

ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

HSCA SUMMARY/NARRATION BY BLAKEY

HSCA VOL. 4

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FILE NO. 4.O.1.3 HSCA Report

SUMMARY

*After dismissing many of the conspiracy theories examined by the HSCA as factually deficient, Blakey says that there are two theories that have at least some plausible merit. The first, he says, is the anti-Castro Cuban exile theory; i.e., that Cuban exiles furious with President Kennedy over his apparent decision to accept Castro's continued rule planned and carried out his assassination in retaliation.*

*He says the HSCA has concluded that this community had the motive, means and opportunity to assassinate the president.*

*Blakey cites the large number of anti-Castro exile groups operating in the United States in the early 1960s. The HSCA narrowed its focus to the approximately 20 or so groups that were the most prominent.*

*Of those studied, two, he says, are worth specific mention due to their possible connection to the case: Alpha 66 and JURE. Alpha 66 is included due to the Antonio Veciana/"Maurice Bishop" story, and JURE due to the Silvia Odio incident. Blakey also cites a 1964 internal memo written by Warren Commission counsels Coleman and Slawson specifically stating that despite Oswald's outward connection to pro-Castro groups, he may in fact have been in contact with anti-Castro groups, and that this possibility warranted further investigation. The Warren Commission chose to ignore this memo.*

Blakey completes his narration by bringing up troublesome connections between anti-Castro Cubans, Oswald, and David Ferrie. Then, without commenting on the validity or relevancy of these connections, he immediately makes reference to Ferrie's ties to Carlos Marcello, then switches to a description of Jack Ruby and his connections with the Mafia. There is no conclusion as to the importance of the anti-Castro Cuban information that the HSCA discovered; he neither lends it credence nor dismisses it. The issue is left hanging.

## **BACKGROUND**

On September 26, 1978, Robert Blakey gave a narration to the Members of the HSCA summarizing what the Committee Staff had discovered regarding anti-Castro Cuban exile groups and their connections, if any, to the Kennedy assassination.

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| 469-470 | Dismisses most conspiracy theories as unsubstantiated.   |
| 470-471 | Establishes plausibility of anti-Castro Cuban theory.  |
| 471-474 | Establishes history of relations between JFK and exile community; presents reasons for enmity and bitterness toward JFK by Cuban exiles. |
| 474     | Details of breadth of HSCA's probe of anti-Castro groups of the time.  |

- 474-476 History of Alpha 66, Antonio Veciana; description of the "Maurice Bishop" story.
- 476-478 History of JURE; Silvia Odio's 1964 testimony; handling of Odio story by Warren Commission.
- 478-480 1978 testimony of Silvia Odio, others connected to her story. Conclusion: Odio's story is credible.
- 480-485 Short summary of Oswald in New Orleans in the summer of 1963; "Clinton story" placing Shaw, Ferrie, Oswald together that summer; mention of Ferrie's connection Marcello.
- 485-499 Ruby biography and investigation of Mafia associations; unrelated to anti-Castro Cuban area of investigation.

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