

M E M O R A N D U M

March 7, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON
FROM: AL OSER
RE: LOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY TRAINING
CAMP NEAR LACOMBE, LOUISIANA

On Friday, February 24, 1967, Jim Alcock informed me that one ANGEL VEGA was due in New Orleans on Saturday, February 25, 1967, for the purpose of locating the Christian Democratic Party's Training Camp near Lacombe. Alcock had interviewed VEGA in Miami, Florida, and was told by VEGA that he was a trainee at this camp and could locate it.

On Saturday, February 25, 1967, I met ANGEL VEGA at the New Orleans International Airport when he arrived on National Airlines, Flight 45 from Miami at 9:17 A. M. We left immediately and proceeded to Lacombe. In route to the location of the training camp while on the causeway, VEGA described what the site would contain. He told me that the house was set far back from the road and that it could not be seen from the highway. He said that the entrance road was about a mile from a gas station which was right outside of Lacombe. He stated that when he was there, the house was in a run-down condition, that it had a screen porch on the front and back. To the left of the house as you face it, there was an old barn. In front of the house was a swimming pool which was fed from an underground stream through a pipe. To the right of the house was a bayou and to the rear was a small shack which contained a water pump.

After arriving in Lacombe VEGA was able to direct me to such a location as he had described to me. This location is exactly one mile from intersection of U.S. 190 and La. Highway 434. The house is three-tenths of a mile to the left of La. 434 on a small dirt road. The house cannot be seen from La. 434. The location was exactly as VEGA had previously described to me, however, it's obvious that someone now lives at this location inasmuch as the house obviously had been repaired, freshly painted, and cleaned up. VEGA pointed out to me the various locations where they were trained and the stream, as he called it, which is Bayou Lacombe that they practiced crossings.

Approximately 200 yards behind the house there is a fence with a posted sign "No Trespassing" and the name of L. BENSON.

VEGA informed me that he and two others left the training camp for Miami two days before the story broke about the finding of the explosives in the Lacombe area. He remarked that he was surprised to learn that there was another camp so close to theirs and they knew nothing about it.

I asked VEGA if he recalls hearing any gunshots during the time he was at this training camp. He stated that he did and pointed in the direction that the shots came from. In relation to the training site, if you would face the house and the swimming pool, the shots came from an area to the left. From having investigated this area in the past, the area to the left of this house and swimming pool would be Pontchartrain Street located in Big Branch, Louisiana. It is on Pontchartrain Street that the house is located where the cache of explosives were found in 1963. This is also the street where the other camp is supposed to have been located.

On Saturday, March 4, 1967, Jim Alcock and I had occasion to interview FRANK DE LABARRE, Attorney at Law. DE LABARRE informed us that he had a client by the name of MAC R. FLETCHER who allowed Cuban refugees to use some land that he owned near Bayou Lacombe at the request of RICARDO DAVIS. DE LABARRE in describing this property corroborated ANGEL VEGA and positively established the location of the Christian Democratic Party's Training Camp. DE LABARRE informed us that this property was sold approximately one year ago to the Crown Petroleum Corporation who is its present owner.

The following is a description of five photographs of this training site that I took with ANGEL VEGA.

Photograph 1) This is a view of La. Highway 434 facing away from Lacombe. On the right of the road are three houses directly across from the road leading to the training site.

Photograph 2) This is a view taken from La. Highway 434 looking down the road which leads to the training site.

Photograph 3) This is a photograph as you enter the training site. In the photograph is depicted the swimming pool behind which is the house. To the left of this photograph is the location of the old barn which is not shown. To the right is Bayou Lacombe which likewise is not shown in this photograph.

Photograph 4) This is a photograph of the house. It is taken from the rear of the house.

Photograph 5) This is a photograph of the swimming pool located at the training site. You will note the pipe which feeds the swimming pool from the underground spring. Directly behind the swimming pool hidden by the trees and bushes is the house. To the left of the swimming pool is the area that ANGEL VEGA informed me that he heard the gunshots.

The five above described pictures are attached to this memorandum.

ALVIN V. OSER

Attachment









