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MEMO - 7/27/76

TO: Troy Gustavson

012919

FROM: Gaeton Fonzi

I spent most of my time in Puerto Rico last weekend cruising the labyrinthian suburbs of San Juan looking for Leopoldo Cainas (in the southeast suburb of Carolina) and Manuel Rodrigues Occarberro (in the southwest "urbanization" of Summit Hill). I found that they have both since moved from the last addresses I had for them. There is no lead on Rodrigues but, if necessary, I could probably dig one up. The people in the house he once lived in were away for the weekend, but a neighbor told me that "Manolino" moved almost a year ago and that the current residents of his former home are the second family to have lived there since he left and probably wouldn't have even heard of Rodrigues. I did notice that San Juan Realty seem to be handling many house sales in the area and if we ever get to feeling that Rodrigues is significant enough to pursue we can follow up that lead. Right now I don't think he's that important.

I was luckier with Leopoldo Cainas. The guy who is now living in the house Cainas owned said that Cainas moved only a month or so ago and is living with his son-in-law in north Florida. The guy bought the house from Cainas and since he makes payments to him through the mail he gave me his address near New Smyrna Beach. There's no telephone listing, but I'll schedule a trip to call on him, probably after my return from New Orleans.

Despite not finding Rodrigues and Cainas (and not being able to reach Frank Barlow, the guy Owen Darnell suggested I talk with), the trip may have been worthwhile as a result of both the general background and specific detailed information I got from lengthy conversations with Joaquin Godoy and Manuel Ray.

Godoy

I first contacted Godoy, you recall, when we were looking for Jack Cogswell (aka Caldwell), the fellow with the intelligence connections (and very close to a Cuban-expert FBI agent named Frank O'Brien) whom Veciana had been in touch with and, we thought, must have known Bishop because Bishop gave Veciana indications that he knew him. Godoy was the link to Cogswell. He first met him in Cuba in 1958 where, says Godoy, Cogswell had close contacts with the American Embassy. When I subsequently met Cogswell in Palm Beach he struck me as a former wealthy playboy type who had sunk into alcoholism, but a guy who had been nothing more than a pseudo-intelligence contact, freelancing for various agencies, a "hobby" activity he came to as a result of his social standing and classy military background (he was a Navy officer himself and his uncle was top brass who had a ship named after him). One of the reasons I decided to check in with Godoy while in Puerto Rico was to confirm my impression about Cogswell and, also, to ask him if he has since recalled the name of the H.L. Hunt representative he had previously told me he met in New York.

Godoy, for what it's worth, seems to be a member of Puerto Rico's swinging social set. He's head of the group division of New England Life, has a plush office and walls covered with commendations, memorabilia and photos of himself and friends (among them Hollywood writer Bud ("What Makes Sammy Run") Schulberg. Godoy himself looks like something out of Hollywood: tall, lean, square-jawed handsome man in his early 50s.

What I learned from Godoy must be considered together with what Manuel Ray would later tell me. Their views of the same situation are slightly off register. That, along with a few other things Godoy said, makes me wonder if we've hit upon a circle of some significance. Veciana viewed Godoy merely as a guy with the right social contacts whose principal job was to raise money and support on a higher echelon. I wonder now if Godoy was more closely linked to an intelligence network than Veciana realized.

Godoy once worked for Castro on an upper-middle administrative level. I believe on the public works department. He says, however, he was early involved in counter-revolution underground activity in Cuba with Manuel Ray's MRP group, planning sabotage operations of major sugar refineries and military installations. There was, however, says Godoy, a falling out between Ray and the other leaders of the MRP after Ray came to the United States. The other leaders within Cuba were very upset with Ray for having joined the Frente and other CIA-backed Cuban groups in supporting the Bay of Pigs. The MRP leaders in Cuba, says Godoy, were totally against a Bay-of-Pigs type invasion and didn't want the help of the U.S. or the Batistaites it was supporting. Godoy said that after the Bay of Pigs debacle he was sent to the U.S. to push Ray aside as a leader of the MRP and to take over in raising funds for the underground. That's when Ray formed JURE, the organization Sylvia Odio's visitors said they were associated with. Godoy said he worked with Veciana because Veciana had been a member of the MRP before he formed Alpha 66. He said the MRP never received any aid or assistance from the CIA and he himself never had any contact with the CIA, except for the two contacts he had previously told me about. (One was with a guy named "Joe," a huge, fat fellow, in Miami, who questioned him occasionally, and the other once with Bernard Barker, who offered the MRP massive support if its leaders would cooperate with the CIA. That offer was rejected.)

