

S E C R E T

21 JAN 1977
LA/COG/021-77

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Operations

FROM : Raymond A. Warren
Chief, Latin America Division

SUBJECTS : A. Jack Anderson 20 January 1977 Column
Titled "CIA Tied to False Oswald Story"
B. Identification of the Mr. X in the
Anderson Column

1. The attached column, citing the testimony of a Mr. X, alleges that a CIA agent tried to link Oswald to Cuban intelligence officers in Mexico. There is, of course, no substance to the column's allegations. The column identifies the source as Mr. X because of attempts on his life, but subsequently gives enough information on Mr. X to establish his identity.

2. According to the Anderson column, Mr. X was first met by his CIA contact in Havana before relations with U.S./Cuba were severed. Mr. X had helped to organize bank accountants to embezzle Cuban government funds to finance anti-Castro causes. Mr. X was reportedly recruited by a Morris Bishop (CIA contact), to plan an attempt on Castro's life. The plan was to fire a bazooka from a nearby apartment building while Castro was delivering one of his marathon speeches. According to the Anderson column, the plot was discovered by Castro's police and Mr. X escaped to Miami. Mr. X also reportedly tried to assassinate Castro in Chile in 1971 in league with the Venezuelan Luis Posada Carriles, who is now being detained in Caracas for the 6 October Cubana airline bombing. The Anderson column ends with the report that Mr. X worked for CIA until 1973 for expenses, but was paid \$253,000 in cash by Morris Bishop when he was terminated.

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3. From the above description of Mr. X, it is reasonably clear that Mr. X is Antonio Carlos VECIANA Blanch (201-312966). VECIANA, an assistant bank manager and past president of a public accountants association in Havana, first contacted CIA in Havana in December 1960 when he asked the COS, at that time [redacted] 03 to help in an assassination plot against Castro. VECIANA asked for visas for ten relatives of the four men assigned to kill Castro, and also requested four MI rifles with adapters for grenades plus eight grenades. The COS did not encourage VECIANA and subsequently checked with an Embassy officer who reported that VECIANA had made similar "wild-eyed" proposals to him. On 23 November 1961 the Miami News published a report of an unsuccessful attempt by Antonio VECIANA to kill Castro. VECIANA reportedly had arranged to assassinate Castro and Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos on 5 October in Havana, but the bazooka he was using failed to fire.

4. There has been no Agency relationship with VECIANA. A POA, which was granted for his use in para-military affairs in January 1962, expired in November 1962. VECIANA was born on 4 October 1935 in Havana. He was a member of the People's Revolutionary Movement, an anti-Castro group in Cuba during 1960-61, and was one of the founders of Alpha-66. A certified public accountant by trade, VECIANA was with A.I.D. in La Paz in 1968-72. VECIANA was registered in ISR to the U.S. Army in November 1962 and he was terminated without prejudice in July 1966. On 23 July 1962 VECIANA was interviewed, at his request, by Mr. Harry Real from the DCD New York office. VECIANA asked Real to arrange a meeting with a senior CIA officer to discuss Alpha-66's plans to assassinate Castro and to request CIA's assistance (U.S. \$100,000; 10,000 Cuban pesos; 48 hand grenades). There is no indication that this request was ever acted upon by CIA.

5. In April 1966 a LA Division officer, [redacted] 03 using the alias [John Livingston] met VECIANA in New York City. The meeting was arranged by a retired naval officer, James Cogswell, who had informed Chief, MI Division that he had information of value concerning Cuba. When [redacted] arrived in New York City for the meeting, he was introduced by Cogswell to VECIANA. He immediately launched a discussion of the Cuban political situation and noted his strong feeling that the only solution was the assassination of Castro. [redacted] 03 advised VECIANA that he was in no position to provide him with assistance or encourage him in an assassination attempt and was only interested in gathering information which he thought was the purpose of the meeting. VECIANA subsequently said that his roommate Felix ZABALA, a Cuban refugee, had excellent contacts in Havana. It was clear to [redacted] 03 however, VECIANA was attempting to use ZABALA potentially to get Agency financial support for his organization.

VECIANA suggested that \$50,000 would be needed to get his activities off the ground. [redacted] indicated to VECIANA that he would look into the ZABALA matter and would probably arrange for ZABALA to be contacted in Puerto Rico.

