

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

September 6, 1996

Written By: Christopher Barger

Subject: Background and Conclusions Regarding Antonio Veciana and the
Story He Told The House Select Committee on Assassinations

One of the figures in the assassination story who has generated the most excitement among researchers is Antonio Veciana Blanch, formerly one of the leaders of the anti-Castro exile group, *Alpha 66*. Because of statements and allegations he made during the HSCA investigation regarding the CIA, his organization, his American Government contact, and Lee Harvey Oswald, Veciana and his story have been the subject of several books and years of speculation. The "Maurice Bishop" story has been largely accepted as fact by the research community. For this reason, it is important to the historical understanding of the Kennedy assassination story that the ARRB attempt to clarify the Veciana issue to the greatest extent possible.

As one of the analysts specializing in Cuba and anti-Castro affairs, I have focused much of my research on Veciana and his story. Because I have been in the unique position of belonging to both the CIA and military teams, I have found myself in a good position to get a full background on Veciana.

A review of the records and files of the Central Intelligence Agency, United States Army Intelligence, and the House Select Committee on Assassinations, coupled with research and analysis by ARRB staff, indicates that much of the Veciana story as accepted in the research community is incorrect. Furthermore, the veracity of the allegations made by Veciana is called into question, as is the research and investigation done by the House Select Committee staff investigator. Full release of the records will contribute to the clarification of the historical understanding. The goal of this memo is to further this clarification by explaining where the Veciana story is in error, and presenting evidence that would seem to discredit the current understanding of Antonio Veciana and his relation to the assassination story.

Background (the Veciana story and its place in the assassination story):

In order to gain a full understanding of the impact of the evidence uncovered by ARRB research, it is first necessary to know Veciana's full story, and the extent to which it affects the research community.

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It is perhaps most important to note that Veciana himself has never spoken to any research community

groups or symposia; he has no connection to the community other than his story. The main proponent of the "Veciana/Bishop" story within the community has been Gaeton Fonzi, an investigative writer who served as an investigator for both the Schwieker subcommittee and the HSCA. Fonzi investigated the Veciana story for the HSCA, detailed it further