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FM DIRECTOR

TO MIAMI PRIORITY

SAN JUAN PRIORITY

RUEBWJA/ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION

ATTN: INTERNAL SECURITY SECTION

ATTN: GENERAL CRIMES SECTION

RUEAIIA/DIRECTOR, CIA

RUEOGBA/FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

RUEHC/SECRETARY OF STATE

BT

SECRET

SECTION 1 OF 2

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; SUSPECTED BOMBING OF CUBANA AIRLINES

DC-8 NEAR BARBADOS, WEST INDIES, OCTOBER 6, 1976,

NM - CUBA - WEST INDIES.

BY TELETYPE OCTOBER 8, 1976 LEGAT CARACAS ADVISED

AS FOLLOWS.

SECRET

9/8/97  
CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SIO/jade  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X  
(U)  
(JFK)  
(S668 SIO/GA)  
8/25/98 JFK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

~~Classified by 5045/clh/mc  
Declassify on: OADR 6/21/8  
1/14/85 SP6BSA/GA #24326~~

(15)

SECRET

PAGE TWO S E C R E T

HERNAN RICARDO LOZANO IS A NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER AND FREE-LANCE REPORTER AFFILIATED WITH THE MAGAZINE "VISION," AND HE IS ALSO EMPLOYED AS AN INDUSTRIAL INVESTIGATOR BY INVESTIGACIONES COMERCIALES E INDUSTRIALES, C.A. (ICI), AN INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FIRM OPERATED BY LUIS POSADA, \*FORMER HEAD OF [REDACTED]

IB  
IC

POSADA, A CUBAN EXILE WHO IS NOW A VENEZUELAN CITIZEN, IS STRONGLY

ANTI-CASTRO AND WAS SUSPECTED OF HAVING BEEN THE MAIN SUPPORTER OF ORLANDO BOSCH AVILA DURING BOSCH'S PRESENCE IN VENEZUELA PRIOR TO HIS ARREST ON NOVEMBER 19, 1975. \*LEGAT BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH [REDACTED] IN THE COURSE OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS DURING PERIOD [REDACTED]

IB  
IC

HERNAN RICARDO LOZANO FIRST BECAME KNOWN TO LEGAT IN APPROXIMATELY

JUNE, 1974, WHEN HE CONTACTED LEGAT FOR ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING THE PROCESSING OF A VISA TO THE U.S. THAT HAD BEEN REQUESTED FOR THE MINOR

SON OF THE THEN [REDACTED]

IB  
IC

LEGAT WAS LED TO BELIEVE RICARDO WAS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF DISIP AND ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED THAT RESULTED IN THE PROMPT ISSUANCE OF A VISA TO THE [REDACTED] CHILD

RICARDO RECONTACTED LEGAT A FEW WEEKS LATER TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR ASSISTANCE PREVIOUSLY RENDERED, AND LEGAT THEN BE-

INITIAL  
SA7  
AM

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PAGE THREE S E C R E T

1B  
1C  
CAME AWARE RICARDO ~~WAS~~ MERELY AN AUXILIARY ~~████████████████████~~ (S), AND THAT  
HE ~~WAS~~ ACTUALLY IN THE PERSONAL SERVICE OF LUIS POSADA. RICARDO RE-  
VEALED HE WAS ALSO A NEWSPAPER REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER AFFILIATED  
WITH THE MAGAZINE "VISION," AND INDICATED HE DEVOTED MOST OF HIS TIME  
RESEARCHING NEWS ARTICLES INTENDED TO DISCREDIT THE CASTRO GOVERN-  
MENT. HE CLAIMED PARTIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE THAT  
APPEARED IN A CARACAS NEWSPAPER ABOUT THAT TIME, REVEALING THE  
PRESENCE OF CUBAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS IN CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS.

1B  
1C  
RICARDO CONTACTED LEGAT APPROXIMATELY FOUR TIMES AFTER THE  
INITIAL VISIT, AND ON TWO OCCASIONS FURNISHED PHOTOGRAPHS AND  
BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY ~~WHICH WERE~~ (S) ~~████████████████████~~  
OBVIOUSLY OBTAINED FROM ~~████████████████████~~ DURING ONE VISIT, RICARDO E  
SUGGESTED LEGAT MIGHT WISH TO MAKE SOME SUGGESTIONS REGARDING  
COURSES OF ACTION THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN AGAINST THE CUBAN EMBASSY  
IN CARACAS BY AN ANTI-CASTRO GROUP OF WHICH HE FORMED PART.  
LEGAT INFORMED RICARDO SUCH WAS NOT PART OF THE FUNCTION  
OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE'S OFFICE, AND THAT IN ANY EVENT,  
LEGAT PERSONALLY ABHORRED TERRORIST ACTIVITIES REGARDLESS OF WHOM  
THEY MIGHT BE DIRECTED AGAINST. LEGAT POINTED OUT TO RICARDO THAT  
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS DOING EVERYTHING IT COULD TO PREVENT DISRUP

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PAGE FOUR S E C R E T

TIVE AND TERRORIST ACTIONS BY ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS IN THE US. RICARDO DID NOT AGAIN REPEAT THE SUGGESTION. *(u)*

