

NARA PH DATE 05-16-05

CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 - Mr. R. G. Held
- 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
- 1 - Mr. D. W. Moore
- 1 - Mr. W. K. DeBruler
(Attn: T. M. Johnson)

October 29, 1976

- 1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt
- 1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
- 1 - Mr. R. K. McHargue
- 1 - Mr. J. P. Graham

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C.d.
6/6
(JPR)

Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

CUBANA AIRLINES

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated October 20, 1976, relating to information indicating that the name of Special Agent Joseph S. Leo of this Bureau, Legal Attache, Caracas, Venezuela, was found in the possession of one of the individuals arrested as a suspect in the loss of Cubana Airlines Flight Number 455 in the Caribbean Sea on October 6, 1976.

For your further information and assistance, there is set forth below additional facts reported to this Headquarters on October 26, 1976, by Legat Leo.

Hernan Ricardo Lozano and Freddy Lugo, citizens of Venezuela, were arrested by the police of Trinidad and Tobago on October 7, 1976, on suspicion of implication in the crash of the Cuban-operated aircraft off the coast of Barbados on October 6, 1976. Hernan Ricardo Lozano came to the attention of Legat, Caracas, during the summer of 1975 when he contacted Legat

for the purpose of assisting in expediting the issuance of a visa. Ricardo Lozano returned shortly thereafter to express his appreciation for that assistance and he recontacted Legat, Caracas, on approximately three other occasions relating to visa information. In December, 1975, Ricardo Lozano telephoned Legat and extended to him a social invitation, which was declined.

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FOREIGN

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

Classified by SP8 EIC/TAC
Declassify on: OADR 6/3/80
SP8 MACE/GDL
4/28/94 - JPR

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DE-21

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

SEE NOTE PAGE 4

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

JCV
26
CHM

SECRET

[REDACTED]

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Ricardo Lozano was not seen or heard from again by Legat until September 30, 1976, when he appeared at the Legat Office, Caracas, at which time he requested assistance for himself to obtain a visa to the U. S. On that occasion, Ricardo Lozano claimed that he had a photographic assignment in Jamaica for the magazine "Vision" and that he planned a two-day stopover in Puerto Rico before returning to Venezuela. On his visa application Ricardo Lozano indicated his occupation as a graphic reporter and industrial investigator. He listed his employer as Investigaciones Comerciales e Industriales (ICI) and, in that connection, he produced a letter of employment signed by the ICI owner, Luis Posada Carriles. A visa was issued to Ricardo Lozano on October 1, 1976.

[REDACTED] (S) 4

Luis Posada Carriles

Established ICI, a private investigative agency. Legat Leo stated that he had very slight contact with Posada

Legat Leo and Posada met perhaps no more than three times since 1971. On June 10, 1976, Posada appeared at the Legat Office to ask what, if any, interest the FBI had in Juan Carlo Bordoní. Posada was thereupon told that Bordoní was a fugitive from justice and that efforts were being made to extradite Bordoní to the U. S. from Venezuela to answer charges of bank fraud in connection with the collapse of the Franklin National Bank. Posada stated that in that case he wished to advise Legat Leo that Bordoní had hired two ICI operatives to act as armed bodyguards in his home.

[REDACTED] (S) 4

Legat Leo further reported that Freddy Lugo, the second Venezuelan citizen arrested in connection with captioned matter, is not known to him. Venezuelan press reports identify Lugo as a journalist and photographer. At the time of his arrest, Lugo reportedly had on his person a piece of paper bearing the name and telephone number of Legat Leo. It is not known to Legat Leo how his name came into the possession of Lugo.

[REDACTED] (S)

SECRET

[REDACTED]

SECRET

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4
FOREIGN

[REDACTED]

An examination of those papers and documents revealed that it appeared that the piece of paper bearing Mr. Leo's name was taken from a notebook consisting of approximately 30 pages which was found in the possession of Hernan Ricardo Lozano. The names of more than 170 individuals were inscribed in that notebook. (S)(u)

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With regard to [REDACTED] Legat Leo pointed out that he is currently employed as a [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] was formerly affiliated with a [REDACTED], under the immediate supervision of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] arrived in Venezuela from Miami, Florida, in approximately late 1974, having been summoned by [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. Legat Leo maintained contact with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in connection with official matters. Those individuals arranged the arrest and deportation of several fugitives wanted by Federal and local law enforcement authorities in the U. S. (S)(u)

(u) Legat Leo has advised that neither [REDACTED] nor [REDACTED] were ever paid informants or sources of the Legat, Caracas, Office. It is pointed out, however, that Ricardo Morales Navarrete was a paid informant of our Miami Office at various times between 1961 and 1975, reporting information of a general criminal nature as well as information involving both pro- and anti-Castro activities. (S)

With regard to the matter of my sending an Inspector from FBI Headquarters to Caracas, Venezuela, to interview Legat Leo, previously referred to herein, I have decided to hold such travel in abeyance because of the existing (S)(u)

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tension in the Caribbean area and, in particular, the political situation in Venezuela. In the same light, I am not going to instruct Legat Leo to travel to Washington, D. C., at this time.

The information contained herein is also being provided to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE:

This information is of interest to the Secretary of State as well as to the Department of Justice. A similar communication is being sent to the Attorney General.

APPROVED:

Asso. Dir.....
Dep. AD Adm.....
Dep. AD Inv. *JKW*
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.....

Ext. Affairs.....
Fin. & Pers. *JKW*
Gen. Inv.
Ident.

Laboratory.....
Legal Coun.....
Plan. & Insp.....
Rec. Mgnt.....
Spec. Inv.....
Training.....

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