

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM

-----  
AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : INSCOM/CSF  
RECORD NUMBER : 194-10013-10453  
RECORDS SERIES : DOD-AFFILIATED PERSONNEL INCIDENT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : ZF400026W - PAGES 274-292  
-----

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM :  
TO :  
TITLE : CUBAN INTELLIGENCE MATTERS INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA  
DATE : 12/13/63  
PAGES : 19  
SUBJECTS : CUBAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

FIREARMS

EXPLOSIVES

SURVEILLANCES AND COUNTER-SURVEILLANCES

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : ~~SECRET~~  
RESTRICTIONS : 1B  
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED WITH DELETIONS  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 03/20/95  
OPENING CRITERIA : COMPLETION OF REVIEW FOR RELEASABILITY  
COMMENTS : COORDINATION WITH THE FBI FOR RELEASABILITY  
DETRMINATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

New York, New York

DEC 13 1968

010991

65 273 906

Re: Cuban Intelligence Matters  
Internal Security - Cuba

The following information pertains to and was furnished by a self-admitted Cuban intelligence agent who is presently in the United States. This man, hereafter referred to as the source, was recruited in Cuba by the Cuban Intelligence Service (CIS), and after receiving extensive training by CIS, was dispatched to the United States, entering at Miami, Florida, as a refugee. The reliability of the source has not as yet been definitely established.

The source advised that he had not been a member of any organization in Cuba devoted to the overthrow of the government of then-President Fulgencio Batista prior to the fall of Batista and the subsequent taking over of the government by Fidel Castro on January 1, 1959. He had no connections with the Castro regime during the period between January 1, 1959 and approximately November, 1961, when, through the assistance of Roberto Roque, source obtained a position with the Municipal Government of the City of Havana, Cuba.

Source advised that Roque is an official in the Ministry of Interior and works with Ramiro Valdez, the head of that agency. Approximately 4½ years ago when source first met Roque the latter was a Captain in

~~SECRET~~

274

GROUP 1  
EXCLUDED FROM  
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING  
AND DECLASSIFICATION

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING  
DOD DIR 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

### Cuban Intelligence Matters

the Cuban Army, and served as an Aide and Secretary to Antonio Santiago in the Army. Source said he understood Roberto Roque had been in the United States before Batista fell and returned to Cuba when Castro took over. He said Roque informed him he had been in Canada for approximately 20 days during May or June, 1963. Source described Roque as follows:

Name	Roberto Roque
Age	28 to 30
Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	5' 8"
Weight	140 pounds
Build	Slender
Hair	Black
Eyes	Black
Marital Status	Married
Characteristics	Speaks English well

Source described Roque's wife, whom he identified as Magaly Gonzales, as about 28 to 30 years old, a large woman, about 5' 8" tall, weighing about 145 pounds, with black hair and eyes. Source said that as of July, 1963, Magaly Gonzales was expecting a child.

- 2 -

275

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

### Cuban Intelligence Matters

Subsequent to receipt of above information, source was shown a photograph of Roberto Agustin Roque Perez, United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) file number All 078 159. Source immediately, on the basis of this photograph, identified Roberto Agustin Roque Perez as the individual known to him in Cuba as Roberto Roque. INS records reflect Roque, born November 15, 1935, in Havana, Cuba, and further reflect that he resided in the United States for a period of time prior to January, 1959, when it was determined he had returned to Cuba.

In approximately February, 1962, and again through the assistance of Roberto Roque, source was enrolled in a school operated by the Cuban Government located in the Palatino, just outside the city limits of Havana, which school is known as the Escuela Basica de Instruccion Revolucionaria (Basic School of Revolutionary Instruction). Students at this school were taught philosophy of Marxism-Leninism, together with political economics and general Communist and anti-United States propaganda. The school was a political and propaganda indoctrination school and students were told they might become propaganda instructors in Cuba or other Latin American countries. No mention was made of the possibility they might be called upon to teach propaganda in the United States. Some of the individuals attending this school were there because they desired better jobs while others were afraid of losing their jobs with the Cuban Government. There were approximately 50 students in the class and sessions were held from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with supper being served at the school. The teacher was an individual named Xiques, who was about 20 to 22 years old, 5' 2" tall, small build, black hair and eyes. He was always dressed in a uniform with a green boina. Source does not believe Xiques had been in the United States.

