

OLC #78-3019/2
SSCI

24 November 1978

25X1 MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]
Office of Legislative Counsel

FROM : Donald P. Gregg
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Unfounded Allegations Made at August 1978
World Youth Festival in Havana

The SSCI has asked CIA to respond to the following seven allegations made by persons attending the World Youth Festival in Havana:

1. CIA agents sought to assassinate Raul Castro and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.
2. CIA is responsible for the assassination of Ben Barka.
3. CIA attempted to kill Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Meriam.
4. CIA employed Michael Townley (indicted in Letelier case).
5. President Kennedy was assassinated with "the knowledge and participation" of CIA.
6. Lee Harvey Oswald was recruited by the CIA between 1957 and 1958.
7. CIA was indirectly responsible for the 1976 destruction of a Cubana Airlines aircraft.

The subparagraphs below are keyed to these allegations.

1. In a speech given by Dr. Enrique Marion Roca at the Havana World Youth Festival, he made reference to a CIA cable to Havana of 21 July 1960 which discussed "the possible elimination of the top three Cuban leaders by the CIA." This reference by Roca apparently is based on pages 72 and 73 of the Church Committee Report of 20 November 1975, subject: "Alleged Assassination Plots Involving Foreign Leaders." The Agency finds it ironic indeed that it is forced to reply to charges which themselves flow from a Senate report on a

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subject which has already been thoroughly examined. There is no record of any Agency interest in Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

2. Allegation totally false.

3. Allegation totally false.

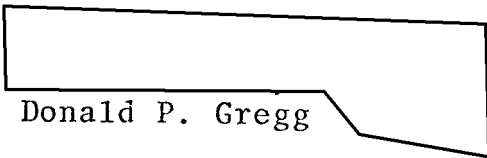
4. Townley, of his own volition, initiated contact with the Agency in 1971 and expressed interest in an association with us. We did not reach an agreement and he has never been affiliated with the Agency in any manner.

5. Allegation totally false.

6. Allegation totally false.

7. Allegation totally false.

The Directorate is strongly hopeful that as the oversight relationship with Congress matures we will no longer be forced to "prove the negative" in response to hostile allegations which surface in the U.S. press. We would like to work toward the time when our oversight committees will be confident that as an allegation regarding Agency activities surfaces which has a factual basis that the Agency will report to the oversight committees on its own volition. Such an arrangement will allow the Agency to spend its time in more fruitful avenues of work and allow our dialogue with the oversight committees to be focused on more constructive matters.



Donald P. Gregg

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