

ANTONIO VECIANA BLANCH

SECRET

201-312966

DELETIONS:

11111534

FBI:

8/24/77 NC 22315

8/24/77 NC 22222

7/13/77 NC 83138

Foreign Liason Report

3/14/74 RE: Reptd financial attempt to sabotage Cuban embassies

2/28/74 Narcotics enforcements action recently arrested and convicted in New York city on charge close friend of Max Lesnick

1/16/74 Orlando Bosch financed DR op which resulted in explosion at Hotel Oasis, Avrainville, Fran ?

12/31/73 Cuban exile, one of Alpha 66 founders, arrested 7/24/73 by DEA ib charges relating to cocaine possession.

9/27/73 Alleged financed terrorist op to be acrried out in Paris, France, which resulted in 8/2/73 explosion in Avrainville, FR

2/14/73 Antonio Veciana Blanch

2/18/69 " " "

9/27/65 SNFE-Alpha 66-

201 FILE:

-- Dir. 188531 3/15/78 78 0421219

DPOB: 10/18/28, Cuba Empl. 57-61 in Havana as CPA & mgr of Banco Finaciero. member of People's Revolutionary Movement 60-61, one of founders of Alpha 66, anti-Castro Cuban exile organization. Went into voluntay exile Dec 61 arr at Key West via small boat from Cuba. Contacted CIA on three occasions for assistance in plots against Fidel Castro (Dec. 60, July 62, Apr 66). Officers listened to Veciana, expressed no interest, offered no encouragement, and never recontacted him on this matter. There has been no agency relationship with Veciana. A POA, granted in Jan 62, expired Nov 62, and was never used operationally by RTACTION. Veciana with A.I.D. in La Paz from 68-72. (veciana was registered in ISR by the US army in Nov 62 and he was terminated without prejudice in Jul 66. Veciana was arrested in Miami 7/24/73 for conspriacy to smuggle cocaine into the US. Jack Anderson columns in 77 indicate Veciana claims contact with CIA man, Morr's Bishop.

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-- Doc X-tract 7/27/77 075-008-019

Letter from Orlando Bosch dated May 1977 instructs coordinated revolutionary Organization (CORU) to initiate large-scale terrorist action in Venezuela. Plans call for assassination of Orlando Garcia (201-0067860) and Ricardo Morales. Veciana to be involved in this action.

-- Doc X-tract 075-008-019 CARA-33792 7/27/77

Responsible for 100 lbs explosives to be used by CORU. Involved in international terrorist activities against Cuban-Venezuelan targets in Venezuela

-- 4/30/77 316/01466-77

Response to FBI & statements made by Felix Zabala Mas in FBI's interview of Mas, Veciana never contractual employee; agency officer in contact with Veciana never used alias of Morris Bishop, Blair, or Kail.

-- 1/21/77 LA/COG/021-77

RE: Jack Anderson column -- Agency identifies Mr. X as Veciana. Indicates Veciana was first contacted by agency personnel in Dec 1960 when he asked COS in Havana, [redacted], to help in the assassination plot against Castro. [redacted] did not encourage him/ 11/23/61 the Miami Herald published an account of the unsuccessful attempt by Veciana, who reportedly arranged to assassinate Castro and Cuban Pres. Dorticos on 10/5/61 in Havana, but the bazooka he was using failed to fire.

POA granted Jan 62; expired Nov 62, for use in para-military affairs. 7/23/62 Veciana interviewed by Harry Real in New York DCD office. Asked Real to arrange meeting with senior CIA officer to discuss plan to assassinate Castro and to request CIA assistance. NO indication this request was ever acted upon by CIA.

Registered in ISR in Nov 62 and terminated without prejudice in July 1966.

April 1966, [redacted] using alias John Livingston, met Veciana in NYC. Meeting arranged by retired naval officer James Cogswell, who had informed chief/ WH division, that he had information of value concerning Cuba. After [redacted] introduction to Veciana, Veciana launched into discussion of assassination of Castro. [redacted] said he was in no position to encourage Veciana. Veciana then mentioned his roommate in PR, Felix Zabala, who had excellent contacts in Cuba. Using this info to get agency support; requested \$50,000. [redacted] said he would look into Zabala matter, and arrange to have Zabala contacted in PR.

-- 1/20/77 Anderson columns re Mr. X

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-- 6/7/74 560902 101450Z

Employed with A.I.D., La Paz, Bolivia, ca. 4/68 to 6/30/72.
POA 62-for use with MRP.

-- 1/4/74 OGC 74-0019

RE: US V. Antonio Veciana and Ariel Pomeris.
CIA had no prior knowledge or acquiescence in unlawful
importing of cocaine or other narcotics.