276

- 3 -

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

## Cuban Intelligence Matters

In April, 1962, source enrolled in another school maintained by the Cuban Government known as the Centro Provincial de Instruccion Revolucionario (Provincial Center of Revolutionary Instruction). This school was then located in Reparto La Coronela, Marianao, Havana, Cuba. This institution provided approximately the same studies as the Basic School mentioned above, but of a more intense nature. Courses included study of the works of MAO Tse-tung. The school during the spring of 1962, had approximately 275 to 300 students and was divided into five classes. Students resided at the school including both men and women and were together during the day in the classrooms and dining rooms, but were separated by sex in sleeping quarters. The men wore blue pants and white tee-shirts during the day and a gray shirt with blue pants in the evening. The uniform for the women during the entire day consisted of blue pants and gray shirt. Classes began at 7:15 a.m. and proceeded throughout the day with recesses. Classes ended at 4:30 p.m. but resumed after dinner and continued until 10:50 p.m. Discipline was very strict. Source believed that the instructors who were young had received training from Blas Roca, a functionary of the Cuban Communist Party. A man named Carlos Walfrido who was about 25 years old was in charge of the teachers. His place was subsequently taken by a woman named Esperanza Franca.

During the time source attended these schools, he never heard any remarks about training students for possible intelligence work and he does not know whether any of the students, in addition to himself, were chosen by CIS for intelligence training. Intelligence study in Cuba is very secretive and it was never mentioned in either school.

277

- 4 -

~~SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

## Cuban Intelligence Matters

Source stated that Roberto Roque on one occasion had discussed with the source the possibility of the latter making a career in the Cuban Government, and mentioned several agencies including the Cuban Diplomatic Service. Services mentioned by Roque included working for the Cuban Government abroad. Source indicated that he was interested in such work and his enrollment in the two indoctrination schools, mentioned above, through the help of Roque followed.

After being "sounded out" by Roque the latter obtained considerable background and biographical data concerning the source in interviews with the source. Some time later while yet attending the Provincial Center school, source received a telephone call from a man who identified himself only as "Sanchez" and who stated that he worked in "foreign affairs for the ORI." (ORI- the Integrated Revolutionary Organizations, which at that time was the sole political party in Cuba). "Sanchez" made arrangements to meet the source personally and thereafter talked with the source three or four times. The conversation concerned source's background and how it was necessary to fight Capitalism. One day "Sanchez" telephoned source and told him another comrade would now work with him. Later that day "Sanchez" introduced him to "Manolo", who thereafter served as source's principal. Source never saw "Sanchez" personally after this but several months later saw a picture in a newspaper of an individual who had been arrested in New York City on charges of attempted sabotage. This newspaper picture was a photograph of Roberto Santiesteban whom source stated was the individual previously known to him as "Sanchez".

It is noted that Roberto Santiesteban Casanova who was then serving as an Attache at the Cuban Mission to the United Nations in New York City, was

278

- 5 -

~~SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

### Cuban Intelligence Matters

arrested on November 16, 1962, in New York City, by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation acting under a warrant charging Santiesteban with violation of Section 951, Title 18, United States Code, which section deals with notification of the Secretary of State by agents of foreign governments, and conspiracy to violate the sabotage statutes. He was indicted on November 21, 1962, by a Federal Grand Jury in New York City; however, on April 22, 1963, indictment against him was dismissed and he was returned to Cuba as part of an exchange for the release of a number of Americans held by Cuba.

Source stated that some time in October or November, 1962, he began to receive training in subjects relating to espionage and intelligence. His training continued until July, 1963, when the source left Cuba for the United States. He did not go to any school for this training but instead was taught by individual instructors in various locations in the Havana area. The overall direction of his training was handled by his principal, Manolo, who introduced him to the individual instructors as he progressed in his training.

