

Cowell 103 - List of Characters

John Martino -

An anti-Castro activist who, in 1964, claimed he had important information about the death of John F. Kennedy. Martino argued that Fidel Castro had planned the assassination of Kennedy as retaliation for an American plot to overthrow Castro's government. He claimed that Lee Harvey Oswald had been in Cuba in 1963 and was recruited by Cuban intelligence to kill Kennedy.

Martino admitted to his role in the conspiracy, as a courier delivering money, to a friend and his wife (Fred Classen and Florence Martino). Just before he died in 1975 Martino also confessed to Miami Newsday reporter John Cummings that he had been guilty of spreading false stories implicating Oswald in the assassination of Kennedy, instead suggesting that two Cuban exiles were the gunmen, who are believed to be Herminio Diaz Garcia and Virgilio Gonzalez.

Eugenio Martinez -

Anti-Castro activist. Martinez was born in Cuba and moved to Miami after Castro came to power in 1959. He was involved in Operation Tilt and was one of five men recruited by G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt to commit the Watergate Burglary in 1972.

Eddie Bayo -

Anti-Castro activist, originally born in Cuba. In 1962 Bayo claimed that two officers in the Red Army based in Cuba wanted to defect to the U.S. Bayo said they were willing to pass on technical information about the warheads and missiles that were still in Cuba despite the agreement following the Cuban Missile Crisis, and several members of the anti-Castro community took up his story. This led to Operation Tilt, the unsuccessful attempt to get those Soviet Officers out of Cuba which Bayo participated in. The officers were not located and the group returned to Miami. Bayo remained behind after the operation and it is rumored that he had been captured and executed.

Sylvia Odio -

Daughter of an imprisoned Cuban refugee (imprisoned for attempting to assassinate Castro with Manolo Ray's anti-Castro group). In her testimony she says that on the evening of September 25, 1963 her family home was visited by a man she says was Lee Harvey Oswald based on pictures she was shown of him after the assassination (note: She was visited by 2 Mexican men who claimed to be members of JURE claiming to be her father's friend, they said the third man, whom was white, was named "Leon". Presumably Leon is Lee Harvey Oswald based on the "Odio Incident"). The presence of Oswald at the Odio residence would place Oswald as a member of a right-wing militant group, when the Warren Report portrayed Oswald as a leftist sympathizer.

David Morales -

CIA employee, worked with a military cover. In 1958 he moved to Cuba to support the Batista government. In 1965, according to CIA agent Tom Clines, Morales helped capture Che Guevara

in Bolivia. According to his friend, Ruben Carbajal, Morales also talked about his involvement in the Bay of Pigs. According to Carbajal, Morales claimed “Kennedy had been responsible for him having to watch all the men he recruited and trained get wiped out,” adding, “Well, we took care of that SOB, didn’t we?”. Bradley E. Ayers of the Assassination Records Review Board also claims to have a credible witness who can place Morales at the Ambassador Hotel the night of JFK assassination.

Rip Robertson-

Was a US marine during WWII and then a CIA agent after the war. He was involved in the ‘Executive Action’ plan (plan to remove unfriendly foreign leaders from power, example: Guatemalan government of Arbenz 1954). Robertson commanded a supply ship during the Bay of Pigs operation and disobeyed orders by landing in Cuba with Brigade 2506. Afterwards he became a member of the CIA’s JM WAVE station in Miami, headed by Ted Shackley. Shackley and William Pawley later organized Operation Tilt (operation to get two Soviet defectors in Cuba to the US to gain information regarding atomic warheads and missiles) and assigned Robertson to help with the operation.

David Atlee Phillips -

CIA employee. Phillips ran the propaganda campaign, known as Operation Success, in Guatemala against President Arbenz, as well as the CIA’s Voice of Liberation radio station. He also worked undercover in Cuba from 1959 to 1960 and was involved in the Bay of Pigs. During this period he worked with E. Howard Hunt in the attempts to assassinate Castro. There have been claims from CIA agents and committee members that Phillips assumed the identity of Maurice Bishop during covert operations in Cuba. The group Alpha 66 (established by Cuban exiles against Castro’s regime, the group launched several raids on Cuba) was organized by Antonio Veciana in 1959 and received funding as well as operational guidance from the CIA. Veciana says the man known as Bishop was his case officer, him and Bishop also worked on a plan to assassinate Castro. Although Phillips testified before the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978 saying he never used the name Bishop, his testimony compared with others and numerous documents/facts suggests that he was in-fact the character Bishop.

