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VIA

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

23 January 1962

SUBJECT: Contact Report - Antonio VECIANA Blanche

1. (C) Two members of USAOSD (using assumed names) met with Antonio VECIANA on 22 January. The purpose of the meeting was primarily to gather details on a boat, used by his organization, which had been confiscated by U.S. Customs. In addition, VECIANA was queried on the capabilities and mission of his group, the role he felt and what assistance he felt might be provided the organization.

2. (C) VECIANA is a Cuban refugee, resident in Miami, and a certified public accountant by profession. He is currently associated with Alpha 66 and Second Front of the Escambray as their primary fund-raiser and possibly as treasurer. These two Anti-Castro groups apparently are two facets of one organization; Alpha 66, the overt fund-raising, recruiting organization, and Second Front of the Escambray, the covert action group.

3. (C) VECIANA stated the aims of this organization were to cause a war in Cuba by conducting raiding operations and establishing guerrilla groups in Cuba. The purpose of this action is to harass and destroy sufficient Cuban Government troops and strategic facilities as to make the Cuban populace aware that it was possible to overthrow the Castro government, and that by cooperating with or joining in these efforts they could do this. In other words, the group envisions an internal uprising prompted by outside Cuban refugee action. The group, as they have previously stated, does not desire direct U.S. participation, and has no political aims, other than to overthrow Castro allowing a more democratic government to return. VECIANA stated that this was the reason they did not cooperate with other refugee groups, and why they did not desire to work with CIA, because their aims would be subverted to political ends.

4. (C) VECIANA claims that this group has various military bases in the Caribbean. He would not be more specific. He said that these bases are staffed by Cuban exiles, and that they are being used to train Cuban exiles, and to conduct operations in Cuba. He stated that the group is not by any means a military organization, but that it is a political organization, because it is concerned with the overthrow of the Castro government. VECIANA stated they maintain "headquarters" in San Juan, Miami, and New York and plan to establish other offices in Washington, Chicago and Los Angeles to facilitate the raising of funds.

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SUBJECT: Contact Report - Antonio VECIANA blanche

5. (C) The latest plan of this group is to collect funds for the purchase of eight boats for use in their raiding activities. VECIANA stated that they already have four boats, and enough small arms and ammunition (including explosives) to equip 400-500 men. Their need (in addition to personnel) is for boats, food (and related subsistence items), and radios. These boats, costing about \$2000 apiece, will have fiberglass hulls and be used for sabotage raids and for establishing small guerrilla teams in Cuba. The radios will establish their communication with the boats and guerrilla crews. VECIANA envisions purchase of moderate price transceiver equipment. VECIANA hopes they will be prepared for 20 - 25 raids against Cuba within 6 weeks. (Note: This is substance of detailed information contained in ANTGE 103, DAIN 827, dated 16 January 1963.)

6. (C) VECIANA provided copies of the correspondence with the Bureau of Customs regarding seizure of the boat. (See attachment.) VECIANA stated that the boat was owned by a Cuban-American fisherman in Miami who is not a member of their organization. He said that the boat was worth about \$2000. The supplies and equipment aboard consisted of approximately 10 M-1 rifles with ammunition, food, fuel, tax watches, and a 1 KW generator. He said the total value of the boat and equipment was about \$8,000. The boat was in the Miami River at the time of capture.

7. (C) VECIANA requested assistance in releasing the boat and equipment, he made a plea for funds (\$10,000), and stated that the U.S. Government could assist the group most by allowing them freedom of movement.

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a/s

WILLIAM C. ARMS
Captain
LA Desk

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