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DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System Identification Form

Date:

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Agency Information

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DATE:

05/27/1977

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SUBJECTS:

ANTONIO VECIANA

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CLASSIFICATION:

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DATE OF LAST REVIEW:

09/02/1998

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COMMENTS:

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FM SAN JUAN (65-514) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (105-152711) PRIORITY

MIAMI (65-3346) PRIORITY

BT

OCELOT IS - CUBA

ON MAY 23, 1977, A SOURCE WHO HAS PROVIDED RELIABLE (S)
INFORMATION IN THE PAST, ADVISED THAT HE MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE
CUBAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (CUIS) ON MAY 19, 1977, AT THE SAN (S)
MIGUEL HOTEL, PUEBLA CITY, MEXICO. AT THIS TIME, THE SOURCE WAS (S)
ASKED QUESTIONS BY THE CUIS AND THE SOURCE'S RESPONSES WERE
RECORDED ON VIDEOTAPE. THE CUIS EXPLAINED TO THE SOURCE THAT
THIS TAPE WOULD BE SHOWN TO HIGH CUBAN OFFICIALS INCLUDING
FIDEL CASTRO AND WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.

8/20/98 CLASSIFIED BY: <u>5668 SW/md</u> REASON: 1.5 (C.d.) DECLASSIFY ON: X<u>(I)(6)</u> (JFK) ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

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(5)
PAGE TWO SJ(65-514) <del>F 0-P</del> S E C R E T

THE INTERVIEW BEGAN WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SOURCE'S S

FAMILY LIFE IN CUBA BEFORE THE CASTRO REVOLUTION, AFTER WHICH HE (S)

WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE FORMER BATISTA REGIME IN CUBA. HE (S)

WAS THEN ASKED WHAT POLITICAL MOVEMENTS HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF,
AND HIS RESPONSE WAS WITH ALPHA 66 AND ESCAMBREY. HE TOLD THE (S)

INTERVIEWER THAT IN 1964 HE (THE SOURCE) HAD WORKED WITH ALPHA 66, (S)

IN HELPING APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-EIGHT CUBAN EXILES AND ARMS PASS

THROUGH PUERTO RICO TO SANTO DOMINGO FOR USE AGAINST CUBA AND THAT

ALL BUT FOUR OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED CUBAN EXILES HAD RETURNED

TO PUERTO RICO. THE FOUR WHO DID NOT RETURN ARE NOW IN

CUBAN JAILS.

THE SOURCE WAS ASKED TO GIVE HIS COMMENTS ABOUT HIS PARTICI- CS

PATION IN AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF FIDEL CASTRO IN CHILE

IN 1971. THE SOURCE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE

INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTEMPT WITH ANTONIO VECIANA. CS

THE CUIS ASKED IF VECIANA HAD BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE CENTRAL INTELLI
GENCE AGENCY AND THE SOURCE REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, CS

ASSUMED HE HAD BEEN. THIS ASSUMPTION WAS BASED ON THE FACT VECIANA CS

HAD USED A CAR WITH UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES TO

SEGRET

PAGE THREE SJ 65-514) TOOP S E C R E T

TRANSPORT THE NECESSARY ARMS AND EQUIPMENT FROM BOLIVIA, WHERE

VECIANA WAS EMPLOYED IN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY, TO CHILE.

THE SOURCE WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT A 1961 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT (5) OF CASTRO IN CUBA IN WHICH THE SOURCE PARTICIPATED AND THE SOURCE (5) STATED THAT HE. VECIANA, AND BERNARDO PRADRERES HAD AT THAT TIME TRIED TO KILL CASTRO WITH A BAZOOKA. IN THIS CONNECTION. THEY FIRST WENT TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN CUBA IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL QUEST TO OBTAIN A BAZOOKA AFTER WHICH THEY HAD TO USE A BAZOOKA THAT HAD BEEN USED AGAINST BATISTA DURING THE CASTRO UPRISING IN CUBA. THEY WAITED IN AN APARTMENT, WHICH WAS RENTED ON MISSION STREET IN HAVANA, CUBA, BY VECIANA'S MOTHER-IN-LAW, FOR NINE MONTHS FOR CASTRO TO APPEAR AT THE NEARBY CUBAN CAPITOL. PRADRERES HAD HIRED TWO OTHER INDIVIDUALS NOT KNOWN TO THE SOURCE TO DO THE CS ACTUAL FIRING, BUT WHEN CASTRO FINALLY APPEARED, THE BAZOOKA FAILED TO FIRE DUE TO ITS DETERIORATED STATE FROM HAVING BEEN BURIED FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. THE RENT FOR THE APARTMENT HAD BEEN PAID FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO MONTHS AFTER THE ATTEMPT. AND. WHEN THE RENTAL EXPIRED, IT WAS THEN THAT THE CUBAN AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED THE BAZOOKA, WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT IN THE APARTMENT, (AND, AS A)



PAGE FOUR SJ 65-514 S P S E C R E T

CONSEQUENCE, THE CASTROITES WERE ABLE TO DETERMINE ALL OF THE CS

PARTICIPANTS IN THE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT ON CASTRO'S LIFE.