Antonio Veciana-

Created Alpha 66 (group of anti-Castro Cuban exiles that committed several raids on Cuba and were funded and supported by the CIA) after Castro took power in 1959. He had worked with his caseworker Bishop (numerous testimonies and documents lead us to believe David Atlee Phillips used the pseudonym Bishop) during these raids and had also worked with him on a plan to assassinate Castro. March 1963 Alpha 66 attacks Russian ships docked in Cuba; Kennedy and the Department of State made it clear that they did not support these attacks amidst a time of tension between the SU and US. The group proceeded to attack another Soviet ship which led to Kennedy to order Veciana and other leaders of Alpha 66 to be arrested and placed in a confined area in Florida. After the assassination of Kennedy, Veciana began work for the International Development Agency under the State Department in Bolivia. During this time he was still

focused on anti-communist activities and was in 1971 involved in another failed assassination attempt on Castro.

William Harvey-

Former FBI officer who went to work for the CIA. Harvey was sent to West Germany where he worked with Theodore Shackely at the CIA Berlin Station. Later he would become part of the policy known as Executive Action, a plan to remove foreign leaders from power. This is one of the precursors to his involvement in anti-Castro activity, including his involvement in the 1961 plot to poison Castro. After the end of operations against Cuba in 1962, Harvey was sent to Italy where he became Chief of Station in Rome.

John Roselli (aka. Filippo Sacco)-

Roselli was a crime boss who first began working for Al Capone in the 1920's. By the end of World War Two, he was one of the most powerful bosses in Las Vegas. The FBI identified him in 1947 as a leading figure in the Mafia and a close associate of Santo Trafficante. Roselli also participated in the 1961 plot against Castro, and it appears his goal was not just to assassinate Castro but to leave evidence implicating the CIA as well. Roselli told his attorney, Edward Morgan, that Castro had dispatched sniper teams to the U.S. to kill Kennedy in retaliation for plots against him. Roselli was interviewed in 1975 about his relationship with the government, and it was from this interview that it emerged that Roselli and Sam Giancana had been in talk with the CIA about killing Castro. In July 1976, Roselli disappeared on his way to play golf. His body was brutally murdered, mutilated, and squashed into an oil drum floating in the ocean ten days after he disappeared.

Tony Varona-

Cuban born anti-communist who worked with Frank Sturgis and the CIA to plan a counter-revolution. In the late 1950's he moved to the US and established the Movement for the Recovery of the Revolution (MRR Party). Later he became the head of the Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC). It has been documented that he worked closely with organized crime leaders such as Trafficante and Roselli; Varona was also involved in several assassination attempts on Castro.

Richard Cain -

He joins the army in the late 1940's and is discharged in 1950. After being discharged he becomes friends with private detective John Buentz (member of Office of Strategic Services during WWII, Batista was one of his most important clients and a friend) and is sent to Cuba to monitor government activity for various clients in Miami. He moved to Chicago later in the late 1950's and had contacted his old family friend and mob boss Sam Giancana. During this time he became a "made member" of the Chicago mob and led numerous burglaries. Later in 1956 with the help of Giancana, he was admitted into the Chicago Police Department as a bagman for Giancana. He was later, with the help of Giancana, promoted to the detective bureau. After being caught installing a hidden camera in the commissioner of investigations room he was forced to

resign. Later Giancana employed Cain to assassinate Castro after having met with the CIA and Dulles regarding an assassination plot to kill Castro, awarding \$150,000 for the task. 1961 he moved to Mexico City to set up a base of operations for an investigative agency, it is believed that he was training Cuban expats for a second invasion of Cuba working with Varona and the Cuban Revolutionary Council. He later returned to Chicago and worked for the mob until his death in 1973 where he was murdered by two masked men who shot him in the face with a shotgun at a restaurant before removing a slip of paper from his pockets and walking off.

Desmond Fitzgerald -

Member of the OSS during World War Two. Was an active member of the Republican Party before becoming executive officer of the CIA's Office of Policy Coordination's Far Eastern Division. In 1962 he was appointed Chief of the Cuban Task Force. Fitzgerald would personally be involved in multiple plots to assassinate Castro, and continued to participate in planning in Cuba until operations against Castro ended, and in 1965 he was appointed as head of the Directorate for Plans. Fitzgerald died of a heart attack in Virginia while playing tennis in July 1967.

