

JFK Assassination System
Identification Form

Date: 4/16/201

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10289-10058

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 105-99401-21, 22

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : LEG, MX
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

TITLE :

DATE : 03/16/1965
PAGES : 10

SUBJECTS :

CC, CORTEZ, RAYMOND, TRANSCONTINENTAL S.A.,
LIAISON WITH FOREIGN AUTHORITIESDOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Secret
RESTRICTIONS : 1B
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 06/21/1996

OPENING CRITERIA : APPROVAL OF CIA

COMMENTS : INC 3 MEMO, NOTE

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SD 05
 URGENT 3-16-65
 TO DIRECTOR
 FROM LEGAT MEXICO CITY NO. 174

CHALLENGE OBJECTION TO
 DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
 RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
 IN THIS DOCUMENT. AS SANITIZED
 GMB 4-8-94

RAYMOND CORTEZ; TRANSCONTINENTAL S.A., ET AL; EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

REBUCAB MARCH 15 LAST.

MATTER MENTIONED RECAP DISCUSSED WITH EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER HARRY R. ZERBEL THIS DATE. HE ADVISED THAT APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO HE WAS INFORMED THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF US ATTORNEY FOR EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS WOULD COME TO MEXICO AND CONTACT HIM FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING INSTANT CASE AND OBTAINING PERTINENT DOCUMENTS. TO DATE THIS REPRESENTATIVE HAS NOT COME TO MEXICO.

ZERBEL FEELS IT WOULD BE PREMATURE AT THIS TIME FOR THIS OFFICE TO CONTACT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MEXICO AND REQUESTED WE TAKE NO ACTION UNTIL HE RECEIVES ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND FROM US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS. ZERBEL MENTIONED CONFIDENTIALLY THAT APPARENTLY SOMEONE IN WASHINGTON SOME AGO APPROACHED CIA ABOUT OBTAINING TRANSCONTINENTAL DOCUMENTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MEXICO ANTONIO RICHARD PERSONALLY KNOWN TO LEGAT AND IT IS FELT HE WOULD BE COMPLETELY COOPERATIVE IN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS PROVIDING FRAMEWORK OF MEXICAN LAW WOULD PERMIT HIM TO DO SO. IN VIEW OF ZERBEL'S REQUEST AND UACB NO FURTHER ACTION BEING TAKEN HERE AT THIS TIME PENDING ADDITIONAL BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS.

CLARK D. ANDERSON

RECEIVED 8:33 PM JLD

3RD CC: MR. BRENNAN

SECRET

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Liaison
1 - H. C. Flemister

March 19, 1965

Mr. Herbert J. Miller, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

Director, FBI

REC- 99

105-99401-21

RAYMOND CORTES, 101
TRANSCONTINENTAL S. A., ET AL.
EXPORT CONTROL ACT (50 U.S.C. APP. 2025)

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION IN 7/10/93
RELEASE OF ALL INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT. 2/12/93
(9803RDD/scl 2/4/93 JFK)
(ASSANITIZED)

Reference is made to your letter dated March 10, 1965, your file 146-12-3212, and to our letter dated March 15, 1965, both concerning the captioned case.

The matter, as outlined in your letter, was discussed with Harry Zerbell, Economic Officer, United States Embassy, Mexico City, Mexico, on March 16, 1965, by our Legal Attache there.

Zerbell advised that approximately three weeks ago he was informed that a representative of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas would come to Mexico and contact him for the purpose of discussing this case and the possibility of obtaining the documents referred to in your letter. Zerbell stated that as of March 16, 1965, the United States Attorney's representative had not come to Mexico.

Zerbell was of the opinion that it would be premature at this time for our Legal Attache to contact the Attorney General of Mexico and he requested that we take no action in this regard until he receives additional instructions from the United States Department of Commerce and from the aforementioned United States Attorney's office.

In view of the foregoing and in the absence of a specific request from you, we plan to take no further action in this matter at this time.

1 - Legat, Mexico City

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Detached)

HCF:jad
(9)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAILED 19
MAR 19 1965
COMM-FBI

2/4/94
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Mr. Herbert J. Miller, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

NOTE:

Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, by letter 3/10/65, requested our assistance in securing information from Mexican Government in connection with a case being handled by Department. Subjects in violation of embargo shipped American-made automotive parts from Texas to Mexico and subsequently to Cuba. Cortez, who is President of Transcontinental S. A., was granted prosecutive immunity and is scheduled to be a key Government witness. He told USA for Eastern District of Texas that certain documents of his firm would serve as corroborative evidence. Cortez's firm, however, has been liquidated and liquidator has declined to show records to U. S. Government representatives. AAG, in referenced letter, indicated that he was aware our Legat was in contact with AG of Mexico on almost daily basis and requested that we have our Legat request AG of Mexico to persuade liquidator to make his records available. AAG suggested we have our Legat contact Harry Zerbelle, referred to above.

In addition to information in this letter, Zerbelle confidentially told Legat that someone in Washington sometime ago approached CIA about obtaining instant documents as CIA in Mexico City has [clandestine] means of obtaining documents if necessary. Legat advised AG of Mexico personally known to him and would probably be cooperative in attempting to obtain documents providing framework of Mexican law would permit him to do so.

SECRET