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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Post Office Box 4312
San Juan 21, Puerto Rico

August 8, 1962

DBA 18651

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① OPERATION ALPHA 66
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA
REGISTRATION ACT- CUBA

The following information was furnished on a confidential basis on July 12, 1962 by SJ T-1:

201-312710
Operation Alpha 66 is under the leadership of one ANTONIO VECIANA BLANCH, an exiled Cuban certified public accountant who was formerly the president of the Certified Public Accountant Association in Havana, Cuba. VECIANA went into voluntary exile around December, 1961; arriving in Florida by means of a small boat from Cuba. VECIANA left Puerto Rico around July 5, 1962 en route to Chicago and New York City to collect funds to carry out the Alpha 66 plans of action inside Cuba.

SJ T-1 stated that VECIANA is the only spokesman for Alpha 66 in Puerto Rico, but he is supposed to have three or four other associates in Miami. These friends, not further identified, are supposedly exile Cuban leaders in the Miami area.

He stated that Alpha 66 has no leader as such. VECIANA has attempted to impress the Cuban exiles that his movement is one of action to free Cuba as soon as possible and not an organization to seek membership and sit back and wait for the United States to free Cuba.

VECIANA told SJ T-1 that the United States Government has proven by its past actions that it does not intend to liberate Cuba in the near future. He bases this belief on the following:

- 1) The U. S. permitted CASTRO to take over Cuba.
- 2) The U. S. permitted CASTRO to confiscate property owned by U. S. citizens in Cuba without any action.

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RE OPERATION ALPHA 66

3) The U. S. sat by and let CASTRO's Government shoot American citizens without any protest.

4) The U. S. has permitted Russia to set up a base in Cuba without any protest.

SJ T-1 stated that VECIANA is not anti-American, but feels that the Cubans cannot wait and depend on the United States to fight their battles.

Accordingly, VECIANA has set up Alpha 66, a plan to send 66 trained men of action into Cuba and commit five (5) violent, separate actions against the CASTRO regime. The five actions are as follows:

1) Kill the Russian Ambassador to Cuba or some other high Russian official in Cuba.

2) Blow up the Esso Oil Refinery in the Regla section of Havana.

3) Destroy the power plant at Talle Piedra, a suburb of Havana.

4) Sink a Russian ship in Havana harbor.

5) Kill a high ranking Cuban official.

If the aforementioned actions are successful, then Alpha 66 plans to sink a Greek or Canadian merchant ship by using a fast yacht armed with bazookas.

Names given to these aforementioned actions are "A", "B", "U", and "C"; Cuba spelled backwards.

The first action, one of the above, is to be carried out at the end of July; the next two in August; and the last two by September 22, 1962. SJ T-1 does not know which actions are to take place first, second, etc.

The target completion, date of September 22, 1962 has been set by VECIANA.

VECIANA has been contacting the Cuban exile groups in Puerto Rico, Florida, Chicago and possibly New York City in order to collect \$64,000 cash to carry out the plans of Alpha 66. As of July 3, 1962 he had collected only \$10,089.

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RE OPERATION ALPHA 66

If none of the actions are successful by September 22, 1962, then Alpha 66 has pledged that it will return all donations to the donors.

The money is being collected and placed in the Alpha 66 account at the Banco de Ponce, Santurce, Puerto Rico. All donors are given receipts for money donated. The money is set aside to cover each of the five actions.

SJ T-1 noted that one of the larger donations, one of \$500, came from LUIS FERRE, Puerto Rican Statehood Party leader. SJ T-1 noted that FERRE has a reputation of always donating to any anti-CASTRO drive, without reservations.

SJ T-1 stated that VECIANA has indicated to him the names of three individuals who are now in Cuba who are expected to assist Alpha 66 in their plan of action. They are VINCENTE NOBLE, GUILLERMO RUIZ and BERNARDO PARADELA. SJ T-1 noted that he knows all three as they had been connected in 1956 with the Servicio de Inteligencia Militar (SIM) in the Dominican Republic. According to VECIANA, PARADELA is in jail in Cuba and SJ T-1 cannot figure out how he can be of much help. However, NOBLE and RUIZ are on the loose in Cuba and, according to SJ T-1, are cold-blooded killers.

SJ T-2 advised on July 12, 1962 that ANTONIO VECIANA was formerly the Chief of Action of the Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo (MRP) in the Havana area. He was a member of the Christian Family Movement in Cuba and President of the Certified Public Accountant Association in Cuba. He was a top executive of the Banco Financiero, Havana, Cuba, which bank was owned by JULIO LOBO, the "Cuban Sugar King".

According to SJ T-2, VECIANA was in charge of the MRP plan "Liborrio" to kill FIDEL CASTRO. VECIANA's mother had rented an apartment across the street from CASTRO's presidential palace in Havana, and VECIANA and friends set up bazookas to fire at CASTRO. However, when it came time for action, the bazookas were found to be defective and would not fire. Then someone talked and VECIANA fled Cuba around the latter part of 1961 by a small boat to Florida.

When VECIANA arrived in Florida, he contacted other Cuban underground leaders he had known in Cuba who were now in exile and together they had decided on forming what

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RE OPERATION ALPHA 66

is now referred to as Alpha 66. SJ T-2 does not know the identities of the other leaders of Alpha 66, with the exception of the figureheads in Puerto Rico.

These figureheads, who have nothing to say with the operational plans of Alpha 66, are as follows:

- 1) ISRAEL GONZALEZ, Certified Public Accountant, employed Banco de San Juan, Santurce, Puerto Rico; head of the local Cuban exile group known as the Contadores Publicos en Exilio (Public Accountants in Exile).
- 2) ROBERTO I. CASTELLON, a public accountant and formerly head of the Triple AAA Cuban exile group; and
- 3) L. CEBALLOS, another Cuban exile whose background is now known to SJ T-2.