Richard Helms -

OSS agent who worked in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland after the war. He joined the CIA and helped successfully and covertly subvert the Communist Party during the Italian General Election. By 1962, he was more deeply involved in Vietnam. After Kennedy was killed Helms was given the job of investigating Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA. He initially appointed John M. Whitten to do the agency's in house investigation. Whitten originally concluded that Oswald had acted alone, but when Whitten realized the FBI had withheld important information on Oswald, he said his initial conclusion about the case was "completely irrelevant". Helms responded by removing him from the case.

Manual Artime-

Cuban born leading anti-communist, worked closely with the Catholic University Association (CUA). Helped plan a rebellion in Cuba against Castro organized by Frank Sturgis and the CIA. In 1959 arranged for Sturgis to drop thousands of revolutionary leaflets in Havana by plane. He then moved to the US and worked to establish the Movement for the Recovery of the Revolution (MPR party). Artime during this time built strong relationships with Robert Kennedy. He took part in the Bay of Pigs invasion as one of the leaders of Brigade 2506. Artime was captured and then rescued by his friends whom paid his ransom. He then worked with Howard Hunt on plots to kill Castro. In 1963 he starts receiving funds from the CIA via Ted Shackley, during this time Artime alongside other influential Cubans moved to Nicaragua where they formed a 300 man army. They were covertly acquiring arms, supplies, and boats for an invasion of Cuba. After the assassination of Kennedy, Johnson cancelled the Second Naval Guerrilla operation.

Rafael Quintero (Chi Chi)-

Disillusioned with Castro's government, Chi Chi joined Artime in his anti-Castro struggle. Chi Chi was apart of operation 40 (the assassination group that would assassinate members of the military or political parties in foreign countries that the US was going to infiltrate, in this case Cuba and the plot to assassinate Castro). He was working with Artime when they moved to Nicaragua to form the Second Naval Guerilla operation. Chi Chi later was recruited by the CIA to assassinate certain people including a Libyan dissident in Egypt. He remained involved in covert operations until his death in 2006.

Manual Ray-

Originally supportive of Castro's regime, Ray was the Minister of Public Works under Castro. By the end of the first year he had left Castro's government displeased and in 1960 he had formed the Revolutionary Movement of the People (MRP). Kennedy brought Ray on as Chief of Sabotage and Internal Affairs for the CIA. He also during this time became part of the Frente Revolucionario Democratico (FRD) and Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC). After the failed invasion of Cuba, Ray withdrew the MRP from the CRC criticising the operation and showing opposition to CIA backed invasions. He resigned as the leader of MRP and in 1962 formed a new anti-Castro organization called Junta Revolucionario Cubana (JURE). He was caught having illegally purchased \$50,000 worth of arms for JURE from a California arms manufacturer. As a result, he had to move all his operations outside of US territory. In 1972 he formed the People's Revolutionary Party, failing to make an impact he moved to Puerto Rico in 1978 and headed his own engineering consulting firm.

Carlos Prio Socarras-

Part of coup that deposed Machado's dictatorship in Cuba 1933. He was appointed minister of labour and then president in 1948. He was overthrown by Batista (with US support) in 1952. Prio supported Castro financially during his conquest of Cuba and in 1959 after Castro had gained power he broke off connections and went to Miami where he worked as a property developer and businessman. Prio was linked in a testimony with Jack Ruby and Frank Sturgis that suggests he had information on the assassination of Kennedy. He was wanted for questioning by the Select Committee on Assassinations in 1977 and was found dead from gunshot wounds outside his Miami home that same year after having been summoned.

Roy Hargraves-

Roy Hargraves was a member of the Interpen (Intercontinental Penetration Force) group organized by Gerry P. Hemming. Hargraves trained anti-Castro Cuban exiles and in 1963 led a team of exiles in a successful raid on Cuba. This team captured two Cuban fishing boats and took them to the Bahamas. Working with Felipe Vidal Santiago, Hargraves carried out a series of raids on Cuba in the 1960's. This included a plan intended to incite war with Cuba by simulating an attack on Guantanamo Naval Base. He later moved to Los Angeles where he was involved in organized bombing attacks on the Black Panthers and the SDS (Students for a Democratic Society). Hargraves died in 2002.

Felipe Vidal Santiago-

Born in Cuba, Santiago was a Cuban naval officer who moved to Miami after Castro took power. He then joined Interpen (intercontinental penetration force) where he was involved in a series of raids against Cuba. Santiago was close friends with John Martino and had been involved in accumulating funds for anti-Castro exile groups. There is evidence suggesting Santiago was involved in the assassination of JFK and that he was one of the shooters.

