly write and/or recite here will be *definitive proof* of his involvement. But it starts with the figure we as a collective have come to know as “Dark-Complexed Man” in Dealey Plaza, the *Pete-Townsend-nosed*, thinly-built, beret-clad Latino individual who was very obviously not only there with but *working with* The “Umbrella Man” in Dealey Plaza.

Yeah, I know. “No, Doug! That’s Cuban Exile Orlando Bosch!” (laughs smugly). “No, Doug, that’s ‘Gator!’”

“And ‘Gator’s name is...?”

Never get an answer to that. Just that Gator had only three fingers on one hand, and it’s *gotta* be him because an alleged ex-CIA pilot, That One Guy, said so.

I never put any credence to what That One Guy says. His story changed way too much and way too often over the years. A lot of diversionary rambling and...Prouty-esque imagined scenarios.

Dismissed That One Guy a long time ago.

But back to Vidal.

Vidal (CIA cryptonym AM/QUIP-1) can be seen as the “naval equivalent” of Pedro Diaz Lanz. Diaz Lanz was a pilot, and briefly commanded what constituted Castro’s air force. Vidal served in The Cuban Navy from 1944 to 1956, and had obtained the rank of Lieutenant at the time of his discharge. In 1958– like Diaz Lanz– he threw in with Fidel. Fidel made Vidal the Commander of The Cuban Maritime Patrol on January 1st of 1959, but Vidal’s discontent– again, just like Pedro Diaz-Lanz– with Fidel’s Communist ways started bubbling to the surface. Castro removed Vidal from his command and shipped him off to Venezuela, appointing him “Cuban Naval Attache” to the Venezuelan Government in October of 1959. It was *this* post, in Caracas, from which Vidal defected five months later. He arrived in Miami on August 9th of 1960 by way of Bogota, Colombia. By April of the next year, Vidal was running commando missions into Cuba, hit-and-run attacks and exfiltration missions.

Remember the “Who Killed JFK?” podcast that ran last year? Rob Reiner. Soledad O’Brien.

A lot of hype with that one.

At the end, Mr. Reiner names– according to *him*, and author Dick Russell– the Shooters. The guys who *they* say actually fired weapons at Kennedy in Dealey Plaza. One name they dropped puzzled more than a few who’ve studied this stuff in detail: Jack Cannon.

Even I was like, “Wait. What..?”

Turns out, although that’s an obscure name to researchers, it *may* not be an unimportant one.

Turns out, not only was there a paramilitary operator named “Jack Cannon” running with Vidal prior to The JFK Hit, but according to The FBI, these guys made 43 paramilitary runs into Cuba together, before August of 1962. Running guns, documents and money *into* Cuba, and exfiltrating people *from* Cuba on the way back out . On August 8th of ‘62, an informant told the FBI that, on their 44th mission together, Vidal and Cannon had barely made it out alive– on a rubber dinghy– after their boat sank off the northern coast of Cuba carrying \$80,000 worth of weapons meant for anti-Castro rebels in-country.

Now. Missing documents.

Doesn’t that always make us suspicious?

Does me.

Back in the Pedro Diaz Lanz segment, I mentioned documents that showed Vidal and Diaz-Lanz planning and running ops into Cuba together, and that Frank Sturgis was basically ratting them out to the CIA.

This was specifically because Diaz-Lanz and Vidal had been recipients of the “Notices Of Prevention Of Departure” handed down by Robert Kennedy’s DOJ. The CIA would alert the FBI and INS, and then the attempt would be made to *stop* the operation.

We have these reports– monthly– for the majority of 1963. The August entry is very interesting for a couple of reasons. One is simply the content, the story it tells. Sturgis is nosin’ around Diaz-Lanz and Vidal, offering to help. Provide more air support, more people, more equipment. It’s more than obvious that Vidal does *not* trust Frank Sturgis. Sturgis is trying very much to ingratiate himself with Vidal and extract *from* Vidal the date for which the next mission is planned. Vidal only tells Sturgis that; A. Sturgis simply “could not participate”, and B. that it

was too late anyway, as Sturgis wouldn't be able to find an adequate crew in time for Vidal to vet them.