-- 7/26/73 437091 261940Z

CPA represently working for Distribuidora Pacifico, S.A., Caracas,
Venezuela (2/73)

-- 4/6/72 IN 579398

Indicates Veciana's job at AID was bank credit officer to
Central Bank Of Bolivia. Involved in reorganization of bank.
Considered expert on local banking.

-- 4/5/72 IN 578428

Indicates In March 72 Veciana staying in Caracas raising
money for assassinatin plot against Castro.

-- 9/18/68 Memo

Indicates Veciana employed as Director of Puerto Rico Promotions
and Entertainment, Inc. PR.

-- 9/23/68 IN 97745

Indicates Veciana told story re Ruiz to Henry Taylor in Miami
(no date given) and in [] in 1968.

-- 9/13/68 COBR-00958 201-834598

Indicates Cogswell involved in fund-raising plot for the Prince-
Pelaez Castro assass. plot.

-- 8/2/68 IN 63507

Indicates Veciana told Cuban affairs office []/8/1/68 that Orestes
Guillermo RUIZ Perez who is married to Veciana's cousin, is dis-
satisfied with Castro regime and could be susceptible ^{for recruitment} now.
V. Leaving US 8/3/68 for Bolivia to serve with AID. Told to
give details to Emb La Paz.

Gave essentially same info 1964. When followed up by report
V. father and wife, Veciana complained. At this time it
was ascertained that none of the Veciana family were in touch
with Ruiz wife. Also Vecina aware Ruiz stationed [] but
apparently unaware Ruiz position as ranking diplomat there.

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-- INS 4/12/67 Bio info

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Alien reg # A 12 490 987

SS #261-74-9877

Wife: Muino Rodriguez Sira DPOB: 10/4/35, Havana

DOM: 5/15/53, Havana

Father: Veciana Antonio POB: Spain; resides Miami

Mother: Blanch Ana

Address: 62-64 2902 NW 11 St, Miami.

-- 9/27/66 LX-03195 201-802841

Cited in interview with Felix Zabala Mas

-- 8/29/66 UFG-08514 100-009-014

Member of Cuban Center for Political Studies in PR

-- 5/31/66 LX-3102

James Cogswell, aka Jack Cogswell - meetings 4/19-20/66. Chief/ WH div rcvd info via personal contacts that James Cogswell, nephew of retire employee Mrs. Francis Gogswell, had info re Cuba. Byron Waidley, (author of memo) called Mrs. Cogswell in wash, DC, obtained tel no. of nephew in NYC and called nephew. Met with him at Racquet & Tennis Club 4/19/66.

Cogswell accompanied by Veciana, an acquaintance of Cogswell for last several years. Veciana launched into discussion of Castro assass. plot. Waidley did not encourage him, but asked for info to convey to govt. Veciana replied with info re Feliz Zabala, who had visited Cuba in 1965 in connections with Camarioca refugee departures. Has an identical twin brother residing in Cuba and a sister married to CP official Luis Mas Martin. She is employed as secretary by Ramiro Valdez, Cuban minister of Interior.

Zabala rcvd 3-day pass in Havana thru contacts of sister and brother-in-law.

Veciana attempting to use story for agency help in own plans. Waidley told Veciana he would look into Zabala matter; told Cogswell he would meet him the next day.

4/20/66 met with Cogswell at his hotel room. Discussed Cuban refugees with whom Cogswell remain in contact; discussions with Frank O'Brien. (Waidley had spoken to O'Brien earlier that day - 4/20).

Noted Cogswell's willingness to drink in the morning, described him as amiable, well-educated man from Kittery Point, Maine, member of illustrious Naval family. Served as Naval officer in WWII on destroyer named after his uncle and grandfather. His contacts not assessed as not much assistance to agency.

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FBI had already interviewed Zabala prior to Cogswell-Waidley meeting. Agency person will also debrief him in near future.

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-- UFG-7683 10/28/65

Source: AMRAZZ-1 thru AMBLINK-1 , 10/19/65

Executive meeting of SFNE-MRP-Alpha 66 held 10/13/65, attended by Veciana. Purpose to try to persuade Veciana to join the alliance again. Efforts to no avail. Veciana employed in PR in Christmas card business, said he had collaborated with SNFE because of his confidence in Menoyo, but had no confidence in present leaders.

Armando Fleites Diaz reportedly told Veciana he had prepared plans for attack on Cuba, but forced to suspend them because of Castro's open door policy.

Veciana reportedly resigned from alliance 6/1/65.
Menoyo captured and imprisoned in Cuba 1/65.

