

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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FROM : CAPT. WILLIAM C. ARMS
TO :
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SUBJECTS : VECIANA BLANCH, ANTONIO C

ALPHA 66 PROGRAM

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

2 November 1962

SUBJECT: Alpha 66 Frogmen

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1. (C) Undersigned called Capt Hubbard at 1100 hours, 1 Nov to inform him location of frogmen mentioned in our DA 921003 was of priority importance. Hubbard had received ref cable $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before and had made appointment to see Veciana that evening. He was told to try and move this appointment up, make any contacts he was able, including Coast Guard, INS and FBI and give us a progress report by phone before 1500 that day. Concerning the weapons he reported that they were sitting in Maj Daniel's office. No SSD courier had left PR this week, but they would go with the first one. He did not know when this might be. I told him we had made arrangements with the SSD people to pick up the material, and since we would not have to meet it at the airport, it was not necessary he call us when it left, merely send us a cable, with details.

2. (C) Hubbard called at 1500 hours, 1 Nov. He said he had just finished talking with Veciana. Veciana identifies the two men as Julio CRUZ and FNU CASTILLO. He says they are located on an island outside the U.S. $1\frac{1}{2}$ days by boat from Miami. Veciana said Hubbard and two other men could interview the men at their present location if they went blindfolded and by boat. He refused to bring them to the U.S.; he wants Hubbard to go too (as well as himself); he says planes cannot be used; he insists on the blindfolds. Hubbard says he believes these are the men we are looking for. He ~~has talked~~ (Hubbard) has talked with other people (unidentified) which tends to confirm this. Hubbard said Veciana identified them as members of the 2nd Front of the Escambray. Hubbard had another meeting with him at 1930 hours (local). He was told to remain at the telephone and we would call back. before 1930.

3. (C) Information was passed to Lt Col Daugherty, who contacted Navy. First reaction from them was that they would have no decision as to whether to proceed until this date. Therefore I recontacted Hubbard informing him of this and he agreed to string Veciana along until today. We discussed possible remuneration and Hubbard suggested that one way we could assist was by getting the boat released that had been picked up by INS in Miami about 30 October which belongs to the group, together with a quantity of arms and ammunition, which they also confiscated.

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4. (C) At 1700 Lt Col Daugherty called to say the Navy had agreed to the debriefing on their conditions. They will furnish one man. The matter of transportation to the island is open. Veciana said he would furnish it given two or three days. A tentative arrival date on the island was set for late 5 November. Hubbard was recontacted by undersigned at 1800 and informed of this prior to his meeting. Hubbard agreed to leave the transportation issue open for the moment, to discuss the timing and route of travel. I promised to call Hubbard with further details this date.

5. (C) Undersigned talked with Lt Cmdr Hamilton at 1100 hours this date. In that, a subsequent conversation with Hubbard and with Maj Watlington most of the details were completed for the trip. Hamilton was to secure a Coast Guard or Navy boat, Hubbard and Veciana were to proceed to Miami on Saturday and thence to Key West where they would meet Hamilton and

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Stein was to accompany them as translator.

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6. (S) However, about 1200 hours, Hamilton called to say that his superior, Admiral Griffin, Chief of Fleet Operations and Readiness had stated none of his men or equipment would be used to go to this location. Upon informing Lt Col Daugherty, he informed General Lansdale's office of the fact that we were contemplating this action, Navy's reaction and asking whether they had any interest or guidance. At 1430 General Lansdale's office replied that no operations of this type would be conducted. The only conditions under which U.S. military personnel could meet these persons was if they came on U.S. territory. This apparently was a high policy decision.

7. (S) Accordingly, at 1500 undersigned called Hubbard informing him of this fact. He did not express much hope for getting them to come to U.S. territory, but said he would try. I suggested that he might still reimburse Veciana for his Miami trip, since Veciana wanted to be in Miami for a special Catholic Holy Day mass in connection with the Cuban refugee movement. Hubbard stated that Veciana had bought his own ticket. Called Stein and informed him of situation and called Hamilton to reaffirm the decision. Hamilton noted that they would still be interested in information even as to whether the force the frogmen encountered was an attraction or repulsion.

Case Closed.

WCA
WILLIAM C. ARMS
Capt
LA Desk Officer

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