I showed Godoy the Bishop sketch but it rang no bells with him. I mentioned no names but did tell him that it was an American who had been in contact with Veciana over the years. He expressed great surprise that Veciana had been in touch with an American but, perhaps in my paranoia, I detected a touch of irony in his grin when he said it. (i.e., was he himself assigned to report on Veciana's activity?). He told me he had heard that Veciana had recently been in some kind of trouble and had been in jail. I told him it had to do with narcotics. He said, "I don't believe it. Absolutely not. Veciana was the straightest, absolutely trustworthy

and honest person I ever met. I would trust him explicitly."

Veciana had told me that he thought that Godoy had worked for the Rockefeller Foundation at one time. Godoy said no, he hadn't, but he had applied for a job there once. He was turned down because there was no opening, but he had been recommended by Dick Goodwin, whom he had gotten to know very well and who, by the way, introduced him to both President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy. Godoy says, however, that he was once invited by Bernard Kahn of the Hudson Institute to take part in a series of seminars on "National Security Policy and Latin America." That was in 1966 and he accepted. Other guest speakers seemed to be (from my quick glance at the program he showed me) mostly right-wing and military types. Godoy said he was invited because Kahn had heard of his name as being associated with the MRP, but I'm still suspicious of the whole thing.

I became more suspicious when Godoy said, "I'm going to give you the name of a fellow who I think can help you, someone who may know the person you're looking for. He's a very close friend and tell him you talked with me. His name is Max Lesnick, the publisher of Replica."

As you may recall from a memo I recently sent, Sylvia Odio had told me of the problems she and her husband had had with the magazine they were trying to get off the ground after they refused to publish articles they thought came from Cubans with CIA connections. The problems, mostly at distribution points and sales outlets, she felt were caused by representatives of Replica. I know Lesnick once had very close CIA connections, was with the CIA rep at the American Embassy the night that Batista fell. Also, the N.Y. Times' local correspondent, George Volsky, a former USIA employee, maintains an office in Lesnick's building. Nevertheless, when I hinted of my suspicions about Lesnick, Godoy said he trusts Lesnick explicitly and is sure he is not CIA. In fact, he said, Lesnick has been very critical of the CIA. (I did not point out that so has Bud Fensterwald.)

(Having double-checked my files, there are a few errors in the above: The correct spelling is Max Lesnik. He wasn't at the American Embassy - he was in the oceanfront apartment of Jack Stewart, officially the political section leader at the Embassy. Lesnik was with the Second National Front of Escambray. Stewart told Lesnik the CIA was flying in that night a B-26 loaded with weapons for SNFE. I believe the pilot was Fiorini.)

RAY:

As smooth, charming and capable of intrigue as I suspected Godoy of being, I got almost the opposite impression of Manuel Ray. An engineer in private practice, Ray is a small, soft-spoken guy who struck me as a man of quiet principle and rationality, and an intellectually honest individual. I was greatly impressed by him.

Over a four-hour conversation with Ray, I covered a wide range of specific details regarding any possible knowledge he might have had about even the remote links ~~wa'wh~~ which we're interested, including Lobo, Lykes, Kail, Trafficante, training camps and Castro assassination attempts. Unfortunately, following the Bay of Pigs, Ray's activities appear to have been not too involved in the operational level, concerning himself instead, from what I can surmise, in garnering moral and financial support, mostly in Puerto Rico.

Nevertheless, here are a few of the more significant points developed from Ray:

When Ray was interviewed by the FBI concerning the visit that Sylvia Odio had from three men who said they were associated with Ray's organization, JUPE, Ray was not told that the men claimed that association and he was not told that Odio was specifically introduced to a man named Leon Oswald. He claims that he was simply told that Sylvia Odio was claiming that Lee Harvey Oswald once came to her door and that the FBI agent wanted to know from him whether she was mentally stable.