Each time, Vidal turns him down. Each time. And each time, Sturgis runs to his case officer—future & fellow Watergate burglar Bernard Barker— to drop a dime on 'em. To help The CIA...help the Kennedys...to shut down unauthorized “nuisance raids” into Cuba by Rogue Operators, as per The DOJ's April '63 decree.

The other interesting thing about this August report?

It's the last one. Last report. For *five full months*. The next report that will be visible to you & I in the year 2024 dropped in January of '64.

September, October, *November*, and December of 1963 are— according to the thing that pops up in a document's place instead of the *actual* document— under “RESTRICTED ACCESS”.

Yep. Four consecutive CIA Contact Reports...that *may or may not*...reveal movements of (3) individuals later implicated in The JFK Hit— beginning two months *prior* to the murder, and continuing for one month *after* the murder— are “Classified Top Secret On The Grounds Of National Security”, because they “...contain Security Classified Information...”

In 2024.

Sixty-one years later, we are not allowed to know what Diaz-Lanz and Vidal were doing-slash-planning from September to December of 1963, from the perspective of The CIA.

*That*— according to The United States Government— is Dangerous Knowledge to possess.

BUT...we don't need CIA's help in putting Vidal in Dallas in November of '63. Thanks to the FBI, thanks to Robert Kennedy's DOJ and their April '63 shut-down, and thanks to Vidal's right-hand-Anglo: Roy Hargraves.

As we've seen, there seems to have been a kind of “dimming-of-the-lights” regarding Vidal in late-1963. When the lights are pulled up by the FBI in January of 1964, we find Vidal hospitalized.

Somebody — a little more than a month after Dallas— tried to assassinate Felipe Vidal Santiago.

With a bomb.

A *bomb*.

A bomb planted and detonated on his attack boat.

Almost like somebody was trying to tie up loose ends.

Being able to document Vidal's violation of his “Prevention Of Departure” and travel to Dallas, Texas in November of 1963 comes from an FBI report from the Special Agent-In-Charge, Miami Office, to Director J. Edgar Hoover dated January 20, 1964. Subject line is “United Front For National Liberation” (or “FULN”, which was Vidal's “organization”).

The FBI, it seems, has been tracking Vidal closely since early January. On the 6th they checked in with US Customs for updated info on Vidal. Customs said they had no current info on his whereabouts.

On January 8th, they hit up Immigration And Naturalization. An INS Agent named Tyrus Minnix at that point told them about the attempted hit on Vidal with the bomb, and that Vidal was currently laid up in the hospital suffering facial burns from the blast.

Then, third paragraph, top of page two:

**“...It is noted VIDAL SANTIAGO was served a notice of Prevention Of Departure in March, 1963. This notice prevents him from leaving the land limits of Dade County, Florida. However, in April of 1963 VIDAL was found in the Florida Keys where US Customs seized his boat and a load of arms. In November of 1963, VIDAL visited Dallas, Texas without permission of INS, and on January 5, 1964, was on a boat 25 miles from Miami...”**

“...In November of 1963, Vidal visited Dallas, Texas without permission of INS...”

And then there's Vidal's right-hand man Roy Hargraves, and what *he* told Noel Twyman.

Roy Hargraves was one of the very first– and most active– American mercenaries to throw in with the paramilitary Cuban Exiles. According to Larry Hancock, one of just a few Americans to independently organize and lead missions into Cuba, even managing on one mission to steal a Cuban military boat and sail it to the Bahamas. An on-again-off-again member of Hemming's INTERPEN. A known builder-of-badass-bombs.

