SECRET

Cubana Airlines

UNUSUAL SUSPECTED BOMBING OF CUBANA AIRLINES DC-8 NEAR BARBADOS.

WEST INDIES, OCTOBER 6, 1976. MM – CUBA – WEST INDIES.

BY TELETYPE OCT 7 76, LEAST CARACAS ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

CUBANA AIRLINES FLIGHT 455, DC-8 AIRCRAFT LEASED BY CUBANA

FROM AIR CANADA, CRASHED IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA OFF THE COAST OF

BARBADOS AT ABOUT 1:45 PM ON OCTOBER 6, 1976, SHORTLY AFTER

TAKEOFF FROM SEAVELL AIRPORT, BARBADOS, EN ROUTE TO HAVANA, CUBA,

VIA KINGSTON, JAMAICA. NO SURVIVORS REPORTED AMONG THE 78 PER-

SONS ABOARD THE PLANE.

ACCORDING TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS, PILOT

REPORTED TO SEAVELL AIRPORT TOWER SHORTLY BEFORE CRASH THAT AN

EXPLOSION HAD OCCURRED ABOARD THE PLANE. FLIGHT LOG RECOVERED

AFTER CRASH NOTED POWER FAILURE IN NUMBER FOUR ENGINE, BUT NO

MENTION OF EXPLOSION. AIRPORT OFFICIAL AT BARBADOS REPORTEDLY

INFORMED THAT PILOT TOLD TOWER THERE HAD BEEN EXPLOSION IN ONE

OF THE REAR LAVATORIES OF THE PLANE.

AMERICAN EMBASSY, PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD, ADVISED ON

OCTOBER 7, 1976, AS FOLLOWS:

"TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE ARE HOLDING TWO VENEZUELAN

SECRET
CITIZENS WHOSE THEY BELIEVE MAY BE CONNECTED WITH THE CUBANA AIRLINE CRASH OCTOBER 6 OFF BARBADOS. TWO SUSPECTS ARE:

A. JOSE VAZQUEZ GARCIA - HOLDER OF VENEZUELAN PASSPORT 720753 (THIS IS THE PERFORATED NUMBER--NUMBER WRITTEN IN THE PASSPORT IS 31402896). ISSUED ON JUNE 6, 1976, IN CARACAS. BORN DECEMBER 2, 1945 IN CARACAS. HOLDS VENEZUELAN ID CEDULA V 31402896.

B. FREDDY (NOT FEDERICO) LIJO - HOLDER OF VENEZUELAN PASSPORT 004543 (THIS IS THE PERFORATED NUMBER--NUMBER WRITTEN IN THE PASSPORT IS 2123051). ISSUED JULY 6, 1976, IN CARACAS. SINGLE. BORN OCTOBER 17, 1942. GAVE RESIDENCE AS CARACAS AND OCCUPATION AS JOURNALIST. HOLDS ID CEDULA V 2123051. CARRIES OFFICIAL PRESS CARD NO 152 OF CIRCUITO DE REPORTEROS GRÁFICOS DE VENEZUELA. LIJO ALSO HAD IN HIS POSSESSION TOURIST CARD FOR COLOMBIA DATED JULY 15, 1976. THIS GAVE PERMANENT ADDRESS AD URB. URBANETA VERDA 24, CARACAS.

THESE TWO VENEZUELAN S ARRIVED IN TRINIDAD FROM CARACAS ON PANAM 443 EARLY MORNING HOURS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, CHECKED INTO HOLIDAY INN AT 0200 HOURS. HOTEL REGISTRATION MADE IN NAMES OF

[Redacted]

STATE DEPT. INFO (ALL ROLES) IS DECLASSIFIED PER DIA AUTHORITY
JOSE GARCIA/ FREDDY PEREZ, HOME ADDRESS GIVEN AS LA CRISTO REY ON 61, VALENCIA, VENEZUELA. HAD LUGGAGE WHEN CHECKED INTO HOTEL.

VENGEZUELAN S CHECKED OUT OF HOLIDAY INN ABOUT 0600 OCTOBER 6 WITH LUGGAGE AND WERE SEEN AT Piarco AIRPORT, BOARDED CUBANA FLIGHT AT 1150 OCTOBER 6 TO BARBADOS.

