

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY: FBI
RECORD_NUMBER: 124-10280-10072
RECORD_SERIES: HO
AGENCY_FILE_NUMBER: CR 109-12-228-2429

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR: CIA

FROM: CIA

TO:

TITLE:

DATE: 10/09/1976

PAGES: 4

SUBJECT: OBA, CUBAN EXILE EXTREMIST, ASSOC, VENEZUELA

DOCUMENT_TYPE: PAPER. TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION: Secret

NEW
CLASSIFICATION:

REVIEW_DATE: 06/08/1998

UPDATE_DATE:

STATUS Redact

RESTRICTIONS:

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

COMMENTS:

Intelligence Information Cable

● PRIORITY

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DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

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COUNTRY VENEZUELA/ CUBA

DOI 30 SEPTEMBER -7 OCTOBER 1976

ADM. MARKINGS

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED AND CLASSIFIED

DATE 7-21-94 BY SP8 MAC/KSL

SUBJECT REACTION OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS TO RECENT

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST CUBAN AIRCRAFT AND

INSTALLATIONS.

ACC VENEZUELA, CARACAS (8 OCTOBER 1976) FIELD NO. [HVC] 7509

SOURCE SEE BELOW.

1. SOURCE OF PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3: A VENEZUELAN BUSINESSMAN WITH CLOSE CONTACTS IN BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES. HIS RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED.

2. ON 7 OCTOBER 1976 PEDRO GOMEZ FERNANDEZ, SECOND SECRETARY AT THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA, SAID THAT

THE CUBAN EMBASSY WAS AWARE THAT A BOMB WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRASH OF THE CUBANA AIRLINE FLIGHT OFF THE COAST OF BARBADOS ON 6 OCTOBER. THE CUBANS, GOMEZ SAID, DID NOT KNOW ON WHICH LEG OF THE FLIGHT THE BOMB WAS PLACED HOWEVER.

(FIELD COMMENT: THE PLANE WAS DOWNED WITH THE LOSS OF 78 LIVES

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INCLUDING FENCING TEAM WHICH HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED COMPETITION IN VENEZUELA.)

3. GOMEZ SAID THAT ON 30 SEPTEMBER THE CUBAN EMBASSY HAD INFORMED THE DIRECTORATE FOR THE SERVICES OF INTELLIGENCE AND PREVENTION (DISIP), THE VENEZUELAN CIVILIAN SECURITY SERVICE, THAT A CUBAN EXILE NAMED SALVADOR ROMANI WAS OBSERVING THE CUBAN FENCING TEAM AT ITS CARACAS HOTEL. ROMANI, GOMEZ SAID, IS A UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE AGENT. (SOURCE COMMENT:

GOMEZ IMPLIED THAT THE CUBAN EMBASSY IS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY THAT ROMANI'S ACTIVITIES ARE INVOLVED WITH THE PLANE CRASH.) FURTHERMORE, THE CUBANS TOLD DISIP THAT THE TEAM WOULD DEFEND ITSELF SHOULD ROMANI CAUSE TROUBLE. SHORTLY AFTER THE CUBANS MADE THEIR FEELINGS KNOWN TO DISIP, GOMEZ SAID THAT ROMANI'S ACTIVITIES CEASED. (FIELD COMMENT: IN [HVC] 7495,

TDFIRDB-315/09683 -76, OF 28 SEPTEMBER, THE SAME SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE CUBAN EMBASSY HAD COMPLAINED TO DISIP ABOUT ANTI-CUBAN GOVERNMENT ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE LOCAL PRESS. IN THIS INSTANCE THE CUBANS INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RETALIATE AGAINST THE NEWSMAN INVOLVED IF DISIP DID NOT

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TAKE ACTION).

4. SOURCE OF PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 6: A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF CONTACTS, HIS RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED.

5. DURING THE WEEK OF 4 OCTOBER LUIS MARTINEZ *Venezuela*

~~MONOCAL~~, CUBAN FIRST SECRETARY, SAID THAT THE EMBASSY WAS AWARE THAT CUBAN EXILE EXTREMIST ORLANDO BOSCH WAS IN VENEZUELA. THE EMBASSY, HE SAID, WAS ATTEMPTING TO INVESTIGATE BOSCH'S ACTIVITIES IN VENEZUELA AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE WAS STILL IN THE COUNTRY. MARTINEZ SAID THAT THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT BOSCH HAD MOVED OUT OF THE CARACAS AREA AND WAS THEN IN THE VENEZUELAN INTERIOR.

(FIELD COMMENT: FOR AN EARLIER REPORT ON THE PRESENCE OF BOSCH IN VENEZUELA, SEE [HVC]^(S) 7498, TDFIRDB-315/09814-76, OF 30 SEPTEMBER, FROM A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE.)

6. IN ADDITION TO AND IN CONNECTION WITH INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF BOSCH IN VENEZUELA, CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MACHINE-GUNNING OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS ON THE EARLY MORNING OF 8 OCTOBER.

7. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY, FBI AT CARACAS: SENT TO

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PORT OF SPAIN, GEORGETOWN, KINGSTON, MEXICO CITY, MANAGUA,

GUATEMALA CITY, PANAMA CITY, SANTO DOMINGO.

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