

ANTI-CASTRO CUBAN EXILE GROUPS AND PERSONALITIES

Group	Leader	General Info
Alpha 66	Antonio Veciana Blanch Military Commander: Eloy Guitierrez Menoya	Founded in Miami, 1962; Veciana involved in ass. plots against Castro in Havana (Oct. 61) and Chile (1971). One of the most militarily active of exile groups. Veciana had a U.S. intelligence contact/controller: "Maurice Bishop", believed by some to be David Atlee Phillips of the CIA. Veciana claims he saw Oswald with "Bishop" in Dallas in late August/early September of 1963.
Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC)	Dr. Jose Miro Cardona Dr. Antonio Maceo Antonio de Varona	Formed in 1961, successor to (resigned April of '63) the FRD as umbrella group for exile groups. Cardona resigned (resigned June of '63) in April of '63 in protest over U.S. policy; disbanded in '64. CRC had a New Orleans chapter, founded by Sergio Aracha Smith in 1961. Smith fired by main Miami office in '62, replaced by Luis Rabel (Jan.). Rabel succeeded (in Oct. '62) by Frank Bartes. NO CRC occupied Newman Building in '61-'62 Antonio de Varona came to NO to speak on behalf of CRC on Nov. 15, 1963. U.S. Government funding for CRC cut off on May 1 of 1963. Bartes appeared with Bringuier at court hearing and argued with Oswald on Aug. 12; that same day Bartes claims to have warned his FBI contact that

Oswald was "a dangerous man."
Bartes was also instrumental in bringing Gerald Hemming to NO in late June of '62. Met with Hemming and two others in Miami on June 25, 1962.
CIA crypt for CRC was AMBUD. Bartes an informant for CIA's DCD. Guy Banister founds Friends of Democratic Cuba to fundraise for NO CRC group and helps Aracha Smith get office at 544 Camp Street. Gerard Tujague, Oswald's pre-Marine employer, a supporter of Banister's group.

Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE)

Military Commander: Founded pre-Castro as anti-Juan Francisco Blanco-Batista group; later became Fernandez among the most virulent of anti-Castro groups. Sept. '62 attack on Blanquita Theater in Havana. New Orleans delegate of DRE: Carlos Bringuier. Gained support of some wealthy right-wing Americans like Claire Luce and William Pawley. Had base on Catalina Island off Dominican Republic. CIA crypt for DRE was AMSPELL. DRE had at least one member arrested by FBI on July 31, 1963 raid on Hemming/Lake Ponchartrain ammo dump. NO FBI agent de Brueys interviewed Bringuier in late August of '62, after DRE had shelled Havana. DRE received funding from CIA. According to a 4/3/67 memo by CIA's Counterintelligence Research and Analysis (CI/R&A) the DRE "was penetrated by the

DGI [Cuban intelligence] and, in the fall of 1962, rolled up. We continued nominal support until September 1966 and terminated the relationship on 1 Jan 1967.”

Ejercito Cubano
Anticomunista (ECA)

Evelio Duque

Allied with Bosch and MIRR;
had dealings with Hemming and InterPen.

Frente Revolucionario
Democratico (FRD)

Manuel Antonio Varona

Exile umbrella group; Varona among those who met with JFK in White House as Bay of Pigs landing fizzled. Formed in May, 1960, set up initially in Mexico, the political front of Brigade 2506.

InterPen

Gerald Hemming

Coordinated military efforts of several exile groups; ran training camps. Had ties to the 30th of November movement. Hemming also had close ties to Jose Soso of DRE, and knew Menoya of Alpha 66. Hemming came to NO on June 24, 1962, with assistance of Bartes of CRC. House/ammo dump for Hemming’s Lake Ponchartrain camp raided by FBI on July 31, 1963. Hemming claims to have met Oswald in Calif. in 1959 (Cuban Consulate in LA and outside gate at El Toro base). Interpen stands for Intercontinental Penetration Force and was founded in Miami in 1961. Hemming a long-time CIA asset and a cohort of Frank Sturgis. Hemming had previously flown with Cuban Revolutionary Air Force. Seymour originally alleged to have been one of

trio who visited Sylvia Odio.

Junta del Gobierno de Cuba en el Exilo (JGCE)	Paulino Sierra Martinez	Founded in March/April of 1963 in Chicago; another umbrella organization cutting across existing anti-Castro groups -- funding source reputed to be mob/gambling interests. FBI Chicago office investigated in June of '63.
Junta Revolucionaria Cubana (JURE)	Manolo Ray Military Commander: Rogelio Cisneros	Founded in Miami: July 23, 1962. Operationally independent of CIA, but funded through "Autonomous Operations" policy: ie, not through CRC. Ray met with RFK Sept. of '63. JURE began to fall apart in '64; lasted until August of 1968. Silvia Odio was a member of JURE. See MRP.
Revolutionary Movement of the People (MRP)	Manolo Ray	A left-wing anti-Batista rebel, Ray was Minister of Public Works in Castro's first govt.; withdrew in May '60; MRP formed in Cuba as underground organization. Ray came to US on Nov. 10, 1960. Received approval as "operational asset" on 2/7/61. MRP accepted into FRD/CRC three weeks before Bay of Pigs, at strong behest of State Dept. and White House: both sides reluctant. E. Howard Hunt resigned as CIA liaison over this step by CRC; Ray withdrew from CRC on May 28, 1961 and formed JURE in July of 1962.