Source described Manolo as follows:

Age	35 to 40
Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	6' 1"

- 6 -

279

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

### Cuban Intelligence Matters

Weight	160 pounds
Build	Thin
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Occupation	Formerly worked for Cuban G-2 and now with Special Service (Intelligence) of Cuba
Marital Status	Married, has one child
Characteristics	Wore dark glasses; was always well dressed; wore civilian clothing
Residence	Near the Quincalla near Suarez Street, Havana, Cuba

Manolo never instructed the source in any particular subject but from time to time gave him specific instructions concerning his forthcoming mission in the United States. On one of these occasions Manolo instructed source to find three dead drops in New York City and to furnish a description of the location and if possible a picture of the drops. "They" would approve or disapprove these drops. Two of the drops would be for actual use and a third was a reserve drop. On another occasion Manolo told source that if he ever changed his mind that he would come to the United States and kill him. Manolo also indicated a definite desire to come to the United States at some future date and mentioned the possibility of entering the United States by means of a false passport through Mexico.

280

- 7 -

~~SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM CENTRAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE



~~SECRET~~

## Cuban Intelligence Matters

Source advised that his intelligence training proceeded as follows:

### Firearms

The source received training in the use and dismantling of a Colt .38; the M-1, the M-2, and the M-3; the .45 calibre automatic and the Thompson sub-machine gun. He was also made familiar with the FAL, a Belgian-made rifle. This training was given to him at a house in Marianao, Havana, near the coast. There was a large tree in front of the house which also had a swimming pool. This training lasted approximately one week and was given him by a man known to him only as "Pata de Buey". He described this individual as follows:

Sex	Male
Race	Mulatto
Age	20
Height	5' 6" to 5' 7"
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Build	Heavy, strong, not fat
Background	Military; had been a soldier with Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestre

### Explosives

This training in the use of explosives was given by an individual known to the source as "Poliya" who demonstrated on a blackboard how to destroy bridges,

281 EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

- 8 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

### Cuban Intelligence Matters

roads, communications and oil towers and oil fields. The use of dynamite was covered and "Poliya" also demonstrated how to dismantle an anti-tank bomb. On one occasion "Poliya" was working with dynamite which when it did not explode caused "Poliya" to examine it but when he went to look at it it exploded and cut him in the face. Source described "Poliya" as follows:

Age	25
Sex	Male
Appearance	Oriental; described as a "Mestizo"
Height	5' 8"
Weight	150 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Occupation	Soldier
Characteristics	Wore a uniform at all times

Source stated he did not know the military rank of "Poliya" because officers in the Cuban Army who work on explosives do not wear insignia.

### Dead Drops

Source advised that the terms in Spanish referring to dead drops as used by CIS are "Contacto Impersonal", that is, impersonal contact and "Escondite" or literally hidden or secret. He was taught where to look for suitable places to set up dead drops and his instructor recommended places where few people

282

- 9 -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

## Cuban Intelligence Matters

congregate. Parks, cemeteries, and highways were also recommended to him as good locations. Dead drops were to be used by CIS to send money and equipment and are in turn used by the intelligence agent to place information and other material. A sign such as a chalk mark or a nail on a wall indicates that material has been placed in the drop while a counter sign reflects it has been removed. Instructions in dead drops was given the source by a man named Victor whose last name is unknown, and this instruction lasted one week. Source described Victor as follows:

Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	19 to 21
Height	5' 6"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Light brown
Eyes	Color not recalled; very clear

Victor was an employee of the Ministry of Interior and may have been in the military as he appeared in a uniform on the first day of this instruction.

### General Photography

Source was instructed in the use of the 35 mm Pentacon and the Pentax, another 35 mm camera and was also shown how to develop film and protect undeveloped film. He was not given a camera but instead was instructed to purchase a 35 mm camera on his arrival in the United States. Instruction in general photography

283

~~SECRET~~

- 10 -

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

### Cuban Intelligence Matters

was given by an individual known only as Roberto and the course was taught in an apartment located on 13th Street, between Avenida Presidente and F, Vedado, Havana. The apartment was on the 6th floor and the last two numbers of the building address were either 16 or 61.