-- UFGA 21845/6 4/1/65 Bio data report

Veciana graduate of Habana School of Business Administration. Employed as CPA for Banco Financiero, loan company owned by Julio Lobo.; little knowledge English. Employed at Cuban national Bank 1956-57.

Described as dark, of medium height, very thin, intense, active, nervous, speaks rapidly. Associated with action groups, but specialist in fund-raising and organization for alpha 66, really financial section for SFNE. Ordered to be restricted to Dade City in 1963 for being connected with hit-and-run activities. Claims liberal philosophy but biographer doubts whether he has any political philosophy at all.

-- UFG-7174 5/7/65

Veciana talked into temporarily withdrawing resignation from alliance by Aurelio Nazario Sargent, member of SFNE. Nazario said resignation now would have disastrous consequences to alliance. Will stay on in name only; resign when announcement won't hurt alliance.

-- UFG-06235 11/20/64

Indicates Veciana has not been too successful in raising funds at his hqs in Puerto Rico.

-- UFG-06007 10/9/64

Assigned \$1,300 to be sent to Menoyo.

--- UFG-04958 4/14/64

Final exec Cmte meeting of SFNE before launching Plan Omega. Due for April 10.

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-- UFG-03122 6/27/63

Plans for infiltration of team into Cuba - Details not given.

-- 11/30/62 Agency to Army ISR

Re; Info re Veciana disseminated to army.

-- C-96796 Index acrd re Veciana

Indicates POA requested by Carl Hicks 12/29/61

NOTE: "Now being used by Army"

-- 11/16/62 OUT 99193

Indicates rift in Alpha 66 - Only Jeronimo Estevez, Salomon Bender, Fernando Sanchez, and Israel Gonzalez still allied with Veciana.

Roberto Castellon said rest of Alpha 66 members planning formation of new org. under name Comanods 66 to raise funds for action groups like DRE

-- 11/12/62 OUT 97521

RE: Deception of Veciana, who secretly has been associated with SFNE, handling fund disbursements and always spoke of financing other group, but members thought other group was part of Alpha 66. Truth revealed Oct 62 when Armando Fleites and Veciana offered services to Miro Cardona. Veciana forced to resign. Records show he diverted \$27,000 to SFNE out of \$37,000 total. All Alpha 66 equipment was lost on 10/23-24/62 attempted raid of sugar barges off Cayo Santa Maria.

-- 11/6/62 to FBI from CIA

RE: plans of Alpha 66 - before rift known.
Indicates leader in NY is Alberto GUTIAREZ de la Solana, employed at Bohemia. In PR, leader is Jeronimo Esteve; other officers Dr. Raul Janes, J.J. Murabotto, Roerbrto Castellon, members Ricardo Gonzalez Porta, Pedro Muina, Father Mighuel Hernandez.
Other officers in NY- Ramon Perez Daple, Antonio VEcdva (sic), vice treasurer..

-- 9/11/62 OUT 75022

RE: Plans of Alpha 66 for opertions ca. this date, using 5 men and boat.

-- 9/8/62 OUT74604

RE: plans of Alpha 66 for raid on Havana 9/8 or 9/62

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-- 9/7/62 OUT 74509

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RE: Plans for raid on Cuba by Alpha 66. Prob. will use aircraft.

-- 9/8/62 OUT 74313

Plans for Alpha 66 raid now scheduled prior to 9/9/62. If successful, Julio Lobo ready to commit \$250,000 to assist future operations.

-- 9/6/62 OUT 73652

Plans for raid known only to A-66 members in Miami. Veciana sent message with plans to safe deposit box in PR to be opened upon successful completion of raid.

-- 7/26/62 00 A (S) 3232106 WH 765

NYContact office - interviewed Veciana on occasion of his arrival in US. Also interviewed 7/23/62 by Harry Real, after Lobo alerted office to fact that Veciana would be in NYC.. RE: organization of Alpha 66. Named such because Alpha firstletter in alphabet and org. fist of its kind, and 66 represented number of members in group.

Objective - war on Cuba, assassination of Castro, 3 of 66 members in Cuba. Has made several attempts to enlist agency aid in Miami. Seeking starter: \$1000.00 US.

10,000 pesos

48 hand grenades

2 rifles w/ telescopic sights
& silencers300 lbs of C-3 or C-4 explosives
w/detonators

Would like conversation with agency person sufficiently high-placed for answer of interest or not by agency. Will be in NY/ until 7/27/62 c/o Lobo. Then in Chicago, then back to Miami.

