

Statement of All Fowler

2/13/67

Extracts from conversation with Laureano Falla Batista

Early in 1963, General Anastasio Somoza arrived unofficially in Miami and started meetings with most of the anti-Castro organizations there. Among others he interviewed Laureano Falla Batista, as Head of the Christian Democrats.

General Somoza was trying to establish an anti-Castro training camp in his country and enticed the Cuban Organizations to join in what would be a vast operation directed from his country. Laureano Falla Batista discussed the project with General Somoza and told the General that his group was not interested in that type of operation but that they would be interested in using Nicaragua as an operation base for undercover fishing fleet; General Somoza told Laureano Falla that he will cooperate fully in this endeavor.

Laureano Falla immediately started recruiting the appropriate men for his special operation and Diego Paneque who was then in New Jersey, started recruiting operations. Shortly after, a Dicky Davis, whose father Laureano knew, Rudy Davis, appeared in Miami and went to see Laureano and told him that he had a group of very wealthy Texans and Louisianians, (Oil men) who had a lot of money and were willing to back any anti-Castro plan that would give them land were they could have a camp to train.

Laureano who at the time did not have a place to train his men for the Nicaraguan operation, decided that it would be ideal to be able to train his men outside of the very heavily watched Miami area and accepted Dicky Davis' proposition of a camp near New Orleans. The group of about 20 who were finally recruited were transported to New Orleans first and met at Mr. Davis' office in an insurance building (Dicky Davis at the time was General Agent of the Weston Life Insurance Co. Suite 404, 410 Loren Bldg. 2001 Canal St.) I believe this is a branch of the St. Paul Insurance Co) and was residing at 1570 Westbrook Drive in New Orleans.

Laureano Falla never visited the Slidell camp as _____ and Paneque were in charge. Laureano Falla and Angel Vega with whom I also spoke and who trained at the Slidell camp, both explained to me that since this camp was in a farm located very close to the village, they never had any shutting practices but that they continually heard shutting and explosions about a mile away and at first had no idea that there was another camp near by. The 20 remained in this camp for about a month, during this time only one or two men were allowed to go to New Orleans. Dicky Davis visited the camp continually and brought friends in what they described as trying to show-off.

One day about a month after their arrival, Dicky Davis arrived very nervous and alarmed and told them that they had to break-up camp immediately and clear out because the authorities had discovered the other camp and had found a large cache of weapons, ammunition and dynamite. The camp was dissolved in a matter of minutes and they went to Miami immediately taking with them a car that Dicky Davis had borrowed from a friend and was later abandoned and found in Miami, Louisiana license number which you have.

Laureano told me that he knew that the other camp was ~~running~~ running some kind of an ultra-conservative, John Birchler's group, although he has no idea who was there. After the breaking up of the Christian Democrats in Slidell, Laureano discovered that Dicky Davis, had collected quite a bit of money for the Christian Democratic Organization but that very little of it was handed over to the organization. He distrusted Dicky immensely and a few months later Dicky ~~etated~~ called him from New Orleans and ~~begged~~ begged him to come to New Orleans that he had a matter of importance to Laureano and he must see him right away, Laureano who was then flying to South America decided to come via New Orleans and met with Dicky at the airport where Dicky introduced him to a tall elderly European with a heavy accent who Dicky said was the inventor of some "incendiary pellets". Laureano told Dicky that he could not imagine how he could make him fly to New Orleans for such stupidity and realized that Dicky was a complete con-man and they parted company there and then and they have never seen each other since.

Laureano was going to give Jim Alcocks further information and detail about the camp personnel, location, etc.

I found Laureano extremely cooperative, he made various phone calls local and long distance to secure the addresses of Dicky Davis and of Sergio Arcache. I suggested to Jim Alcocks that he should interview Angel Vega also for further details on the camp.