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**JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM**

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY: FBI
RECORD_NUMBER: 124-10206-10352
RECORD_SERIES: HO
AGENCY_FILE_NUMBER: 2-2173-22

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR: FBI
FROM: LEG. CAR
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
TITLE:

DATE: 10/07/1976

PAGES: 8

SUBJECT: CUBANA AIRLINES, BOMBING, ACA, OBA, ASSOC, SUSP, BKG, TRA, PEP

DOCUMENT_TYPE: PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION: Secret

NEW
CLASSIFICATION:

REVIEW_DATE: 05/11/1998

UPDATE_DATE:

STATUS Redact

RESTRICTIONS:

JFK Act 6 (1)(C)

JFK Act 6 (4)

COMMENTS: INC NOTE

10/8/76

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

SECRET

Attached from Legat, Caracas advises of crash, possibly caused by a bomb, of Cubana Airlines Flight 455 (DC-8 Aircraft leased by Cubana from Air Canada), in the Caribbean Sea off the coast of Barbados at about 1:45 p.m., 10/6/76, shortly after takeoff from Seawell Airport, Barbados, en route to Havana, Cuba, via Kingston, Jamiaca. No survivors among 78 passengers. Airport official at Barbados reportedly informed that pilot told tower there had been an explosion in one of the rear lavatories of the plane. Flight log recovered after crash noted power failure in #4 engine but no mention of explosion. Trinidad and Tobago Police (TTP) are holding two Venezuelan citizens, Jose Vazquez Garcia and Freddy Lugo, whom they believe may be connected with this crash. TTP request any information of these individuals. Legat, Caracas files negative re individuals. On 10/7/76, a confidential source abroad advised Lugo, supra, is employed by Louis Posada, former head Venezuelan Counterintelligence who resigned in 1973. Posada is Cuban exile known for his anti-Castro activities. This same confidential source advised that in view of arrest of Vazquez and Lugo [the Venezuelan Government] is arranging for Posada and Orlando Bosch Avila (leader of Coordinacion de Organizaciones Revolucionarias Unidas (CORU) to leave Venezuela as soon as possible. The source all but admitted that Posada and Bosch had engineered the bombing of the airline. From statement of source it appears almost certain that [Venezuelan Government] was privy to activities of Posada and Bosch. Appropriate dissemination being made. FBI Identification Division records negative re Lugo and Garcia. Lugo at time of arrest had in possession address book with Legat Caracas' address. Legat, Caracas has no recollection of ever having met Vazquez or Lugo. Legat, Caracas has had limited contact with Posada while employed with [Venezuelan Counterintelligence] and after his resignation from [Venezuelan Counterintelligence] in connection with visa request. FBIHQ files negative re Garcia, however, files indicate Lugo was approached by Cuban Agents (connected with [Embassy] in Caracas) in 1975, and volunteered information. Lugo then offered services to [Venezuelan] intelligence officials. Legat Caracas has been advised.

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Leavitt

JBL:pdh:sas

APPROVED: _____

Assoc. Dir. _____	Ext. Affairs _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____	Fin. & Pers. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____	Gen. Inv. _____
Asst. Dir. _____	Ident. _____
Adm. Serv. _____	Intell. _____

Laboratory _____

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Plan. & Insp. _____

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Spec. Inv. _____

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
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REVIEWED BY [Signature] JFWJK TASK FORCE
CONTINUED - OVER

ON 9/17/96 JLS/pe

RELEASE IN FULL
RELEASE IN PART
TOTAL DENIAL

SECRET

Classified by SP3/clh/AR
Declassify on: OADR 6-1-83
(OSRMB/GCL-4/11/94-JFC)

PAGE FOUR CAR 2-9 S E C R E T

"PAGE IN POSSESSION OF LUGO APPARENTLY FROM ADDRESS BOOK WITH LETTER "E" ON IT CITED FOLLOWING: EMBASSY AMERICAN 2846111-127; FBI JOSEPH LEO 331511.

"TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE ARE FINGERPRINTING BOTH SUSPECTS AND COPYING ALL DOCUMENTS IN THEIR POSSESSION.

"TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE REQUEST URGENTLY ANY INFORMATION OF THESE PERSONS, PARTICULARLY ANY CRIMINAL RECORDS. NO OBJECTION TO LEGATT CONTACTING LOCAL POLICE/SECURITY SERVICES. POLICE REQUEST AT LEAST INTERIM REPLY BEFORE 1700 LOCAL TIME. PLEASE SEND REPLY NIACT IMMEDIATE.