-- 7/11/62 OUT 53489

Veciana went to COS Havana 12/60 with info re plot. Requesting rifles w/ grenade adapters, eight grenades. Carefully planned attempt for more than a year, renting apartment w/ view of Presidential Palace. Lobo asked of opinion of Veciana, which was favorable.

-- 7/7/62 IN 24761

Veciana given money by SKEWER-1, who said in telephone conversation that this not AMBANG activity but had AMBANG "blessing."
CRC

-- 7/7/62 IN 24738

SKEWER-1 gave Veciana \$500. A-66 meeting 7/2/62 in PR. Claims group not political

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- 11111541
- 1/31/62 OUT 96068
POA granted AMSHALE-1, subject ref. 201-312966
 - 2/27/62 PRQ part I
Alias - "Victor" used in Havana city underground
5'11", 170 lbs
1958 travelled to Mexico to study
Knights of Columbus
 - Memo for record of meeting with Julio Lobo 12/19/60
In discussion, Lobo brought up Veciana, restating that he is reliable. Heard that Veciana systematically destroying bank's records and machine bookkeeping equipment.
 - 12/9/60 IN 14488
Veciana called on OLIEN, Havana COS, 12/7/60 with Felix Fernandez Yarzabal. Said he belongs to AMBANG org. Told Olien of plot to kill Castro and associates. Needs visas for families of 4 men involved in plot.
 - 12/13/60 OUT 52604
State
Veciana trusted by Lobo, altho suspected of being Cuban G-2. Cbl indicates Havana should not in any way encourage radical schemes of this kind, especially when presented in this cold manner. Olien spoke with ODACID Pol officer, who had spoken with Veciana. Veciana had made similar "wild-eyed" proposals to him.
 - HKHA 6958 10/11/60
Veciana, Pres of Assoc. of Public Accountants, said group threw support behind Manolo Ray organization.
 - Memo for the record by Chris Hopkins 5/77 re Review of Veciana file
DBA 18681 8/8/62
Veciana allegedly went into voluntary exile ca. Dec 61 arr. Key West in small boat from Cuba. On 7/5/62 left PR. for Chicago to raise funds. Had been contacting Cuban exiles in P.R., Fla, Chicago, and poss. NYC to collect \$64,000 cash to carry out plans. Money placed in Banco de Ponce, Santurce, PR.
FBI informant said Veciana indicated names of following 3 individuals then in Cuba who were expected to assist Alpa 66:
Vicente Noble
Guillermo Ruiz
Bernardo Parabela
Informant said he knew all 3 because they had been connected

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1111542

in 1956 with SIM (Military Intelligence Service) in the D.R., Veciana said Pardela was then in jail in Cuba, but Noble and Ruiz were on the loose in Cuba and were cold-blooded killers.

DBA 10/22/62

Veciana trying to obtain 2 boats from unk Americans in Texas.

Memo to FBI from CIA 11/6/62

Reptd that members Ramon Perez Daple, asst to Dr. Jose Luis Gonzalez - both are Castro Cuban infiltrators.

- DBA 28528 12/1/62

Large sums of money for Alpha 66 contributed by Lobo.

Hopkins memo also indicates:

Ruiz lived in the US illegally in 1957 was assigned to Cuban Embassy, Mexico City in Sep 63 as diplomat. DGI activity was to penetrate counter-revolutionary organizations. Flew from Mexico City to Havana on 11/22/63. Is married to Veciana's cousin Reported by Veciana to support Alpha 66 activities.

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DCD MATERIALS

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-- 00 A (S) 3235956 9/7/62

RE: Alpha 66

Need assistance, but will go ahead with plans whether they receive assistance from US govt or not. Go-Between named Robert A. Pratchett. Have collected about \$30,000. (Info also in memo to FBI 11/6/62)

LOOSE DOCUMENTS:

___ LAPA 22452 IN 005443 8/17/73

Veciana arrested 7/24/63 for conspiracy to smuggle cocaine into US. Veciana was contract employee of USAID from 1970 to July 1972 at La Paz. Among names appearing in Veciana address book is that of Michael Clayton, Calle 5, Obrajes, Tel # 82817

C-96796 CI/OA:

-- POA cancellation 11/5/62 ATTN: Cal Hicks

-- Request for approval 12/29/61

AMSHALE-1 = crypt

case officer: Cal Hicks, Greg Vitale signing.

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OGC file OGC-7D07

1974

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-- Letter OGC 74-0019 1/4/74

RE: US V. Antonio Veciana and Ariel Pomeris

In response to 12/19/73 request of atty Paul J. Curran, US Atty, NY, for any exculpatory evidence relevant to case. Negative results for any info from CIA within framework of case which charges defendents with unlawful acts from 11/1/72 until the present.

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