You know the story we've heard for years about the guy with “dirty fingernails” flashing Secret Service credentials behind the Grassy Knoll stockade fence, right after the Assassination?

Early in 1964– before The Warren Commission had even finished hiring support staff– a man named William Acker contacted the FBI about his neighbor, Roy Hargraves. Acker was getting an uneasy feeling about his neighbor. He knew about his neighbor's “paramilitary”-thing. Knew his neighbor had guns– a *lot* of guns. Knew he had military gear, knew he traveled a lot, had seen and met some of the rough, tough looking paramilitary and Cuban Exile-types that hung around his neighbors place.

But Acker felt compelled to reach out to the FBI upon learning *two* things about his neighbor, Roy Hargraves.

One: Acker learned that his neighbor had been in Dallas in late-November, '63.

Two: Acker had seen his neighbor Roy with what appeared to be the I.D-slash- credentials of a United States Secret Service Agent.

In December of '63.

The interviews were conducted for Mr. Twyman's excellent book on The Kennedy Assassination, “Bloody Treason” in 2001. 39-pages worth of excerpts of the transcripts were later published as an appendix by Larry Hancock in the first edition of *his* amazing book, “Someone Would Have Talked” in 2006. If I understand correctly, Roy Hargraves and his legal representation objected greatly to this, therefore Mr. Hancock was forced to eighty-six the whole thing from subsequent printings. Luckily, it's still out there, distributed to researchers in PDF-form.

I stand with Mr. Larry Hancock on these interview transcripts. I consider them hugely important. You have to...know who Hargraves knew... know who he ran with, associated with, his history, his habits. When you get well versed in all that, and you're well versed in the Cuban Exile connections-slash-aspects of the Kennedy Assassination? The few nuggets that Hargraves drops on Twyman are...downright chilling to read.

At one point, Hargraves is giving them the nuts and bolts about how an operation like that would go down. He tells Twyman & company that *some* of the Hit Team would be brought in blind. Under cover of darkness to a cheap motel, or a safe house. No idea what city they were in. Orders not to listen to any radio. No television, no newspapers. They only knew that they were *active*, that there was an operation, and that they had a role to play. That some might not necessarily know *who* the target is "...until the limo rounded the corner..."

Then— seemingly out of the blue— he’s asked if *he* had known that *Kennedy would also be in Dallas*:

**Q: “I get a little confused here. When you had gone to Dallas, did you know Kennedy was in Dallas at that time, when you were going in there?”**

**A: “...the last we heard, he was going to Chicago, the last I heard anyway...and Felipe never said anything about any changes, so as far as I knew Felipe was under the impression that Kennedy was going to be in Chicago.”**

*“...the last we heard, he was going to Chicago...Felipe never said anything about any changes...”*

Are you familiar with the story of Abraham Bolden— ex-US Secret Service agent— and what is known as “The Chicago Plot” to kill Kennedy? Early November. In Chicago. President Kennedy was coming to town. To attend the Army-Navy football game. According to former US Secret Service Agent Abraham Bolden, the FBI and the USSS Office in Chicago received an anonymous tip that *four Cuban Exiles* would attempt to kill Kennedy in Chicago, along the route to the game, with high-powered rifles. According to some things you read, two of these guys were actually picked up by police and interrogated by the Secret Service on November 1st only to be kicked loose, no charges filed.

Kennedy’s trip to Chicago *was* canceled, last minute. No documentation from either the FBI, USSS, or Chicago PD has ever surfaced.

I believe it absolutely possible that Kennedy was being tracked, *stalked*, by more than one crew, run by the same handlers. That more than one location was in play. That Chicago *may* have been one.

And that Vidal’s crew were one of the crews tracking him.