RETURNED FROM BARBADOS TO TRINIDAD ON SAME DAY ON BWIA FLIGHT AT 2155 AND CHECKED INTO HOLIDAY INN AT 2300 WITHOUT SUITCASES.
REGISTRATION IN NAME OF GUSTAVO GARCIA, RESIDENCE BOGOTA, COLOMBIA. THEY CLAIMED THE SUITCASES HAD BEEN STOLEN, BUT THEY HAVE MADE NO REPORT OF STOLEN SUITCASES EITHER TO AIRLINE OR BARBADOS OR TRINIDAD POLICE.

"AMONG DOCUMENTS IN HANDS OF POLICE IS BOARDING PASS OF E.
SEALY FOR DIFFERENT BWIA FLIGHT. POLICE CHECKING THIS OUT. THIS THEY BELIEVE COULD BE TRINIDAD ACCOMPlice.

"OF INTEREST IS FACT BOTH PASSPORTS FAIRLY NEW, THEREFORE DIFFICULT TRACE PAST TRAVEL. HOWEVER, PASSPORT OF FREDDY LISO DID HAVE STAMP SHOWING ENTRY AT BARBADOS ON JULY 2. (NOTE: THE BOMBS WHICH WENT OFF AT THE BWIA OFFICE AND AT THE GENERAL MANAGER'S CAR AND YACHT IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS, TOOK PLACE ON 10 AND 11 JULY 1976.)"
IN POSSESSION OF LIPO APPEARENTLY FROM ADDRESS BOOK WITH LETTER "C" ON IT CITED FOLLOWING: EMBASSY AMERICAN 33/111-1371
FLI JOSEPH LEO 33/1511.

"TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE ARE FINGERPRINTING BOTH SUSPECTS AND COPYING ALL DOCUMENTS IN THEIR POSSESSION.

"TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE REQUEST URGENTLY ANY INFORMATION OF THESE PERSONS, PARTICULARLY ANY CRIMINAL RECORDS. NO OBJECTION TO LEGATT CONTACTING LOCAL POLICE/SECURITY SERVICES. POLICE REQUEST AT LEAST INTERIM REPLY BEFORE 1700 LOCAL TIME. PLEASE SEND REPLY REACT IMMEDIATE.

"POLICE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ANYONE FROM LEGATT OFFICE PLANS TO COME TO TRINIDAD ON THIS CASE, OR HOW YOUR WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COPIES OF FINGERPRINTS, ETC."

ON OCTOBER 7, 1976, A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE ABROAD ADVISED THAT (5)

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FREDDY Lugo is a Venezuelan businessman who is also employed as an investigator by Luis Posada, an associate of the Cuban exile movement. He resigned from his position in Caracas in 1973.

Posada is a Cuban exile who is known for his anti-Castro activities, and he reportedly assisted Orlando Bosch Avila in 1974, shortly before Bosch was arrested by Venezuelan authorities.

Legat became acquainted with Posada while the latter was still associated with the exiles. After his resignation, Posada continued to contact Legat on rare occasions, usually in order to obtain personalized service in connection with visa requests.

In view of Lugo's employment by Posada, Legat assumes his name and telephone number were furnished to Lugo by Posada. Legat estimates he has seen Posada in person on perhaps three occasions since 1973, the last time being on June 10, 1976, when Posada visited Legat's office to inquire if FBI had interest in Carlo Bordoni (SF file 281665541, CAR file 28-13). Informed in the affirmative, Posada revealed that Bordoni had hired two of his operatives as armed bodyguards at his home. That information was subsequently passed by Legat to...

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POSADA MORE OFTEN REFERRED TO LEGAT RELATIVES AND ASSOCIATES SEEKING ADVICE REGARDING VISAS, THE LAST BEING ONE OF HIS EMPLOYEES, HERNAN RICARDO LOZANO, WHO SOUGHT A VISOA TRAVEL TO SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, ON OCTOBER 1, 1976. LEGAT WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO DEVELOPED REGARDING RICARDO IN A SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATION.


FROM STATEMENTS OF IT APPEARS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE WAS PRIVY TO THE ACTIVITIES OF POSADA AND BOSCH AND THAT IT NOW WILL ATTEMPT TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THEM FOR FEAR OF RETALIATION BY THE CHAVAN GOVERNMENT.

ADMIN TO FIELD ANY LEGENDS ONLY