Roberto is described as follows:

Sex	Male
Race	Mulatto, light
Age	20-21 years old
Height	5' 6"
Weight	130-135 pounds
Hair	Black
Teeth	Bridge work on upper front teeth

### Telegraphy and Morse Code

Source was afforded training in Morse Code by an individual named "Julio," last name unknown. Training lasted almost a month, and was held at the same apartment where he had received general photography training. Source was taught only the numbers and a few letters of the Morse Code, and his training was limited to receiving of messages, which consist of groups of five numbers each. He was not taught how to transmit code, nor was he given instruction in radio repair or mechanics. He was told to purchase a Zenith transoceanic radio (Onda Corta) (short-wave) on arrival in the United States, since CIS felt this to

- 11 -

284

~~SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

### Cuban Intelligence Matters

be the best radio for contact with Cuba. Source was not given any short-wave band or wave length on which to receive messages from Cuba; he was told this data would be supplied him once he had a radio.

His instructor, Julio, is described as follows:

Sex	Male
Nationality	Cuban
Height	5' 9" - 5' 10"
Weight	170-180 pounds
Hair	Black
Scars or Marks	None

285

- 11a -

~~SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

## Cuban Intelligence Matters

Source said Julio may possibly have been a member of the military, but wore a uniform on only one occasion during the training period.

### Cipher System and Secret Writing

Source was instructed in the use of a cipher system utilizing a sentence in Spanish as the "pensamiento" or scheme, which in turn is broken down into a "consigna" or watchword, and three "gamas" or scales. The system then utilizes exchange and substitution of numbers for letters, and the numbers are placed in groups of five to form messages. Source was instructed and given practice in both encipherment and decipherment of messages.

Source was also provided with a secret writing system (Tinta Invisible) which requires only bond paper, a pen nib, and saliva. One sheet of paper is crushed into a ball, and is used to rub another sheet of the paper. Then, with a pen nib, using saliva as "ink", a message is written on the side of the sheet previously rubbed. The sheet then is passed over steam, and placed under a heavy book for several hours. An innocuous letter is then written on the reverse side of the sheet, using Parker ink. The message is then placed in an envelope which is not moistened with the tongue but which is sealed with glue. On each side of the flap, about one inch from the apex, the glue is not used for about one-half inch. This enables receiver of the letter to determine whether letter has been opened or not. To show the letter contains secret writing, the return address is formed of any name having the initials "TI", that is, "tinta invisible".

Secret writing to be received by source from Cuba is developed by placing sheet of writing in tepid water until message appears.

- 12 -

~~SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

286

~~SECRET~~

### Cuban Intelligence Matters

The cipher system and secret writing system were taught source by an individual known as "Rafael". One day "Rafael" told source his name was Raul Perez. The courses were held in the same apartment mentioned earlier, that is, on 13th Street, Vedado, Havana. Source was of opinion this apartment was actually "Rafael's" residence. Training in the two topics lasted two or three weeks. Prior to receiving this training, Manolo, the principal of the source informed source he would be given his code (cipher) training by a "Sovietica", that is, a Russian. After "Rafael" had taught source, the latter asked Manolo if "Rafael" was a Russian, and Manolo replied in the negative. Source described "Rafael" as follows:

Name	"Rafael", or Raul Perez
Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	About 35 years old
Height	5' 10" - 5' 11"
Weight	160 pounds
Build	Thin
Eyebrows	Heavy, dark
Hair	Black, parted on the side, heavy, greying at temples
Face	Thin
Nose	Thin and fine
Lips	Thin
Eyes	Black and small

287

- 13 -

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

## Cuban Intelligence Matters

Source advised that while "Rafael" spoke perfect Spanish, and said he was a Cuban, that he had a foreign pronunciation for an individual of Cuban extraction, and source feels he may have been from Argentina.

