

**JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM**

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY: FBI
RECORD NUMBER: 124-10285-10183
RECORD SERIES: HO
AGENCY FILE NUMBER: CR 65-69402-24

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR: FBI
FROM: SAC. MM
TO: DIRECTOR. FBI
TITLE:

DATE: 06/23/1965

PAGES: 7

SUBJECT: LB, EMP, ACA, REL, BKG, DESCR, RES, BOMB, ESPIONAGE ACT, EVID, LTR, FPT, TYW, SUSP, BENAVIDES, ELIO GONZALEZ

DOCUMENT TYPE: PAPER. TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION: Secret

NEW CLASSIFICATION:

REVIEW DATE: 07/02/1998

UPDATE DATE:

STATUS: Redact

RESTRICTIONS:

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

JFK Act 6 (1)(C)

JFK Act 6 (4)

COMMENTS: INC LAB WORK SHEET

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SECRET

[Handwritten signature]

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-69402) DATE: 6/23/65

(Attention: FBI Laboratory)

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (65-3066) (P)

SUBJECT: **CHANGED UNKNOWN SUBJECT, aka Armando Blanco, (FNU) Benavides; ET AL ESPIONAGE - CUBA (OO: New York)**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

(5668 SLD/GCC)
7/1/88 - JFK
(5668 SLD/GCC - 5/19/88 - JFK)
10-14-97
CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSR
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1, 6
11-15-84
Classified by SP8 mac/mde
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)
482664 (JFK)

Title is changed to add the aka (FNU) Benavides, which aka was determined as a result of investigation.

ReBulet to New York 6/4/65.

Enclosed for the Laboratory is airmail envelope (name and address of sender and receiver torn from envelope) and two mimeographed pages beginning, "New York, 1965, Estimado amigo :" and ending, "Un compatriota.", which letter was enclosed in mentioned envelope.

REQUEST OF LABORATORY

The Laboratory is requested to process enclosures for latent fingerprints. It is also requested that the typewriting appearing on the mimeographed letter, as well as the typewriting set out near the bottom of the first page of the letter, be compared with other available specimens from any espionage or double agent sources. In this regard, the mimeographed letter appears to be identical with letters previously submitted to the Bureau (Attention: FBI Laboratory), including a letter furnished to the Bureau on April 16, 1965, in the case entitled, "MARIO BLANCO, ESPIONAGE IN CUBA," except for the accommodation address in Cuba.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc-2) (RM)
- 2 - New York (65-23630) (RM)
- 5 - Miami
 - (1 - 134-1136, MARIA ESTHER MORENO MERCANTITY)
 - (1 - 105-1998, Cuban Intelligence Activities in U.S.)
 - (1 - 105-8749, Double Agent Operations - Cuba)
 - (1 - 65-2959, JOE SURVEY)

MFF:sll
(10)

MCT-10 65-69402
REC-42

16 JUN 25 1965

SEARCHED
INDEXED
FILED
24

SECRET
OB REW
303RB

and 7-14-65
REW: Ylm

HSCF
1/20/80

Specimens returned in Lab.
7/1/65
2 CIA 57992

INDEX LAB FILES

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CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING RECEIPT OF LETTER

On May 20, 1965, ^{FLH}VICTOR BALBUENA, 1158A S.W. 6th Street, Miami, appeared at the Miami Office of the FBI and made available the enclosures. He stated that his sister-in-law, MARIA MORENO BALBUENA, the wife of LUIS BALBUENA CALZADILLA, received the letter at her residence on May 19, 1965. She became very upset upon receiving the letter and requested VICTOR BALBUENA to turn it over to the FBI. *The letter has been handled by MARIA MORENO BALBUENA, VICTOR BALBUENA and one ALDO ENRICH, a friend of MARIA MORENO's husband, LUIS BALBUENA. (u)

INTERVIEW OF MARIA ESTHER MORENO MERCANTITY

MARIA ESTHER MORENO MERCANTITY furnished the following to SAs MAURICE F. FARABEE and CLARENCE P. GRAHAM on May 27, 1965.

MARIA BALBUENA received the enclosure at her residence, 418 S.W. 10th Street, Miami, Florida, on May 19, 1965. It was addressed to Mrs. MARIA E. BALBUENA, 418 S.W. 10th Street. She became frightened and fearful that in some way the receipt of her letter would jeopardize her chances of getting her two children out of Cuba to the United States. As a result, she tore off the front of the envelope bearing the sender's name and address and threw it away. She recalls, however, the sender had the surname BENAVIDES (first name not recalled) and a New York City address. The letter was postmarked May 18, 1965, in New York City. MARIA BALBUENA disclaimed any knowledge of the sender of the letter.