SJ T-2 stated that he was asked to join the Alpha 66 leadership by VECIANA, but declined to do so stating to VECIANA that while he was interested in helping any legitimate Cuban exile group, he does not plan to get involved as an officer in any such group of action such as Alpha 66. However, SJ T-2 stated that he would be willing to act as one of four selected Cuban exiles in Puerto Rico who would jointly endorse any checks or other donations to Alpha 66 to insure that the money obtained would be used for the stated purpose of Alpha 66; that is, to pay for the cost of sending 66 men into Cuba to commit five (5) actions against the Cuban CASTRO Government. SJ T-2 stated that he does not know what these five actions are with the exception of two, namely, to blow up the Esso Refinery at Regla, Cuba and to kill a high Cuban Government official.

SJ T-2 stated that all these actions of Alpha 66 are to start from outside the United States and United States territories. He does not know the location of any base of operations.

SJ T-2 continued that JERONIMO ESTEVE ABRIL, the aforementioned ROBERTO I. CASTELLON, an exiled Cuban priest, Padre LEON HERNANDEZ and one DEL VALLE (not further described), check all donations and issue receipts. If Alpha 66 is not successful in its plans, then the donations will be returned

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RE OPERATION ALPHA 66

to the donor. The money is banked in the Alpha 66 account at the Banco de Ponce in San Juan, then ISRAEL GONZALEZ sends the money on to Miami where another account exists in the name of Alpha 66; identity of bank in Miami is unknown to SJ T-2.

SJ T-2 noted that he had originally been introduced to VECIANA by ISRAEL GONZALEZ. He then listened to the plans of VECIANA, whom he had once met through the Christian Family Movement some years previous in Cuba. SJ T-2 stated that he was impressed with the apparent sincerity of VECIANA and even went to Ponce, Puerto Rico to speak in behalf of the Alpha 66.

SJ T-2 stated that he has not pressed VECIANA for details as he feels that the less Cubans who know about the operations of the group, the better chances are for some success. He stated that he feels that the failure of the landing at the Bay of Pigs was due to too many people knowing about the plans before the attack. SJ T-2 feels that VECIANA realizes this also, and is attempting to keep the bare minimum of people knowing about Alpha 66 plans.

SJ T-2 stated that the Division of Intelligence, Police of Puerto Rico (DI, POPR) have contacted Cuban exile leaders regarding Alpha 66. He stated that the detectives apparently have had some complaints from other Cuban exiles describing Alpha 66 as "just another fraud to obtain money from the exiles".

SJ T-2 stated that he hopes he has not made a mistake by helping VECIANA and Alpha 66, but he feels that under the leadership of a man like VECIANA the plans of Alpha 66 might work out to the benefit of all Cubans.

SJ T-2 stated that VECIANA has left Puerto Rico for several weeks to visit Cuban exile groups in Chicago and New York. VECIANA then intends to return to Puerto Rico.

SJ T-2 noted that Alpha 66 is using the mailing address of Box 9791, Santurce, Puerto Rico. SJ T-2 stated that this is the box of the Contadores Publicos en Exilio of ISRAEL GONZALEZ.

On July 16, 1962, Miss PAT GRACIA, Secretary, Postal Inspector's Office, San Juan, Puerto Rico, advised that Post Office Box 9791, Santurce is listed to the Asociacion Contadores Publicos y Privados.

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RE OPERATION ALPHA 66

On July 6, 1962, SJ T-3 advised that he had met ANTONIO VECIANA and had been requested to join the leadership of Alpha 66 in Puerto Rico. He stated that he was introduced to VECIANA by JERONIMO ESTEVE. SJ T-3 stated that he asked VECIANA if he had contacted the Consejo Revolucionario Cubano or the U. S. Government about his plans. VECIANA told him that he had not done so and then SJ T-3 told him he was not interested until VECIANA has obtained the approval of the Consejo or the U. S. Government. SJ T-3 stated that he considers Alpha 66 to be another of the many hopeful Cuban exile operations which do not have a chance of success from the start. SJ T-3 added that he would not donate a penny to Alpha 66 and considers it a possible fraud.

On July 25, 1962, ROBERTO ROCA ROSILLO, youthful Cuban exile leader in Puerto Rico of the Movimiento Revolucionario Recuperacion (MRR), advised that he feels that Alpha 66 is a group with high plans but without any chance of success. He stated that Alpha 66's plans are not even in shape to carry out any action before August, 1962, let alone July, 1962, as Alpha 66 is still looking for guns and men. ROCA stated that to do the things Alpha 66 plans to do would end up in suicide for all concerned. ROCA continued that he certainly would not lend any of his MRR members to Alpha's movement nor would he donate any money to their cause.

On July 27, 1962, SJ T-4 advised that he has heard of Alpha 66, but has not paid much attention to it as he considers it one of the many hopeful plans of the Cuban exiles based on emotions rather than common sense. SJ T-4 stated that he has not heard much of Alpha 66 in the past few weeks.

A characterization of the Puerto Rican Statehood Party appears in the appendix hereto.

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APPENDIX

PARTIDO ESTADISTA REPUBLICANO
(Republican Statehood Party of Puerto Rico) (PER)

A legally constituted political party which advocates continued union with the United States in the form of statehood.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Post Office Box 4312
San Juan 21, Puerto Rico
August 8, 1962

DBA 18681

OPERATION ALPHA 66
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA
REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA

Reference is made to the letterhead memorandum dated and captioned as above at San Juan.

Sources mentioned in instant communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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