

ARRB FLORIDA PROJECTS LIST

The following is a tentative list of research projects and/or potential contacts in the state of Florida which currently might be of interest to the ARRB. An item's inclusion on this list does not necessarily indicate that the ARRB endorses its credibility, but rather that we are, to varying degrees, potentially interested in following up these leads for the purposes of clarifying the public record to the extent that it is possible.

In Orlando:

(1) Interview Rudolph M. Reich. Col. Reich was the commanding officer of the 316th INTC detachment out of Fort Sam Houston, Texas; it is he who has been alleged by some (including Fletcher Prouty and Oliver Stone) to have been the one who called the Secret Service and offered supplemental protection to the Secret Service.

Col. Reich has been contacted by the Review Board staff and has been entirely cooperative. He has participated in one telephone interview with ARRB to this point, and has provided us with copies of letters he sent to the Army disputing the Prouty allegation. He has indicated his willingness to be interviewed in person or to be deposed if the ARRB should so designate.

In Miami:

(1) Contact and interview Antonio Veciana. The Veciana/Bishop story is well documented and has become an accepted part of assassination lore. To the date, Antonio Veciana has been unresponsive to our attempts to contact him. To the extent that this reticence can be overcome by either ARRB, Gaeton Fonzi, or both, the ARRB would like to interview and/or depose Veciana.

(2) Contact and interview Gordon Winslow. As the unofficial historian of the anti-Castro Cuban groups, Winslow might have knowledge both of documents that may still exist, and might be able to put us in touch with members of the community. It is my understanding that Tom Samoluk had some contact with Winslow; we could and should build on that.

(3) Contact Juan Salvat of DRE; access the DRE records recently obtained from Salvat by the University of Miami. The DRE records at the University of Miami represent a known holding of documents; additionally, DRE, because of its connections with Oswald, is perhaps the most relevant of the anti-Castro groups. These files might well contain assassination records.

Additionally, the ARRB might benefit from talking to Salvat himself. Beyond his considerable

knowledge of the anti-Castro community and of the events of the early sixties, Fonzi alleges that Salvat removed or held out some papers from his donation to the University of Miami. We should discuss with Salvat the veracity of this charge.

(4) Through sources at the Miami Herald, contact Jake Esterline. Fonzi told us that Herald reporter Don Bohning recently did a story on JMWAVE, and one of his main sources was Jake Esterline, who now is said to live in North Carolina. We should talk to Bohning and see what he knows about JMWAVE, and see if he'll put us in contact with Esterline.

Esterline might be a good source for finding out the procedures that were used to deal with documents when JMWAVE shut down.

(5) MIU. Access or obtain the files of the Metropolitan Intelligence Unit, Fort Lauderdale, to gain information on organized crime figures.

(6) Contact prominent anti-Castro Cuban leaders. Fonzi has given us the names of several prominent anti-Castro Cuban leaders, including persons connected with Alpha 66, SNFE, JURE and Commandos L. Discussions with these persons might reveal connections or set us on paths that lead us to more documents.

Since we are involved in a documents search and not an investigation, it seems that there is a limited amount that could come out of these discussions; in fact, statements offered without documentation could well muddy the record. If preliminary contacts with these people lead us to believe that they either have documents or could point us in the direction of some, we should interview them. Otherwise, it seems not to be in the best interest of ARRB to pursue this angle.

(7) Meet with and/or depose Frank Ragano. I don't know much about this project, but Ron tells me that he has some original notes that would be very good for us to acquire.

(8) Check the status of organized crime records held by the Miami and Dade County police. This project specifically refers to the deaths of Eladio del Valle, Rolando Masferrer and Johnny Roselli. Staff members Montague and Haron each mentioned this project. Montague indicated frustration with the lack of cooperation we have received from our contact in the Miami PD's Special Investigations Section, Scott Nugent. He compared our trying to get records from Nugent with "pulling teeth."

(9) Check with the University of Miami regarding records which may exist pertaining to JMWAVE station and cover identities used while it was located at Miami's south campus. Records of payments to the University by the US Government, identities of cover or front businesses used by JMWAVE, and any lists of personnel might be of interest to the ARRB.

(10) Interview Mr. James Siebert. This is self-explanatory.

(11) Follow-up interview with James Hosty. If follow-up questions develop or if we feel the need to re-contact him, Hosty has indicated to us his willingness to meet with us again.

In Tallahassee:

(1) Review the files of the Florida Legislative Investigation Committee (aka "The Johns Committee). A researcher has written us requesting that we review these files, and Fonzi also forwarded us this suggestion. Apparently, there are papers in the Johns Committee files regarding the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, the Cuban Revolutionary Council, and the DRE. A review of these files might turn up some assassination records.