

Robert Sam Anson

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brigade banner, and that "the Brigade feeling against Kennedy was so great that the presentation nearly did not take place."¹³⁸

The feelings increased throughout the spring and summer of 1963. The statements of the exile leaders, as collected by Peter Dale Scott, showed the growing frustration. In June Dr. Miro Cardona, the exiles' chief, complained angrily that he and his key lieutenants had been forbidden to travel outside the Miami area.¹³⁹ "In Florida, where we were once welcome, we must now operate like guerillas in the hills of Escambray," said one of the brigade survivors. "We are watched like criminals."¹⁴⁰ Cardona himself resigned as head of the CIA-supported Cuban Revolutionary Council, accusing the United States of going back on an alleged promise to support a new invasion.¹⁴¹ In May the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba demanded a new national policy to liberate Cuba "by all necessary means."¹⁴² Other right-wing exile supporters called for "an overwhelming invasion of Cuba" as soon as possible.¹⁴³ In mid-April Cubans living in Miami received a flier with the most radical proposal of all. "Only through one development will you Cuban patriots ever live again in your homeland as free men," it said. "[Only] if an inspired Act of God should place in the White House within weeks a Texan known to be a friend of all Latin Americans."¹⁴⁴

The exiles, shorn of official American support, turned to the radical right for help. One of the men arrested in the FBI raid on the dynamite cache in Louisiana was Richard Lauchli, a reported member of the Minutemen.¹⁴⁵ The Minutemen were active elsewhere in securing arms for the exiles. One place was Dallas, where in late 1963 U.S. Treasury agents arrested a local gunshop owner and Minutemen member who was supplying the exiles with guns.¹⁴⁶ The exiles were members of Alpha 66. With their leader Manuel Rodriguez, they met regularly at the house on Holladay Street in Dallas.¹⁴⁷ After the assassination police received a report that Oswald too had attended to the meetings. Like many such reports it turned out to be incorrect. But then another report came in from Okla-

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homa saying that Oswald had been spotted there. The witness was again mistaken. He had only seen someone who closely resembled Oswald. The police nonetheless checked out the report, and eventually discovered the identity of the Oswald look-alike who had been in Oklahoma. He was Manuel Rodriguez. (C.D. 23.4)¹⁴⁸

Rodriguez was described by one of the Dallas FBI's informers as "violently anti-Kennedy." (C.D. 1085)¹⁴⁹ Evidently the Secret Service perceived him as a threat of some sort, for on March 18, 1964, four months after the assassination, a "Protective Research Referral Memorandum"—an alert on persons judged to present a potential danger to the President—was filed on Rodriguez. (C.D. 853)¹⁵⁰

Rodriguez began his revolutionary career on the side of Castro. He had fought against the Batista regime and been imprisoned by it. When Castro came to power Rodriguez was released from prison and for a time became one of Castro's provincial chiefs. Like many others, however, Rodriguez turned against his former jefe and fled to the United States, where he helped found Alpha 66. Eventually he wound up in Dallas. Sometime after the assassination he moved to Puerto Rico. (C.D. 853)¹⁵¹⁻⁵³

Alpha 66 itself was linked to the assassination by two separate reports, both of which were discarded. They were contained in an FBI document filed from Miami. One of them reported that "another government agency which conducts intelligence and personnel investigations, advised that one of their sources stated that he heard one Dora Causa relate that Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo had stated on November 21, 1963, that 'something very big would happen soon that would advance the Cuban cause.'¹⁵⁴ Causa later denied that the story related to the assassination.¹⁵⁵ The other report came from the wife of John Klinner, identified by the FBI as an ex-convict¹⁵⁶ who had been imprisoned by Castro after being shipwrecked off the Cuban coast. On the day of the assassination Mrs. Klinner said that she and her husband were in a large Miami department store. When they heard the word that the President had been shot she said her husband immediately went to a

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