Ray's first contact with the American Embassy in Havana was when he was working underground for Castro before the Revolution. That was in 1958 and it was with a man named Cadwell. (Question: Could this, as it seems likely, be our man Jack Cogswell? If so, our impression of him as a freelance intelligence informant may need revising -- and therefore, too, does our view of Godoy and his relationship with Veciana.) Ray later dealt at the Embassy with CIA station chief Jim Knoell and his assistant named Williamson. Williamson doesn't fit the Bishop description and, from what I recall of Paul Bethel's description of Knoel, neither does he.

When, as I mentioned to you, I showed Ray the Bishop sketch and gave him a verbal description, it didn't take him very long to study it and tell me he thought it bore a very close resemblance to the fellow who interviewed him when he first arrived in the United States. That was in November, 1960, in Tampa. Ray recalls that the man said he was with the government, but he doesn't specifically remember that the guy said CIA, but he thinks he did. What Ray recalls specifically was that the fellow didn't ask him very much about the details of specific operations, contacts or what was going on inside Cuba; instead, he was more interested in talking with Ray about his political philosophy. Ray says he talked with him for about two hours and then never saw him again.

Ray doesn't specifically recall any front operating out of the Pan American Bank Building, but wonders whether or not RECE 010. Somewhere in my files I have some background on RECE and will check it, but off the top of my head it was Orlando Bosch's organization. Coincidentally, when I mentioned Victor Paneque to Ray, he said he knew him in the underground in Cuba but later in Miami Ray found that Paneque had become very close to Bosch. That may be significant since Paneque was the co-founder of Sturgis's

International Anti-Communist Brigade of No Name Key and was also among the Cuban's picked up on the way to the Rudolph Davis-Gus Barre New Orleans training camp.

Ray feels that the CIA, in a plan perhaps masterminded by Howard Hunt (whose book "Give Us This Day" he says is full of "lies," the reason for many of which he does not understand), deliberately conspired to break up the MRP. The MRP, says Ray, strongly opposed any major Bay of Pigs-type operation or any assassination attempts on Castro's life. Such operations contained too high a risk of failure and, with their failure, the collapse of the organization supporting them. The original MRP plan, says Ray, incorporated a series of operations each carefully timed to develop the impression among the general population and within Castro's army that there was a "crescendo of resistance" building. That would bring collapse from within, Ray reasoned. The first stage in the series of operations involved 30 separate sabotage operations within the span of a week. The second stage involved consecutive landings of small guerilla forces at various points of the island's coast. Together both stages would result in the appearance of a massive and coordinated attack that was too big to resist. The problem, says Ray, was that to carry out this scheme the MRP needed the military support of Manuel Artime's group, the MRR, and that's how he got involved and sucked into the Bay of Pigs "frente."

It might be significant to keep the following in mind in view of the story that Robert Morrow and others are now beginning to push, namely that Operation 40 (or whatever name they now will give to the secret assassination squad) was meant to result in the ultimate benefit of Kohly or some other Cuban leader. Ray says that when he was locked up with the other Cuban leaders in the house in Opa Locka by the CIA on the eve of the Bay of Pigs, the only one allowed out, they later discovered, was Manuel Artime, who went on the radio to announce that he was the chief of the army.

Ray says he had always wondered why a man named Riccardo Sardinias who was not well known and had no major backing in Cuba, wound up being among the "leaders" of the "Frente." He asked Tony Verona about it and Verona told him that Bill Pawley insisted on it.

Ray says that the man who originally put Cubelaa (AMLASH) in touch with the CIA was "El Paga" Robreno, in Spain. Cubelaa suggested to him the idea of using a high-powered telescopic rifle to kill Castro and before he could back out of the idea, which he immediately began to have second thoughts about, Robreno pushed him into it. Word leaked out, says Ray, when Artime told his inner circle of MRR men the plan. One of them, it later was revealed, was a Castro G2 agent.

(All of the above is from rough notes, but I taped most of the interview and if any specific areas need further developing I'll check back on the tapes.)

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