Movimento Democrática
Cristiano (MDC)

Dr. Jose Ignacia Rasco Founded in Havana in March,
Military Commander: 1960. Rasco left Cuba in April,
Laureano Batista Falla arriving in Miami on 4/22.

Group conducted numerous
raids in Cuba. Involved with
Hemming training camp in

Lacombe, LA/on Lake

Ponchartrain which
FBI raided on July 31, '63. Part of
FRD. Richard Rudolph Davis,
a friend of Batista Falla, helped
secure the LA camp, where
Victor Paneque ("Commandante
Diego") arrived in the summer of
1963. Nineteen MDC folks
arrested as part of raid.

Movimento de Manuel Artime Formed in Cuba in late Recuperation
Military Commander: 1959. Artime the main recruiter
Revolucionaria (MRR) Jose Perez San Roman of Brigade 2506 (Bay of Pigs);

MRR had bases in Costa Rica
and Nicaragua. Artime died in
1977. Had fled Cuba in Dec. '59.

Movimento Insurreccional Orlando Bosch Avila Formed in Cuba's Los Villas
de Recuperacion Military Commander: Mountains in Aug. of 1960 by
Revolucionaria (MIRR) Victor Paneque disillusioned deserters of Castro's

army. Bosch had left Cuba in
July. Probably most violent of
all the anti-Castro groups: 1976
bombing of Cuban airliner;
alleged involvement in murder of
Chilean diplomat Orlando
Letelier in Wash. in 1976. Became
known as "Cuban Power" in July
of 1967. In early '60s, Bosch
had links with Sturgis, Alexander
Rorke and William Johnson.
MIRR's funding sources unclear.

30th of November

Carlos Quesada

Active in Cuban underground up to Bay of Pigs, Quesada and others fled to U.S. in March of '61 and joined CRC. Victim of various factional/personality disputes; expelled from CRC in March of '62, in part due to March 10, 1962 Miami demonstration during JFK visit, Quesada helped organize. Joined JGCE in 1963, Quesada to be junta's Min. of Internal Affairs. Early '64, Quesada expelled from own group for misappropriation of funds. Homer Echevarria, who SS investigated at time of assassination, allegedly a member of this group.

Isidor "Chilo" Borja

A leader in DRE who testified before HSCA that DRE contemporaneously forwarded intelligence on Oswald/Bringuier
NO clash to the CIA.

Nestor Castellanos

Cuban exile who, on Oct. 1, 1963, threatened trouble during upcoming JFK visit to Dallas

Michael Cruz

Friend of Bringuier, anti-Castro activist in NO, present at row w/Oswald

Celso Hernandez

Friend of Bringuier, anti-Castro activist in NO, present at row w/Oswald

Mario Lazo

Cuban attorney, author of *Dagger In the Heart*

-----	Luis Posado	jailed along with Bosch in Venezuela for Cubana Airlines bomb
-----	Carlos Quiroga	Friend of Bringuier (DRE) and Sergio Arcacha Smith (CRC), anti-Castro activist in NO, visited Smith at 544 Camp St. "often" and was sent by Bringuier to get info from Oswald at latter's home on Magazine Street.
March 1960	President Eisenhower authorizes CIA to train and equip Cuban exile force for invasion. This was the genesis for Brigade 2506.	
mid-1960	"Maurice Bishop" approaches Antonio Veciana in Havana	
early-1961	Guy Banister forms Friends of Democratic Cuba, a financial support group for Arcacha Smith's NO chapter of CRC.	
late-1961	Ferrie, Arcacha Smith and others involved in raid on munitions depot in Houma, LA.	
10/26/71	Amador and Sarah Odio, Sylvia Odio's parents, arrested by Castro.	
12/29/62	Brigade 2506 and Cuban exiles holds rally in the Orange Bowl with President Kennedy; they present him with flag.	
March, 1963	Sylvio Odio moves to Dallas	
3/31/63	British police arrest anti-Castro raiders in Bahamas/another exile raiding boat seized in Miami Harbor	
4/3/63	In response to Soviet complaints, U.S. announces it is "taking every step necessary to insure that such attacks are not launched, manned or equipped from U.S. territory."	
Sept. 1963	Alleged (by Marita Lorenz) meeting in Miami Bosch, Sturgis, Oswald and others, planning a trip to Dallas.	

9/17/76 Veciana meets Phillips at ARIO luncheon in Reston

3/2/78 HSCA asks CIA to check files on Maurice Bishop

3/31/78 CIA replies: no such person

9/8/78 CIA Office of Legislative Counsel writes HSCA indicating a further check of CIA records does not reveal a Maurice Bishop