LEGAT WAS SURPRISED BY APPEARANCE OF RICARDO AT AMERICAN EMBASSY ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1976. THE LAST CONTACT WITH RICARDO HAD BEEN EARLY IN DECEMBER, 1975, WHEN RICARDO TELEPHONED LEGAT AND INVITED HIM TO A LUNCH OF VENEZUELAN SPECIALTIES PREPARED DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. LEGAT DECLINED INVITATION, CITING A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT. *(u)*

ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1976, RICARDO INFORMED LEGAT HE HAD A PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENT FOR "VISION" MAGAZINE IN JAMAICA AND WAS IN NEED OF A VISA TO THE US SINCE HE PLANNED A TWO-DAY STOPOVER IN PUERTO RICO

HE SAID HE HAD FIRST CONTACTED A TRAVEL AGENCY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISA, BUT WAS TOLD THE PROCESS WOULD TAKE THREE DAYS, AND SINCE HE EXPECTED TO DEPART CARACAS ON OCTOBER 1, 1976, HE REQUESTED LEGAT'S ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING A VISA FOR HIM. AS LEGAT WAS OCCUPIED WITH OTHER MATTERS, HE ACCEPTED RICARDO'S PASSPORT AND VISA APPLICATION FORM, PROMISING TO LOOK IT OVER AND TO SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISE RICARDO OF ANY FURTHER REQUIREMENTS. IN REVIEWING THE PASSPORT AND APPLICATION FORM, LEGAT NOTED RICARDO HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY TRAVELED TO THE US. THE PASSPORT DID REFLECT HOWEVER THAT RICARDO HAD TRAVELED FROM CARACAS TO PORT-OF-SPAIN, TRINIDAD, ON AUGUST 29, *(u)*

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1976, AND HAD RETURNED TO CARACAS ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1976. LEGAT RECALLED THAT THE BOMBING OF THE GUYANESE CONSULATE IN PORT-OF-SPAIN HAD OCCURRED AT APPROXIMATELY 10:15 AM ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1976, AND WONDERED IN VIEW OF RICARDO'S ASSOCIATION WITH LUIS POSADA, IF HIS PRESENCE THERE DURING THAT PERIOD WAS COINCIDENCE. ~~(S)~~ (u)

ON THE HUNCH IT MIGHT BE OF POSSIBLE FUTURE INTEREST, LEGAT TOOK THE LIBERTY OF MAKING XEROX COPIES OF RICARDO'S PASSPORT AND VISA APPLICATION FORM. IN CONSULTING WITH CHIEF OF NONIMMIGRANT VISA SECTION, GLADYS LUJAN, LEGAT INFORMED HER HE WISHED NO SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR RICARDO, AND REQUESTED THE ISSUANCE OF A VISA TO HIM BE CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS. MRS. LUJAN STATED RICARDO WOULD NEED ONLY AN EMPLOYMENT LETTER INDICATING HE WAS GAINFULLY EMPLOYED IN VENEZUELA. ~~(S)~~ (u)

WHEN RICARDO REAPPEARED AT EMBASSY ON AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1976, HE WAS INFORMED OF REQUIREMENT OF A LETTER OF EMPLOYMENT, AND HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO GO DIRECTLY TO CONSULAR SECTION WITH HIS DOCUMENTS WHEN HE HAD THEM IN ORDER. HE INDICATED HE WOULD OBTAIN THE EMPLOYMENT LETTER AND WOULD RETURN TO THE CONSULAR SECTION ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 1, 1976. ~~(S)~~ (u)

ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 1, 1976, RICARDO AGAIN APPEARED AT THE ~~(S)~~ (u)

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PAGE SIX S E C R E T

RECEPTIONIST DESK IN THE LOBBY OF THE EMBASSY AND REQUESTED TO SEE LEGAT. LEGAT PROCEEDED TO LOBBY, WHERE RICARDO SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY ONE OF THE VICE CONSULS HIS EMPLOYMENT LETTER WAS NOT EXPLICIT ENOUGH, AND WHEN HE INFORMED HER HE WAS ACQUAINED WITH LEGAT, THE VICE CONSUL SUGGESTED HE RECONTACT LEGAT AND ASK HIM TO SPEAK WITH HERJS RICARDO DISPLAYED A LETTER WRITTEN ON ICI LETTERHEAD STATIONERY AND SIGNED BY LUIS POSADA ATTESTING MERELY RICARDO WAS AN ICI EMPLOYEE. LEGAT THEN COMMUNICATED WITH VICE CONSUL WHO WISHED TO KNOW IF LEGAT BELIEVED RICARDO WOULD RETURN TO VENEZUELA AFTER HIS VISIT IN THE US, OR IF HE WAS LIKELY TO REMAIN THERE ILLEGALLY. LEGAT INFORMED THE VICE CONSUL HE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE RICARDO WOULD NOT RETURN TO CARACAS. THE VICE CONSUL INDICATED IN THAT CASE A VISA WOULD BE ISSUED TO RICARDO, AND HE WAS ASKED TO RETURN TO THE CONSULAR SECTION. UPON TAKING LEAVE OF LEGAT, RICARDO INDICATED HE MIGHT ALSO VISIT NEW YORK CITY BEFORE RETURNING TO CARACAS, AND MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT BESIDES JAMAICA, HE MIGHT ALSO BE VISITING BARBADOS IN CONNECTION WITH HIS PICTORIAL ASSIGNMENT FOR "VISION." RICARDO WAS NOT SEEN AFTER THAT. *JK*

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