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Interview Memo

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by Gonzalo Gonzales

Campana, Pelfin J.
CIA

Knoell Jim

Prio, Carlos

Pareque, Victor
"Diego"

Rio Escondido

Guston, Doug

Special Instructions: _____

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Gary Cornwell
Kenneth Klein
Charlie Mathews
Jim Wolf
Tiny Hutton
Jackie Hess
Cliff Fenton

Team #1

Team #2

Team #3

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Team #5

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MEMORANDUM - February 28, 1978

TO: G. Robert Blakey

FROM: Fonzi & Gonzales

RE: Interview Delfin J. Campana (Team 3-Issue B)

Background: Reference was made to Delfin Campana by Ross Crozier, former CIA case officer assigned to the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE). Crozier said Campana was an employee of the CIA and worked as a "singleton," that is, not a case officer handling Cuban groups but an individual given a variety of assignments. It was suggested that he might possibly have knowledge relative to the identity of Maurice Bishop and information concerning the alleged association of Oswald with Miami Cuban groups.

Details: Campana said his association with the U.S. government began in Cuba in the mid-1950s when he became a member of the Buro de Represion Anti-Comunista de Cuba (BRAC), an organization which, he said, was formed by the American Embassy in Cuba and trained by the FBI there. (The name of the FBI agent he recalls was Nacho Caranza (phon.) As such, he was involved in anti-Batista operations in support of Fidel Castro. Campana said he knew Castro personally as a result of having been close to the family of Castro's wife.

Campana said he regularly reported to the CIA in Havana to keep the Agency current on his anti-Batista activities. His contact was [redacted] Among the operations he informed the CIA about prior to conducting was what later became known as one of the most significant of Castro's military victories, the capturing of a large train load of arms and ammunition between Havana and Santa Clara. That seizure was supposed to have been coordinated with a political uprising and declaration of independence of all the provinces in the eastern half of the island, with Carlos Prio appearing in Santa Clara as the new leader. Prio, however, refused to leave Miami and the plan failed, said Campana. That, he said, would have forestalled Castro from eventually taking control.

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Associated with him in the capture of the arms train, said Campana, was an individual known as "Diego." Campana confirmed that Diego's true name was Victor Paneque. He believes Paneque is now in the Miami area and said he would be willing to help locate him.

Campana said that his later anti-Castro activities consisted of involvement with the Triple A organization (working with Sanchez Arango, Tony de Verona and Tony Santiago), and of masterminding the escape of key anti-Castro leaders on an individual basis. He was able to do this, he said, through his contacts on the ship, Rio Escondito, which was later involved in the Bay of Pigs operation. Finally, in July, 1960, after having been informed that Castro had become aware of his activities, Campana himself fled Cuba aboard the same ship.

Campana first landed in Jacksonville when he escaped from Cuba. There he was immediately greeted and debriefed by an FBI agent whose name he doesn't recall but describes him as being of average height, well-built, and having red hair and reddish complexion. This FBI agent took him to Miami and had him report to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and tell the fabricated story that he arrived on a boat through Key West.

Campana said he was then introduced to an agent of the CIA whom he knew only as "Bob." This "Bob" told him he wanted him to relax in Miami for a couple of months before beginning operations for the CIA. "Bob" invited him to his home in the Southwest section of Dade County, a very large house on Le Jeune Road, a number of times for dinner. "Bob" was married and then had two children. He was provided with cars and a chauffeur by the CIA, said Campana, who described him as having thin, light-brown hair, brown eyes and a wide forehead.

Eventually, said Campana, "Bob" introduced him to Doug Gupton, the cover name of the individual handling propaganda operations at the JM/WAVE station. Campana said he worked with Gupton on propaganda programs for the Bay of Pigs operation.

Among the other CIA agents he worked with was Roberto Espin, who worked under Gupton in charge of Radio Swan. Both he and Espin were, at one time, both involved in dispersing CIA funds to Agency operatives on a monthly basis. He would, for instance, said Campana, be given perhaps \$80,000 in cash in a bag and distribute it as payroll to Cubans involved in anti-Castro activity in Miami. He said he

recently told Espin that now he thinks they were the only two "stupid Cubans." Neither of them, he said, stole a penny of Agency money.

Early in 1962, said Campana, he was asked by the Agency to go to the Dominican Republic and prepare a report on the possibilities of Fallado becoming president there. The station chief there, said Campana, had been submitting reports on the likelihood of that. Campana said that after he investigated the situation he reported that Juan Bosch would become president and take an anti-U.S. posture. That later came to pass. He said he doesn't remember the name of the station chief, only that he was a young, German fellow. At any rate, he said, when he returned to the United States he was given a routine lie detector test about his activities in the Dominican Republic. After that, he said, he was not given any more CIA assignments. He said he was never told the reason for it. "I was mad as hell because I was always faithful to the Agency," he said. His activities on behalf of the Agency were terminated in 1962.

Other information related by Campana:

- Following the assassination of President Kennedy, he was never questioned by the FBI or the CIA in relation to either his own activities or those of Cuban groups with which he was associated.
- A good person to speak with concerning CIA-Cuban activities in Miami would be Gus Villodo, a close friend of Alfredo Duran's. Villodo, said Campana, "was a very active member of the CIA."
- He knows Frank Fiorini Sturgis but never worked closely with him in anti-Castro activities. He said Tony Santiago knows him very well and he will provide an introduction to Santiago.
- He is a very close friend of Rolando Garcia, who was also very active with the CIA and is now chief of security for the Venezuelan secret police.
- He never worked with Eugenio Martinez but saw him once operating a CIA boat in the Florida Keys.
- He has only this information about CIA agent David Morales aka "El Indio": When his good friend and anti-Castro leader Plinio Prieto was captured by Castro, he arranged for his wife and children to escape to Miami and be put up in a motel. Campana said Morales showed up at the motel and attempted to have an affair with Prieto's wife. Campana said

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at one point he was looking for Morales with a gun in order to shoot him.

-Campana said he had no association with any activities originating in the New Orleans area.

-Campana said he was told but has no specific information about the fact that Oswald was not only in Miami at one point but actually went to Cuba for a conference with Castro. He said he feels personally that Castro did not directly order Oswald to kill President Kennedy but may have subtly planted the seed in his mind. He says he has no specific evidence for that theory, only his personal knowledge of Castro's character.

-He could provide no information about the true identity of Maurice Bishop or any possible leads because, he said, he was never involved with Alpha 66 or Antonio Veciana.

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