### Surveillances and Counter-surveillances

Source was instructed in these two topics by a man named Menendez. Instruction took place in the apartment of Menendez, Apartment 3D, in a building located at 12 y 3, Vedado, Havana, the only large building in the area. Source met Menendez three or four times, and instructions were given orally by Menendez. He last saw Menendez at the latter's apartment about July 1, 1963. Menendez is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	30 to 35 years old
Height	5' 7" - 5' 8"
Weight	130 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Gray-brown
Marital Status	Married
Travel	Has been in the United States
Build	Thin

288

- 14 -

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE



~~SECRET~~

### Cuban Intelligence Matters

The wife of Menendez, whose name is unknown to source, is described thusly:

Sex	Female
Age	20 to 22 years old
Height	5' 2"
Weight	120 pounds
Hair	Light brown

Source said Menendez was possibly an official in the Ministry of Interior. Menendez is a superior of Manolo, the principal of the source.

### Microfilm

Source was instructed in the preparation of microfilm utilizing scotch tape, and three solutions identified as ten per cent silver nitrate and ninety per cent water, ten per cent "Bromuro" and ninety per cent water, and ten per cent ammonia and ninety per cent water. The process requires the use of a camera, a level bench with a one-inch hole, a lamp with a half filament, a plumbline, a magnifying glass, and several pieces of glass.

Instruction in preparing microfilm was afforded source by an individual whose name is unknown to source. This instructor is described as follows:

Sex	Male
Race	Mulatto
Age	19 or 20 years old
Height	5' 10"
Weight	289 130 - 140 pounds

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

## Cuban Intelligence Matters

Build	Thin
Hair	Thin, dark
Eyes	Dark
Complexion	Dark

Source said this instructor was a Communist youth who had traveled in the socialist countries. On one occasion, this man appeared wearing soldier's trousers, but source was uncertain as to whether instructor was a member of the military.

### Methods of Contact with CIS

"Legal", "Clear" or "Open" Letter. Sent by informant to a relative in Havana, with envelope flagged under a girl's name. The "girl", actually source's principal, contacts the relative frequently for these letters.

"Illegal" or "secret" letters. Utilizes the saliva-for-ink system or microdots. Source has three addresses in Cuba, all serviced by his principal, Manolo.

Dead drops or "contacto impersonal". New York City area.

Live meetings or "contacto personal". Established by source providing CIS with date and hour of day he will be at a certain location; also New York City area.

Cables. Used in emergency situations only; sent to one of three addresses serviced by Manolo. Utilizes a code which requires several proper names and a street address; the initial letters of the proper names determine meaning of message while the numbers in street address flag the position in Cuba, by longitudinal meridians, where action is to occur.

290

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

## Cuban Intelligence Matters

### Control of source by CIS

On one occasion, Manolo implied harm would come to source and a close relative should he not carry out his mission in the United States. On another occasion, Manolo told source he would come to the United States and kill source if latter failed in his mission.

### Operational Funds

Shortly prior to leaving Cuba, source, at request of Manolo, gave Manolo a pair of source's shoes. About ten days later, Manolo returned the shoes, and informed source the heels contained \$940 in United States currency, which he was to utilize in becoming established in New York City. Source, on arriving in Miami, Florida, recovered the money which he stated was hidden in hollowed-out portions of the heels, in spaces about the size of a silver dollar. The \$940 consisted of \$50 and \$20 bills, United States currency.

During his training, source was informed by Manolo that CIS would consider giving him money to enable him to set up cover employment, such as a restaurant.

### Mission in the United States

Source defined his mission in the United States thusly: To settle himself in New York City; to furnish CIS names and information about present employment of Cuban physicians now in the United States; to collect information about Cuban refugee centers.

Source was also informed, while in Cuba, that he would eventually be assigned as a clandestine contact to Cuban United Nations Mission representatives in New York City.

291

- 17 -

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

### Cuban Intelligence Matters

Source has advised that no mention was ever made by his CIS contacts of his collecting information about the armed forces of the United States, and that no military targets in the United States were ever discussed. He was given the assignment, however, to immediately notify CIS should it come to his attention that United States armed forces intend to invade Cuba.

292

- 18 -

EXCLUDED FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~