

Date: 12/23/04

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM

-----  
AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : CIA  
RECORD NUMBER : 104-10073-10178  
RECORD SERIES : JFK  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 80T01357A

Released under the John  
F. Kennedy  
Assassination Records  
Collection Act of 1992  
(44 USC 2107 Note).  
Case#:NW 53199 Date:  
06-08-2017

-----  
DOCUMENT INFORMATION

AGENCY ORIGINATOR : CIA  
FROM : C/WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE  
TO : ACTING C/CONTACT DIVISION  
TITLE : CASE 39300 - LITTLE KNOWN ESCAPE ROUTE FROM CUBA AND  
PERSONALITIES PARTICIPATING THEREIN.  
DATE : 03/24/1964  
PAGES : 3

SUBJECTS : CUBA  
CUBAN REFUGEES  
BALTIMORE SUN  
ESCAPE ROUTE

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER  
CLASSIFICATION : SECRET  
RESTRICTIONS : 1B  
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED IN PART PUBLIC - RELEASED WITH DELETIONS  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/15/93  
COMMENTS : JFK16 : F25 : 1993.07.15.17:11:14:710340 : PRESS  
CLIPPING ATTACHED AS THIRD PAGE.

-----  
[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10073-10178

~~SECRET~~

Page 2

24 March 1964

outboard, about eighteen feet long, irretrievably dirty, with a  
Rolling or Palmer inboard motor (four cylinder) to help kick it  
along. The mast was stopped very far forward with no jib.  
Also no cabin - thus the entire boat was exposed to wind and  
weather.

5. The refugees are well welcome by the UK authorities, and  
Larry thinks the traffic will continue.

*T. J. Harrison*  
T. J. Harrison

*[Signature]*  
McCarroll/104  
Enclosure: As noted

D-21901

~~SECRET~~

✓  
WK-1731

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~SECRET~~  
[Redacted]

OAS 3, 296,664  
Balt 21901

TO : Acting Chief, Contact Division  
Attention: Support Branch (Stunts)

DATE: 24 March 1964

FROM : Chief, Washington Field Office  
Baltimore Resident Agency

SUBJECT: Case 39300 - Little known escape route from Cuba and personalities  
participating therein

Reference, Washington Field Office Memorandum, same subject, 17 April 1963

1. The BALTIMORE SUN of 23 March 64 carried a story, (photostat attached) concerning a boatload of Cuban refugees washing up on Grand Cayman Island - all but one dead of starvation or exposure. These unfortunate individuals were following a little known (and presumably highly successful) escape route brought to the Agency's attention in our referenced memorandum. The original source of this information is Mr. Howard G. Henry, a colored (and fruitful) contact of the Baltimore Resident Agency.

2. After reading the article in question, we talked with Mr. Henry to ask if he could shed any additional light on the circumstances. He is just back from Cayman Brac. This is what he said: In the last six months there has been a veritable flood of refugees coming into Cayman Brac. Most of them have been teen age Cubans, or young men in the 20-22 year old age bracket. Dennis Tector, the UK Assistant Commissioner of Cayman Brac estimates the number at 70. In one instance there were 24 or 25 in one boatload. Henry explains time in four days and three nights. Food is sealed (weather permitting) over hot coals in a bucket lined with gravel.

3. The old man, Antonio Gonzalez, mentioned in paragraph 3 of our referenced memorandum, has been released from jail, but is closely watched by the Cuban security police. Henry was told this personally by a young Cuban refugee with whom he talked in February 1964 on Grand Cayman.

4. On 28 February 1964, only a few days after the conversations mentioned above, Henry was in the airport at Grand Cayman when a shuttle plane came in from Little Cayman - the normal population of which is thirteen persons. Thirteen persons got off the aircraft - thus stimulating Henry's curiosity. Inquiry revealed that they were all Cuban refugees who had landed on Little Cayman at dusk the day before. Henry went over and inspected the escape vessel, which he found on the south side of Little Cayman. It was a little

WH/SA - 31 March 64 - [initials]

~~SECRET~~

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

[Redacted] WH-1731

09631

~~SECRET~~

[Redacted]

WH-1731

PAGE 1

# 20 DIE AT SEA, REPORT SAYS

## Boat With Fleeing Cubans Washes Up On Shore

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., March 22 (AP)—A Wisconsin industrialist said today he was told that twenty Cubans who fled their homeland died of starvation and exposure before their frail craft washed ashore on Grand Cayman Island early yesterday.

Only one man among the group which left Communist Cuba eighteen days earlier survived, he said.

Ed T. Arpin, who said he is a semi-retired industrialist from Neshann, Wis., returned here yesterday with his wife, Janet, from a 10-day vacation trip to the tiny Caribbean island about 200 miles south of Cuba.

### Spies Tello Story

Arpin said his information came from the constable at Boddentown, on Grand Cayman Island, who also serves as justice of the peace and coroner. He could not recall the constable's name.

Arpin said he happened on the story while en route from Georgetown, principal city on the island, to board a plane for Miami, Fla. He said they came upon a wreck and the constable was at the scene.

The constable knew the driver of their car, who also owns the Tortuga Club, Arpin said.

### Does He Remember?

"I guess you heard about the Cubans," Arpin quizzed the constable on saying.

They had not, he added, and drove to Boddentown, a short distance away, where he photographed the battered 22-foot boat, lying on its side on shore.

Arpin said he was told the boat carried 21 men and women, and only 1 man was alive when the boat washed ashore shortly after midnight. The man's wife was among those who died.

### Did Not See Bodies

He did not see bodies of the victims and did not know if they had been buried or taken to Georgetown, 3 miles away, Arpin reported.

Arpin described the boat as having a 6-foot sail rig and a 7 or 8-foot beam, open, and with no protection from the elements.

The constable estimated the refugees left Cuba eighteen days earlier, on a voyage that normally takes two or three days. He speculated that the wind changed and kept the frail craft at sea.

### South Of Cuba

Grand Cayman is 25 miles long and has a population of about 7,000. It is 200 miles south of Matanzas province in Cuba and 210 miles west of Jamaica.

Arpin said he did not see the lone survivor, but the constable told him he was taken to a medical station in Georgetown for treatment.

There is no telephone service to the island. British West Indies Airways flies there from Miami on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. The airline said it had no information on the Cubans, received reports in code on climate conditions there, but only other contact with the island is by cable or ship.

Attachment:

FOIA(s) 3, 296, 664

Balt - 21901

09631