Bernardo de Torres-

Born in Cuba he moved to Miami in 1955 where he worked as a private investigator. During the Bay of Pigs Operation, Torres was chief of intelligence for brigade 2506, working under David Sanchez Morales. He was captured during the operation and then released late 1962. There exists evidence suggesting that he was one of the two "Mexican men" that visited Silvia Odio. According to several testimonies Torres had a strong connection to the CIA as well as a connection to the mafia. There exists strong evidence suggesting Torres to be heavily involved in the assassination plot and to have been in close contact with Oswald.

Loran Hall-

Cuban born he later joined the US army and during Castro's revolution he joined the rebel effort. Castro and Hall had a falling out and Hall was imprisoned for a few months after moving to the US. He then joined Frank Sturgis in the International Anti-Communist Brigade. Hall has connections with the mob bosses (Trafficante, Giancana, Roselli) and testified that Giancana gave Bayo a \$15,000 down payment for a raid on Cuba, this is known as Operation Tilt. He also testified that he carried out missions against Cuba on behalf of the CIA with Rip Robertson.

Frank Sturgis-

Joined the US Marines in 1942 and served in the Pacific during WWII. In 1956 he moved to Cuba and traveled around South America, two years later he made contact with the CIA and over the next few years worked as an undercover agent. He formed the Anti-Communist Brigade after Castro took power and was involved in numerous assassination attempts on Castro. Sturgis participated in the anti-Castro leaflet-dropping raids in Cuba and had aided the CIA in organizing the Bay of Pigs invasion. He was also a member of Operation 40 and was one of the men arrested during the Watergate scandal, having had been caught removing electronic devices from the Democratic Party campaign offices. Sturgis is considered to be one of the key players involved in the JFK assassination.

Bernard Barker-

Cuban born he became a US citizen in 1935 and then joined the armed forces after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. After the war he returned to Cuba and joined the National Police, he worked as an assistant to the chief of police as a sergeant. He was later recruited by the FBI and then the CIA. After Castro took power he began working under Howard Hunt and recruited men into the

2506 brigade (Bay of Pigs brigade). Barker was also involved in the Watergate burglary, working with Hunt and Sturgis.

E. Howard Hunt-

During WWII he served in the Office of Strategic Services and after the he joined the CIA. He was involved in operations in Guatemala against President Arbenz (Executive Action). Hunt played an instrumental role in planning the Bay of Pigs operation and was then the CIA station chief in Mexico during the 1960's. He was also one of the key organizers of the Watergate burglary.

Virgilio Gonzalez-

Born in Cuba, he moved to Miami after Castro took power, becoming an active member of the anti-Castro Cuban movement. Gonzalez was one of the men who went into Cuba for Operation Tilt and was also one of the men to break into the Watergate complex in the Watergate Scandal. There exists evidence suggesting Gonzalez was involved in the carrying-out of the assassination of JFK.

Sergio Arcacha Smith-

Cuban born he moved to the US in 1945 where he attended college in Texas. He then returned to Cuba as consul in India under Batista. When Castro came into power he went into exile and formed the Cuban Democratic Liberation Front (CDLF) with David Ferrie. In 1962 he was expelled from CDLF accused of misappropriating funds. Jim Garrison unsuccessfully attempted to extradite Smith from Texas for questioning regarding the JFK assassination.

Emilio Santana-

Cuban born, he moved to Miami after Castro took power. As a fisherman in Cuba he was recruited by the CIA as a boat guide for infiltration missions. He was involved in operational missions until he was separated from the CIA October 1963. There exists evidence suggesting Santana to be involved in the JFK assassination.

David Ferrie-

Aeronautics teacher who then worked as a pilot instructor for the Civil Air Patrol in Louisiana where he met Oswald. He was involved in CIA assassination plots against Castro and also in the assassination of JFK. Five days after it was reported that he was going to be investigated for the JFK assassination Ferrie was found dead in his apartment.

Orest Pena-

Cuban born moved to US where he owned a bar called the Habana Bar. Oswald came into his bar and made a commotion over the price of lemonade and tequila, according to Pena, Oswald was also complaining about capitalism while at the bar.

