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Volume I

Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

September 13, 1976

Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. O'Connell
- 1 - Mr. Cooke
- 1 - Mr. Burton
- 1 - Mr. Fisher
- 1 - Mr. Leavitt

Classification reviewed 7/2/77
2010 P.V.

MS. MERITA LORENZ;
MR. WALLY WESTON;
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

In reference to your communication of August 27, 1976, (NY:100-168-8d) and my response of September 8, 1976, captioned as above, the following additional information is provided. C

A further review of our files revealed information regarding Ilena Merita Lorenz, who appears to be identical to the Merita Lorenz about whom you inquired. Our files reflect that Merita Lorenz, date of birth August 18, 1939, at Bremen, Germany, was initially in contact with the New York Office of the FBI on November 20, 1959. This contact was arranged with the New York Office by Alexander I. Morke through Lorenz's mother. During this initial interview, she furnished information concerning contacts with Fidel Castro. In later interviews she revealed that she voluntarily traveled to Cuba in 1959 where she had a love affair with Castro. This affair resulted in a voluntary abortion in Cuba. In 1959 and 1960 Jesus Henez Pelletier, Military Aid to Castro, traveled to New York where he contacted Lorenz and offered to pay medical expenses for surgery resulting from the abortion. He also attempted to convince Lorenz to return to Cuba. Lorenz was fearful of being kidnapped and requested FBI assistance but the New York Office advised her there was no FBI jurisdiction and referred her to the New York City Police Department if she felt she needed protection.

In 1960, Lorenz's mother wrote a letter to Castro concerning his alleged rape of Merita Lorenz. This article in Confidential Magazine received considerable publicity at the time. Additional information in our files indicates that Lorenz furnished information concerning the July 26 Movement in the United States. This group was the original political and military organization which Castro used

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to overthrow the Batista Regime in Cuba. Lorenz was also interviewed in 1962 in Florida regarding a White Slave Traffic Act case. She admitted being the mistress of Marcos Perez Jimenez, former president of Venezuela, who fathered her daughter. Investigation failed to establish that Lorenz was a victim in the White Slave Traffic Act case.

[REDACTED] **CONFIDENTIAL**

Articles appearing in the "Washington Star" dated June 14, 1976, and in the "New York Daily News" on June 13, 1976, and June 14, 1976, allege that Marita Lorenz lived with Fidel Castro in Havana in 1959 and was later recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to poison Castro. According to the articles, she was contacted by Frank Fiorini, also known as Frank Sturgis, and by Alex Burke, both alleged to be employed by the CIA. She was urged to travel to Cuba for the purpose of killing Castro and she finally agreed to do so. She told reporters that Fiorini furnished her with poison which she was to sprinkle into Castro's coffee. The poison, which was contained in two capsules, was hidden in Lorenz's cold cream jar, but when she reached Havana and attempted to remove the capsules, she discovered that the capsules had dissolved, and rendered the poison useless. (u)

There is no indication in FBI files that Lorenz ever advised the FBI about her alleged involvement in the Castro assassination plot, nor is there any indication in the files that she was ever asked to perform a task on behalf of the FBI in the United States or Cuba. (u)

An article in the August 24, 1976, edition of the New York Daily News, page 10, reported that Senator Schweiker had requested Justice Department protection of Lorenz after she was pistol whipped in her Manhattan apartment in July. Lorenz told reporters her attacker later phoned her apartment building and told the superintendent that Lorenz would "get what Roselli got" if she did not keep her mouth shut. Police identified her attacker as Giuseppe Pagiano. He has been (u)

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arrested and charged with first degree assault. Lorenz was interviewed by FBI Agents on September 1, 1976, regarding John Roselli. She admitted meeting Roselli casually in 1959 and 1960 but denied any recent contact with him, nor would she advance any theory regarding Roselli's death other than the fact that he had broken the code of silence of the Mafia. Giuseppe Faggiano was interviewed by the FBI on September 2, 1976. He stated that he has never met John Roselli and he only knows about Roselli those things he reads in the paper. Faggiano advised the New York Daily News article which quoted him as telling Lorenz's apartment superintendent that Lorenz would "get what Roselli got," was not true. (u)

This letter has been classified confidential because it contains the identity of persons who have furnished information to the FBI on a confidential basis. (u)

NOTE: GID, in attached letter to the Assistant Attorney General dated September 8, 1976, responded to a request from Assistant Attorney General Thornburgh for information from our files. The September 8 response, based on an indices search using the spelling of Lorenz's name as furnished by Senator Schweiker to the Department of Justice, resulted in no record being located. Investigation in the Roselli Obstruction of Justice case, however, reveals the files upon which this letter is based. On September 9, 1976, when the information on Lorenz was located, Mr. Gerald Shur, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, was immediately contacted and advised that information regarding Lorenz would be forthcoming. Shur stated he would attach a note to that effect onto the September 8, 1976 letter so that the Assistant Attorney General would be aware that the information was forthcoming. This letter furnishes the information regarding Lorenz to the Assistant Attorney General. (u)

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