THE SOURCE WAS NEXT ASKED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO FIDEL CASTRO (S) AND TO COMMENT ON WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA, TO WHICH THE SOURCE (S) RESPONDED THAT MANY CUBANS WANTED TO RETURN TO CUBA FOR FAMILY REASONS WHILE OTHER CUBAN EXILES ARE STILL HOSTILE TO THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT. (IN HIS VIDEOTAPED MESSAGE TO THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT, THE SOURCE STATED THAT HE WAS SORRY FOR HIS ANTI-CASTRO ACTIONS; THAT HE WANTED TO REVISIT CUBA AND WANTED TO HELP THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT. (S)

SOURCE WAS ASKED HOW HE LIKED WORKING WITH HIS CUIS CONTACTS (S)
AND HE RESPONDED IN A FAVORABLE FASHION AFTER WHICH HE WAS
REQUESTED TO COMMENT ABOUT THE CUBAN REVOLUTION AND HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CUIS. HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT THINGS APPEARED TO BE
GOOD IN CUBA AND THAT EVERYONE RECEIVES FREE EDUCATION AND
MEDICAL TREATMENT THERE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS NEVER

LIVED UNDER COMMUNISM AND AS A RESULT HE COULD NOT COMMENT IN
ADEQUATE FASHION.

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PAGE FIVE SJ 65-514 TOTSECRET

IN THE LAST SEGMENT OF THE VIDEOTAPING, CUIS PRESENTED THE CS.

SOURCE WITH LARGE BLOWN UP PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM PHOTOGRAPHS THE SOURCE HAD GIVEN CUIS AT A PREVIOUS MEETING. CS.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE OF AN ALPHA 66 MEETING IN DALLAS, TEXAS, IN 1963. IN ONE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS, THERE APPEARED AN INDIVIDUAL SIMILAR IN DESCRIPTION TO LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND THE SOURCE WAS CS.

ASKED TO POINT OUT, WHICH HE DID, THAT SAME INDIVIDUAL, AFTER WHICH THE VIDEOTAPING ENDED. THE WHOLE TAPING PROCESS LASTED APPROXI-CS.

MATELY ONE HOUR AND TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES (AND CONSUMED ALMOST THREE CS.)

ROLLS OF VIDEOTAPE.

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PAGE SIX SJ65-514 F S E C R E T

REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPE (MAY 26, 1977, AND SAN JUAN S.)

TELETYPES TO DIRECTOR (MAY 23, 1977 AND (MAY 24, 1977. NO COPY (S.)

(MAY 24, 1977 TELETYPE TO MIAMI. (S)

SOURCE IS SJ 1849-0A, DEBRIEFED ON MAY 23, 1977. [5]

FOR THE INFORMATION OF RECIPIENTS, TIME LIMITATIONS IN
THE DEBRIEFING OF SOURCE ON MAY 23, 1977, DID NOT ALLOW FOR A (5)
MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTIONS POSED OF THE SOURCE (5)
AND HIS REPLIES. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO DEBRIEF SOURCE (5)
IN MORE DETAIL CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

SOURCE ALSO REPORTED DURING DEBRIEFING ON MAY 23, 1977, 5

THAT CASTRO WAS TO BE INTERVIEWED BY A FEMALE REPORTER OF A

MAJOR U.S. NETWORK DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. SAN JUAN HAD

SPECULATED THAT THE VIDEOTAPE COULD POSSIBLY BE USED DURING THE 5

NETWORK INTERVIEW FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES, ALTHOUGH IT WAS

CONSIDERED UNLIKELY. WHOA, AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE RADIO STATION IN

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, REPORTED IN THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 26,

1977, THAT BARBARA WALTERS OF ABC NEWS HAD RECENTLY INTERVIEWED

CASTRO. THE WHOA REPORT RELATED VARIOUS SUBJECTS THAT HAD BEEN

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PAGE SEVEN SJ 65-514 FOR SECRET

DISCUSSED BY WALTERS AND CASTRO, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO

INDICATION THAT THE VIDEOTAPE OF THE SOURCE HAD ENTERED INTO (S)

THOSE DISCUSSIONS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE WALTERS INTERVIEW

IS THE ONE REFERRED TO (BY THE SOURCE.) (S)

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