Tony Cuesta-

Born in Cuba, Cuesta moved to the US after Castro took power. He helped establish Alpha 66 and Commandos Liberty (anti-Castro groups), and had worked closely with Eddie Bayo (Operation Tilt). Cuesta carried out multiple raids in Cuba, he was captured during a mission in 1966 where his arm was blown off in an attempted suicide via setting off a grenade. He was later released in 1978 and afterwards met with Fabian Escalante (head of Cuba's G-2 Spy Agency) whom he told that he had been involved in the JFK assassination.

Herminio Diaz Garcia-

Born in Cuba, Garcia was a bodyguard for Santos Trafficante (Cuban mafia boss). He was involved in multiple assassination attempts including ones against Costa Rica president Figueres. He moved to the US July 1963 where he worked with Tony Varona. Evidence suggests that Garcia was involved in the JFK assassination, and later in December of 1963 he was involved in assassination attempts on Castro and in providing weapons to anti-Castro groups. Garcia was killed during a mission to Cuba with Tony Cuesta where Tony was captured.

Eladio Del Valle-

Born in Cuba, Valle was a congressman in Havana under Batista. After Castro assumed power, he moved to Florida where he was involved in the Free Cuba Committee as well as work for Trafficante and David Ferrie involving Cuban raids. He was murdered hours after David Ferrie had been killed (he was tortured, had his head split open with an axe, and was shot in the heart at point blank range), testimonies suggest Valle was involved in the JFK assassination and had been killed because of his involvement.

Santo Trafficante-

After his father Santo Trafficante senior passed in 1954, Trafficante took over his father's mafia empire in Cuba. Trafficante had many ties with the CIA, especially with Allen Dulles, whom he spoke with regarding assassination attempts on Castro. He had connections with Jack Ruby among many other key players in the case, and a large amount of evidence suggests that he was involved in the planning stages of the JFK assassination.

Lee Harvey Oswald-

Oswald joined the Civil Air patrol in 1955 working under David Ferrie. During this time he began learning Russian and was intrigued by marxism. Oswald later joined the marines for a few years after leaving to Moscow and applying to be a Soviet citizen. It is suggested that Oswald was a CIA dangle (having been dangled into Russia as a double agent, hoping the soviet's would make him into a spy). His application for citizenship was rejected and he then attempted suicide which ultimately allowed him to remain in the country. He then married his wife (whose father was a high ranking Russian commander) and then moved back to the US in 1962. Back in the US, Oswald moved to Texas where he and his wife became good friends with the wealthy white-

russian (anti-communists who fought Bolsheviks during the Russian Civil War) community including George DeMohrenschildt. Oswald was accused of having attempted an assassination on the life of General Edwin Walker (right-wing political leader) and also officer Tippit on the day of the assassination. He was also accused and found guilty of being the lone gunman who murdered JFK although heaps of evidence suggest this to be untrue.

William Seymour-

Seymour spent his early life in the US navy and as a member of Interpen (Intercontinental Penetration Force). Interpen was involved in training anti-Castro groups funded by the CIA. The group carried out a series of raids in Cuba in order to undermine Castro's new government. Seymour is assumed to be one of the men that had visited Odio in the Odio incident.

Lawrence Howard-

A member of the Interpen who worked closely alongside William Seymour. He had associations with David Ferrie in New Orleans and has been said to have been involved in the assassination. Howard is also assumed to be one of the men having had visited Odio during the Odio incident with Seymour.

Ted Shackley (Blond Ghost)-

Shackley joined the US army in 1945 and then was recruited into the counter intelligence corp. In the early 1950's he was recruited by the CIA and was working close with William Harvey. He was involved in Executive Action (plan to remove unfriendly foreign leaders from power) and many CIA black operations. In 1962 he was working with Harvey as the deputy chief of JM/WAVE. He gained control of Operation 40 after having had been involved in assassination attempts on Castro. Shackley was responsible for gathering intelligence and recruiting spies in Cuba and played a vital part in organizing Operation Tilt. After this operation proved unsuccessful Shackley returned to attempts at assassinating Castro using the team from Operation 40. Evidence suggests that Shackley was involved in the planning of the JFK assassination.

Allen Dulles-

Grandson of Secretary of State John Foster Watson, nephew of Secretary of State Robert Lansing, brother of John Foster Dulles. He worked at Sullivan Cromwell while his brother led the firm. He spied on the Nazis during WWII, and was one of the founding members of the C.I.A. after the war. He was C.I.A. Director during Eisenhower, while his brother was Secretary of State. He continued to be C.I.A. Director during Kennedy's term, until he was fired by Kennedy after the Bay of Pigs debacle.