6. There is no indication in the file that any Agency officer in contact with VECIANA ever used an alias Morris Bishop. There is no Morris Bishop listed in true name in the DDO rolls. There was never any contractual relationship with VECIANA and he was not paid CIA funds.

7. On 11 January 1977 a sanitized copy of VECIANA's 201 file was made available to staffers from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

signed
Raymond A. Warren
Raymond A. Warren

Attachment

DDO/C/LA/COG/OPS:WJDevine:js (9229) (21 January 1977)

Distribution:

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aid for Mr. X file 2/2/71

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

CIA Tied to False Oswald Story

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The Central Intelligence Agency asked one of its Cuban operatives to help fabricate a story about Lee Harvey Oswald during the investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination, the Cuban has told congressional investigators.

In an earlier column, we reported that the same witness claimed he had met the accused assassin in Dallas in the company of a CIA agent three months before Kennedy was killed.

We identified the witness only as Mr. X because of attempts on his life. But we have studied his detailed, confidential statements to congressional investigators. They interviewed him three times, cross-examining him closely. He gave them such specific information that they concluded he was a "credible" witness.

He told of meeting his CIA contact in the lobby of a Dallas office building in August, 1963. "This time he brought another guy," recounted Mr. X. "The guy never talked."

Mr. X explained that he had trained himself, as an underground leader, to memorize the characteristics of people he met. He immediately recognized the CIA agent's companion after seeing Oswald on television following the Kennedy assassination.

Not long afterward, the CIA contact made a strange request of Mr. X. There had been a report that Oswald had met a Cuban couple in Mexico. "You have a cousin working for Cuban Intelligence in Mexico," the CIA agent had said. "Why don't you just ask him, saying we'll bribe him, if he said it was really him that Oswald met."

It isn't clear from the confidential transcript why the CIA would want to fabricate this evidence. Perhaps the CIA could have sought to tie Kennedy's killer to the Castro government. In any event, the CIA agent called off the scheme, and Mr. X "never did talk to his cousin," according to a summary of the interview. It should be stressed that the interview in no way implicates the CIA in the Kennedy killing.

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The mystery witness first met his CIA contact in Havana before the United States broke off relations with Cuba. Mr. X had helped to organize a group of bank accountants, who embezzled funds from the Castro regime to finance anti-Castro causes.

The agent, who used the name Morris Bishop, recruited Mr. X to plan an attempt on Castro's life. The plotters planned to fire a backooka from a nearby apartment while Castro was delivering one of his marathon speeches.

The plot was discovered by Castro's police, and Mr. X escaped to Miami. He continued for a dozen more years to work with Bishop in the anti-Castro underground.

During Castro's 1971 visit to Chile, Mr. X tried again to knock him off. The plotters included a Venezuelan security agent, named Luis Posada Carriles, who was supposed to provide forged documents laying the blame on the Soviets. This plot, too, fell through.

Only a few weeks ago, the same Posada was indicted in Venezuela on murder charges in connection with the crash of a Cuban jetliner.

Mr. X said he worked for the CIA until 1973 for expenses. When the relationship was terminated in 1973, he

said, Morris Bishop paid him a lump sum of \$253,000 in cash for past services.

Callgirl Trade—Women who take up the world's oldest profession, like most other career seekers who want to get ahead in life, are looking for "higher income and an independent, exciting lifestyle."

These are the "major motivating factors" that lead women into prostitution. So concludes a scholarly study of callgirls and streetwalkers, which has just been completed at the taxpayers' expense.

Two distinguished researchers from the University of Washington, Dr. Jennifer James and Jane Meyerding, were assigned to find out why women become prostitutes. Their findings will be published shortly in a 32-page document, which has been bootlegged to us before it goes to press.

Not only do women become prostitutes for the same underlying motives that "some people become lawyers," according to the learned ladies from Seattle, but the profession requires little schooling.

For the pay, there are "virtually no other occupations available" to women of modest skills, the researchers note. They conclude that prostitution will flourish as long as there is "a consumer demand." As they put it, "Economics is the pervasive theme of prostitution."

The study also dispels old wives' tale about "fallen women," who sell sex because they hate men or have abnormal sex drives or are forced into the business by "the coercion of brutal pumps."

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