*“...Felipe never said anything about any changes...Felipe was under the impression that Kennedy would be in Chicago...”*

Hargraves would, ultimately, confess to Twyman in a private moment that he and Vidal had been in Dallas on November 22, 1963, having arrived on November 18. He would tell Twyman that his primary role had been to build a directional vehicle-bomb which was parked just outside Dealey Plaza. Had the snipers missed, the bomb was to be detonated as the Presidential limo passed. When asked how he and Vidal were moved out of Dallas after the Assassination, Hargraves revealed that they had been flown back to Miami via private plane on the afternoon of the 22nd:



**Q: “You were the only two guys in the airplane?”**

**A: “No, there were two other people, but both of them are still living.”**

**Q: “And yourself?”**

**A: “Yes.”**

**Q: “And Felipe?”**

**A: “Yes, and a pilot.”**

Vidal recovered from his bomb-blast injuries, resumed his ops into Cuba, and in March of 1964 was captured by Castro’s forces attempting to infiltrate Cuba once again, at or around Las Villas Province. On May 29, 1964, The Tampa Tribune reported that Vidal and his three surviving crew members had been executed by firing squad.

I tossed around the word “rogue” a lot at the beginning of this thing. Heck, it’s even in the title. But Vidal was exactly that. *Rogue*. He resented the US Government and was enraged at the “Notices Of Prevention Of Departure”. He hated the Kennedys and had a *deeply ingrained distrust* of The Central Intelligence Agency.

Remember back in the Tony Cuesta segment, we talked about the Cuesta-led attack on that Russian ship, “The Baku”? One of the attacks that pushed The Kennedys into implementing RFK’s shut-down to begin with. Vidal was actually convinced that the whole thing was a set up. That Alpha66 had pulled a false-flag attack initiated *by CIA, specifically* to help give The Kennedys a pretext to shut him– and others like him, like Pedro Diaz-Lanz– completely *down*. He even told the FBI as much. Remember earlier. We tagged along with the FBI as they asked around about Vidal in January of 1964? Well, they did finally run up on him.

Check this out. From the same previously cited FBI document dated January 20, 1964, reflecting a follow up interview with Vidal:

**“...VIDAL said he wants to leave the United States but cannot go to South America and begin operations there because of lack of money. He has to stay in the US but cannot continue his work for the liberation of Cuba in the United States because of US Government interference. VIDAL complained that every time the Cuban Exile group plans some military action against Cuba, one of the groups sells the information to the US Government, the mission is stopped, boats and arms confiscated...VIDAL maintained the the Central Intelligence Agency was responsible for the raid conducted by Commandos L in March of 1963. In this raid Commandos L sank the Russian ship “Baku” off the northern coast of Cuba. VIDAL said that the CIA then used this raid as an excuse to stop all further attacks against Cuba by anti-Communist Cubans in the United States.”**

Accusing the Kennedys and CIA– again– of pulling a false flag. Of creating a pretext to facilitate the shutting down operations. Of betraying The Cause. Of working *together*...in opposition to The Cause.

Imagine the anger.

Imagine the resentment.

Again, I'll ask the question: *Would* Vidal and Diaz Lanz— along with the other paramilitary operators shut down by the Kennedys in 1963— be the perfect sort of “rogue” operators that, say...a rogue paramilitary operative or agent/handler or two— be they CIA or Military Intelligence or otherwise— might consider for recruitment for this, the Blackest-Of-Black Operations? The paramilitary-style murder-by-sniper of a sitting US President?

Already possessing the skill, the Tradecraft for this sort of operation. Already motivated. Already furious. *Long* past desperate. Already having come to the conclusion that the *biggest* obstacle between themselves and their return to a free Cuba was...The President.

Would they be *likely*... to avail themselves of an offered opportunity to *solve* their extraordinary problem *themselves*? With support? With *cover*?

I think the answer is an unequivocal “Yes.”

This presentation was written by *me*, Doug Campbell of “The Dallas Action Podcast, Presented by Wall Street Window”, recorded & engineered by Curado Scaranucci, Jr. for Drop-D Podcast Productions and The Assassination Archives & Research Center.

We sincerely thank you for your time.



