

MEMORANDUM

January 30, 1967

REPORT # 6

TO: Jim Garrison

FROM: Alvin V. Oser

RE: Ownership of Land in Pretty Acres Vicinity, Ponchartrain Street and Bayou Gardens,

On Friday, January 27, 1967 I proceeded to the St. Tammany Parish Court House in an attempt to learn the ownership of certain properties; more specifically, Pretty Acres, Ponchartrain Street in Big Branch and Bayou Gardens in Lacombe, Louisiana.

After checking the records of the Conveyance Office in St. Tammany Parish, I was able to learn that Pretty Acres is located in Township 7 Range 11 Section 15 and is owned by Louis Prima. The area of land immediately behind Pretty Acres is Township 7 Range 11 Section 14 and Section 23. Section 23 is owned by Jules R. Monroe and Section 14 is owned by several people in as much as there are lots and acreage divisions. In Section 14 the owners since 1961 are Ernest Prieto, Amanda Davis, E.C. McCollum, D.A. Blunt, Joseph H. Spell, E.J.D'Antoni, S.D. Blunt, Adolph Cederholm, K. Phillipps, R.G. Phillipps and John Melvin.

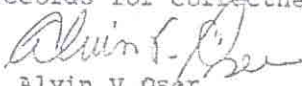
In checking the ownership of property on Ponchartrain Street, Big Branch, Louisiana, I learned that this Street is located in what is called Forest Glen Subdivision.

The house where the arms were found by the Federal Gov't. in 1963 is located approximately 100 feet from U.S. Hwy. 190 on Ponchartrain Street on the right hand side of the street on lots 50, 51 and 52 in Square 22. This land is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Boril and has been since 1961.

William Gurvich had informed me that there was another location on Ponchartrain Street, on the left hand side, where the Gov't. found a cache of dynamite and shell casings. I checked the ownership of these properties and learned that the following people owned the property on the left hand side of Ponchartrain Street in the first block off of U.S. Hwy. 190: Irma McCubbin, Marian Hardin, Olive F. Green, T.J. Gilliesppi, WM. C. Garrett and Frank Ward.

In checking the area of Bayou Gardens, Lacombe, Louisiana I learned that the Redemptorist Fathers purchased Bayou Gardens from Dick Leche on November 10, 1955. The area immediately adjacent to Bayou Gardens, the area which was blocked off, is owned by H.S. Verlander.

It should be noted that the employees in the Conveyance Office as well as the Assessor's Office informed me that the records may not be entirely correct as they were in the process of checking their records for correctness.

  
Alvin V. Oser

for Miami with the Castro agent, FERNANDO FERNANDEZ. Shortly thereafter all Cubans at the camp returned to Miami. This was about August 1, 1963. Therefore, the camp was in operation about five or six weeks.

While at the camp, ANGEL heard rifle shots and explosions from the direction of the other camp. However, at no time did VEGA and his fellow Cubans know of the existence of the other camp. This came to their knowledge only after the explosives were found.

As ANGEL recalls, the camp site was owned by two American males in their fifties or sixties. He feels they were in the insurance business. All contacts with them were made by RICARDO (DICKY) DAVIS. They came to the camp occasionally to see if the men needed any food. DAVIS came to the camp about 8 to 10 times, mostly bringing food when he came. On one occasion, he brought his wife and he did some target shooting with a 22 caliber pistol.

ANGEL VEGA never heard the name of SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH or LINDBERGH mentioned and never saw any other Americans at the camp with the exception of the two previously mentioned. Angel remembers the following men to have been at the camp with him:

VICTOR PANEQUE, 2nd in command  
LEAVINO INTERIAN, 1st in command  
FIDEL ZALDIVAR  
PERIU VICTORIA  
MIGUEL CARBALLIDO  
HENRY INFANTE  
RAUL FANTONE  
FERNANDO FERNANDEZ  
SERGIO (not ARCACHA SMITH)

As you can see, ANGEL could only remember the first name of one man and only the last name of another. LAUREANO BATISTA, however, is still trying to locate a complete camp roster for us. He is also trying to locate the names of the Americans who owned the camp. If he is successful, he has promised to mail the information to me in New Orleans.

I feel that ANGEL VEGA was completely candid and cooperative throughout the interview. However, as far as the movement and its key personnel are concerned, we should expect some hedging.

JIM ALCOCK

JA/af