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REPORT NO. [] (b)(3)

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Direction of Officers of the Association of Veterans of the Bay of Pigs

BRIGADE
VET ASN

21 - 28 April 1963

United States (29 April 1963)

FIELD REPORT NO. [] (b)(3)

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

[Redacted Box] (b)(1) (b)(3)

- On 21 April 1963 members of the Asociacion de Veteranos de Bahiade Cochinos (AVBC, Association of Veterans of the Bay of Pigs), with headquarters at 109 SW 17th Avenue, Miami 35, Florida (telephone 373-9219), held elections for officers. Three slates of candidates were offered to the 636 members of the AVBC who registered. The winning slate was the one headed by Jaime Varela Canosa, who is also identified as the organizer and guiding spirit behind the organization.¹
- The following will serve as officers of the AVBC for the term of one year:

- President: Jaime Varela Canosa
- Vice-President: Jose Peruyero Rodriguez
- Secretary: Dr. Alberto Garcia Navarro
- Vice-Secretary: Dr. Manuel Molina Godinez
- Treasurer: Luis Arrizurieta Sardinias
- Vice-Treasurer: Rene Luis Pelly
- Director of Organization: Miguel Cervera Consuegra
- Vice-Director of Organization: Antonio Paez Llanes
- Director of Foreign Relations: Rodolfo Sorondo Quintana
- Vice-Director of Foreign Relations: Jose R. Molina Young
- Director for Culture, Press, and Propaganda: Carlos Hernandez Hernandez
- Vice-Director for Culture, Press, and Propaganda: Pedro Encinosa Valdes

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Director for Social Assistance: Edgardo Buttari Puig
Vice-Director for Social Assistance:

Rolando Jimenez Alvarez

Director for Military Matters: Luis Morse Delgado
Vice-Director for Military Matters:

Bernardo G. de Torres

3. The Electoral Committee included Andres A. Bassols Pazos as chairman, Jorge Roblejo Lorie as secretary, Jose Ibarra Calero, Enrique Barnett Gil, and Rafael Rubio Quintana as voting members, and one representative from each of the three slates of nominees as observers.
4. A total of 470 votes was cast; 166 members did not vote. It was generally said that the slate headed by Hiram Gomez Rodriguez had the backing of Guillermo Alonso Pujol. Manuel Artime Buesa, who was present at the elections, favored the slate headed by Varela and Felipe Rivero Diaz indicated that he favored the slate headed by Ceferino Alvarez Castrillon.²
5. Despite the fact that voting was on the basis of slates, each candidate was voted on separately; consequently, Daniel Gonzalez Carmenate, who was originally on the Varela slate as Director for Military Matters, was defeated by Luis Morse Delgado, nominee for this position on the slate headed by Ceferino Alvarez Castrillon. Morse was a member of the Prisoner Delegation which was paroled by the Government of Cuba to come to the United States to arrange for the collection of the ransom money.
6. The AVBC officers elected were officially invested at 6:00 p.m. on 28 April 1963.
7. The AVBC was registered on 29 March 1963 in Tallahassee, Florida, as a fraternal, military patriotic organization, to include all former members of Brigade 2506. The AVBC was described as apolitical, and its stated purpose was to maintain and strengthen the unity of members of Brigade 2506, to guard and preserve the prestige of the Brigade and to keep it safe from exploitation, and to constitute a nucleus of members of the Brigade which would strive for the unification of all Cuban exiles apart from political orientation.
8. The newly elected officers of the AVBC are apparently trying to expand the membership of the organization as much as possible and have proposed the establishment of honorary memberships in the AVBC. A meeting was to be held by Varela, Manolo Fernandez, and Jesus Guejeves, the latter representing members of the first Cubans to be discharged following training and service in the Army of the United States. The details of this honorary membership to all Cubans who have undergone military training was to have been taken up on 25 April between representatives of the AVBC and recently discharged Cubans. It is believed that some 238 Cubans have been discharged, and it was hoped that all of them might affiliate themselves with the AVBC.

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9. On 22 April Varela met with Gomez, one of the unsuccessful candidates for presidency, Alvarez, another of the unsuccessful candidates for the presidency, Orlando Cuervo Bermudez, Luis Morse Delgado, Luis E. Chinea Rios, Orlando Urrea Quinones, Pablo Ramirez Porta, and Antonio Paez in a sort of organizational meeting to overcome any possible resentment which the unsuccessful candidates might have harbored. Varela said that on that same day, 22 April, he had a meeting with individuals, whose names he would not reveal, who had promised unlimited aid and support to a genuine and successful unification of the Cuban exile community.³

[redacted] Comments

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(b)(3)

1. The Association claims a total membership of 800, although only 636 registered to vote. The Association hopes that everyone who participated in the April 1961 invasion will eventually become members.
2. Source reported that there is a possibility that Felipe Rivero was in turn backed by certain American financiers, as one of the candidates on the Alvarez slate was being pushed by Sierra (fnu). The source may have been referring to Paulino A. Sierra, a Cuban lawyer claiming to represent U.S. financial interests. Sierra may also be one of the individuals referred to in paragraph nine above as having promised unlimited aid and support. Sierra is reported to have talked to a Tony Hernandez, who may possibly be identical with Manuel Antonio Hernandez Diaz of the Bay of Pigs Association.

[redacted] Comment. Recent information on Sierra was disseminated in [redacted] dated 9 May 1963.

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3. [redacted] Comment. It is believed that Manuel Artime Buesa and/or Enrique Jose Ruiz Williams may be trying to gain control of the organization. Ruiz has approached Varela with a proposal that he (Ruiz) be appointed New York and Washington delegate of the AVBC, but Varela has no intention of appointing him.

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