

**ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS--ANTONIO VECIANA/ALPHA
66**

HSCA VOL. 10

Christopher Barger

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SUMMARY

The HSCA establishes Antonio Veciana as a leading anti-Castroite during the early 1960s, and explains who Alpha 66 was. Veciana claims to have been directed by Maurice Bishop and to have once seen Bishop with Lee Oswald in Dallas. The HSCA attempts to question both the CIA and the public as to the possible identity of "Maurice Bishop," including interviews with David Atlee Phillips (whom Senator Schweiker suspected of being Bishop) and other CIA personnel, but cannot establish Bishop's identity or even his existence. The HSCA does find evidence that Army Intelligence maintained an operational interest in Alpha 66 during the time, and finds it plausible that the CIA would have as well, perhaps using a "Bishop" as a conduit to Alpha 66. However, the HSCA can neither verify this story nor corroborate Veciana's claim to have seen Bishop and Oswald together in Dallas.

BACKGROUND

Alpha 66 was a group of anti-Castro Cuban exiles founded in Miami in 1962. It was among the most virulent and radical groups, carrying out raids on Cuban territory and even attempting to sabotage a Soviet ship in a Cuban harbor during the Missile Crisis in the hope that it would lead to a confrontation that would remove

Castro. Antonio Veciana was the well-known leader of this group. Veciana was involved in several plots on Castro's life, most notably in 1961 and 1971. He claims that Alpha 66 was formed and guided at the direction of a mysterious American named "Maurice Bishop," whom Veciana assumed worked for the CIA. During the 1975 Church Committee investigation, Veciana asserted that he had once seen "Bishop" with Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, and, while he had never publicly voiced this fact, he believed that "Bishop" and his cohorts were in some way involved in the assassination. A composite drawing was made of "Bishop" from Veciana's description, and widely circulated during the HSCA investigation. Many (including the HSCA staffer responsible for this area) believed that Bishop was in fact David Atlee Phillips, but this belief has never been officially proved. [This is the subject of Fonzi's The Last Investigation.]

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- 37 Establishment of HSCA's interest in Veciana.
- 38-40 History of Veciana and Alpha 66 and the involvement of "Bishop."
- 40-41 Veciana allegedly sees "Bishop" and Oswald together in Dallas.
- 41-46 HSCA attempts to verify Veciana's story and evaluate his credibility.
- 46-48 HSCA attempts to determine "Bishop's" identity, including interviews under oath with current and former CIA members.

- 48-49 HSCA interviews David Atlee Phillips; asks whether he ever used the pseudonym "Maurice Bishop" or ever knew Veciana. He denies both.
- 49-50 HSCA interviews former DCI McCone regarding the employment of a "Bishop" by the CIA. He confirms this during the hearing, but then later recants by letter.
- 50-51 Review of CIA files: No Bishop is found. Army intelligence had Veciana registered in the Army Information Source Registry from 11/62 to 7/66. Veciana contacted the Agency on his own three times between 1960 and 1966, and had incidental contact with known CIA operatives.
- 51-52 Conclusion: Veciana's credibility cannot be ascertained. However, the HSCA believe the story to "reasonable," albeit not verifiable.

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