"POLICE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ANYONE FROM LEGATT OFFICE PLANS TO COME TO TRINIDAD ON THIS CASE, OR HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COPIES OF FINGERPRINTS, ETC."

VENEZUELAN IDENTIFICATION BUREAU ADVISED ON OCTOBER 7, 1976, THAT PASSPORTS ISSUED TO VAZQUEZ AND LUGO ARE VALID. PTJ, CARACAS, INFORMED THAT NEITHER HAS PRIOR ARREST RECORD. LEGAT HAS NO RECOLLECTION OF EVER HAVING MET VAZQUEZ OR LUGO. CARACAS FILES NEGATIVE REGARDING THEM. (S)

ON OCTOBER 7, 1976, A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE ABROAD ADVISED THAT (S)
END PAGE FOUR

(STATE DEPT INFO REMAINS UNCLASSIFIED (FROM "PAGE" IN PARA 1 TO "ETC." IN PARA 4) PER DOS AUTHORITY 9/17/96.)

SECRET

2-2173-22

PAGE FIVE CAR 2-9 S E C R E T

FREDDY LUGO IS A VENEZUELAN NEWSMAN WHO IS ALSO EMPLOYED AS AN INVESTIGATOR BY LUIS POSADA, [FORMER HEAD OF THE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION, DISIP,] ^(S) CARACAS. HE RESIGNED FROM HIS POSITION [WITH DISIP] ^(S) IN 1973, [AFTER THE ELECTION OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ.] ^(S) POSADA IS A CUBAN EXILE WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES, AND HE REPORTEDLY ASSISTED ORLANDO BOSCH AVILA IN 1974, SHORTLY BEFORE BOSCH WAS ARRESTED BY VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES. ~~AD~~

LEGAT BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH POSADA WHILE THE LATTER WAS [AFFILIATED WITH DISIP] ^(S) AND AFTER HIS RESIGNATION, POSADA CONTINUED TO CONTACT LEGAT ON RARE OCCASIONS, USUALLY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN PERSONALIZED SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH VISA REQUESTS. IN VIEW OF LUGO'S EMPLOYMENT BY POSADA, LEGAT ASSUMES HIS NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER WERE FURNISHED TO LUGO BY POSADA. LEGAT ESTIMATES HE HAS SEEN POSADA IN PERSON ON PERHAPS THREE OCCASIONS SINCE 1973, THE LAST TIME BEING ON JUNE 10, 1976, WHEN POSADA VISITED LEGAT OFFICE TO INQUIRE IF FBI HAD INTEREST IN CARLO BORDONI (BUFILE 29168654; CARFILE 29-15). INFORMED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, POSADA REVEALED BORDONI HAD HIRED TWO OF HIS OPERATIVES AS ARMED BODY GUARDS AT HIS HOME. THAT INFORMATION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED BY LEGAT TO [VENEZUELAN POLICE] ^(S) WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE ARREST ACTION AGAINST BORDONI. ~~AD~~

END PAGE FIVE

SECRET

POSADA MORE OFTEN REFERRED TO LEGAT RELATIVES AND ASSOCIATES SEEKING ADVICE REGARDING VISAS, THE LAST BEING ONE OF HIS EMPLOYEES, HERNAN RICARDO LOZANO, WHO SOUGHT A VISA TO TRAVEL TO SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, ON OCTOBER 1, 1976. LEGAT WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO DEVELOPED REGARDING RICARDO IN A SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATION. (S)

ON OCTOBER 7, 1976, THE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE FURTHER ADVISED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ARREST OF VAZQUEZ AND LIGO IN TRINIDAD, THE [VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT] WAS ARRANGING FOR LUIS POSADA AND ORLAND BOSCH AVILA TO LEAVE [VENEZUELA] AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE SOURCE ALL BUT ADMITTED THAT POSADA AND BOSCH HAD ENGINEERED THE BOMBING OF THE AIRLINE, AND HE PROMISED TO FURNISH FURTHER DETAILS ON OCTOBER 8, 1976. (S)

OTHER 1C

~~CLASSIFIED BY 4423, AGD/S, EXCEPTS 2 AND 4, UNCLASSIFIED.~~

ADMINISTRATIVE: CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE IS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] HEAD, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION, DISIP, CARACAS, VENEZUELA. (S) (u)

FROM STATEMENTS OF [REDACTED] IT APPEARS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT WAS PRIVY TO THE ACTIVITIES OF POSADA AND BOSCH AND THAT IT NOW WILL ATTEMPT TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THEM FOR FEAR OF RETALIATION BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT. (S) (u)

OTHER 1C

BT

SECRET