MARIA BALBUENA, a doctor of pharmacy, owned a drugstore in Guantanamo, Cuba, in the years prior to the ascension to power of FIDEL CASTRO. Her husband, LUIS BALBUENA, was a long-time employee of the U. S. Government at Guantanamo Base. He actively participated in anti-CASTRO activities while employed by the U. S. Government on the naval base at Guantanamo. Because of his anti-CASTRO activities, it became necessary for MARIA BALBUENA to flee to the United States, which she did with her infant

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child, LUISA BALBUNA, having arrived on a visa waiver at Miami on July 6, 1962. She has two other children, NORA BALBUENA, age 11, and FRANCIS BALBUENA, age 10, which she was unable to secure visa waivers for, and left them behind with her mother and father, MERCEDES and SALVADOR MORENO, in Guantanamo. They were to secure visa waivers for the two children and send them to the United States to be with MARIA BALBUENA. However, to date, MARIA BALBUENA has been unsuccessful in getting them to the United States. Her husband, LUIS BALBUENA, was subsequently brought to the United States by the U. S. Navy. MARIA BALBUENA had written many letters to her parents in Guantanamo expressing her homesickness and her desire to see the children, as well as get them to the United States, but she has never indicated a desire or interest in returning to Cuba. She has paid approximately \$200 to several persons in the Miami area in an effort to get visas for them to come to the United States but on each occasion, the persons were unsuccessful. Recently, MARIA BALBUENA has been sending money to a priest in Spain in an effort to get visas for her daughters, to get to that country.

On or about May 7, 1965, MARIA BALBUENA called her father in Guantanamo, Cuba. He told her he had recently been to the Immigration Service at Santiago de Cuba concerning the daughters and the Immigration authority informed him that for the daughters to leave Cuba, all the property belonging to the parents would have to be turned over to the Cuban Government. The grandfather explained to the Immigration authorities that all the parents' property had previously been confiscated. The Cuban Immigration official then informed MARIA BALBUENA's father that it might be possible for the daughters to obtain a departure permit in the latter part of May, 1965.

MARIA BALBUENA has a distant relative named OSMEL FRANCIS, who was associated with the Cuban Government and has been a Communist for many years. When she left Cuba in 1962, he was an international attorney employed at the Rancho Boyeros Airport in Cuba. Prior to her departure, she went to see him for assistance and at that time, he refused and stated that if it became necessary, he would kill MARIA BALBUENA's husband in order to protect the Cuban Government.

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MARIA BALBUENA stated she intends to take no action concerning the matter out of fear of jeopardizing her chances of getting her daughters to this country. However, should she receive any subsequent letters, she will immediately advise the FBI. She furnished the ~~MARIA BALBUENA~~ following background data concerning herself:

Name	MARIA BALBUENA MARIA MORENO BALBUENA MARIA ESTHER MORENO MERCANTITY
Date of birth	August 10, 1929
Place of birth	Guantanamo, Cuba
Height	5'4"
Weight	150 pounds MARIA E. BALBUENA
Hair	Black
Eyes	Black
Complexion	Dark
INS Number	A12 838 737
U.S. Entry	July 6, 1962, Miami, Florida, on visa waiver
Cuban address	Calle Luz Caballero #1051, Guantanamo, Cuba
U.S. Address	418 S.W. 10th Street, Miami, Florida MORENO
Mother	MERCEDES MORENO MERCEDES MERCANTITY HECHEVARRIA, age 58, residing at Calle Luz Caballero #1051, Guantanamo, Cuba
Father	B. APPROX 1907 SALVADOR MORENO CASTILLO, age 61, residing with wife B. APPROX 1904
Brothers	None
Sisters	None
Husband	LUIS BALBUENA CALZADILLA, residing at 418 S.W. 10th Street, Miami, Florida CUBA
Children	NORA BALBUENA MORENO, age 11, B. APPROX 1954 residing with grandparents; FRANCIS BALBUENA MORENO, age 10, residing with grandparents; B. APPROX 1952 LUISA BALBUENA MORENO, age 3½, residing with parents B. APPROX 1961

CALLE LUZ CABALLERO #1051
GUANTANAMO, CUBA

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

The enclosed mimeographed letter, which is identical to previous letters submitted to the Bureau in similar cases, (u)

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*except for the accommodation address in Cuba, attempts to solicit the recipients' assistance in furnishing information of an intelligence nature to the Cuban Government. It also instructs in the use of secret ink by combining lemon juice and water. The accommodation address furnished is ELIO GONZALEZ BENAVIDES, Campanario #709, Bajos, between Maloja and Estrella, Havana, Cuba. Since the content of the letter is the same as previous letters submitted to the Bureau, English translation of enclosure is not furnished. *(u)*

(u) MARIA BALBUENA stated she does not want to furnish information to the Cuban Government as requested in the enclosure out of fear of jeopardizing her daughters' chances of coming to this country. She stated, however, were it not for her daughters, she would gladly write a letter to the accommodation address in Cuba. She said she would immediately advise the FBI should she receive further correspondence from the Cuban Government. In view of this, it appears MARIA BALBUENA has only a limited use as a PSI; however, Bureau authority is requested to maintain contact with her in the event she should receive subsequent correspondence from the Cuban Government *(u)*

It is noted MARIA BALBUENA's husband, LUIS BALBUENA CALZADILLA, was a former source of the Miami Office concerning anti-CASTRO activities and is the subject of Miami file 134-903. MARIA BALBUENA is the subject of Miami file 157-781 in case entitled, "UNSUB; Bombing of Residence of MARIA BALBUENA, 912 S.W. 5th Avenue, Miami, Florida, March 31, 1963 - BOMBING MATTERS." This file reveals that shortly prior to midnight on March 31, 1963, the front door of the residence of MARIA BALBUENA, as well as the windows of the house, were destroyed, as a result of a bomb explosion. No one was injured and investigation in the matter was conducted by the Miami Police Department.

- LEADS -

NEW YORKAT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will search indices of the New York Office for pertinent information regarding *(FNU)* BENAVIDES. As a *(u)*

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