

Date: 12/01/04

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : CIA
RECORD NUMBER : 104-10062-10108
RECORD SERIES : JFK
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 80T01357A

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

AGENCY ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : HOOVER, EDGAR J.
TO : DIRECTOR CIA
TITLE : ROMULO BETANCOURT FOREIGN POLICY POLITICAL MATTERS-
VENEZUELA NEUTRALITY ACT SPECIAL INQUIRY- CIA.
DATE : 02/15/1950
PAGES : 3

SUBJECTS : FOREIGN POLICY
VENEZUELA
BETANCOURT, ERN

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER
CLASSIFICATION : CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED IN PART PUBLIC - RELEASED WITH DELETIONS
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/13/93
COMMENTS : JFK9 : F71 : 1993.07.13.15:00:36:810410 : COORDINATED
WITH FBI 8/26/99; POSTPONEMENTS TAKEN BY FBI

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10062-10108



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO. _____

CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date: February 15, 1950
To: Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2210 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
Attention: Colonel Robert Schow

RECORDED
MAY 6 1971
PRO-SER.

Jm
From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Subject: ROMULO BETANCOURT
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - VENEZUELA
NEUTRALITY ACT
SPECIAL INQUIRY - CIA

Reference is made to your request dated October 12, 1949, your control number 22174 and to this Bureau's communication dated January 10, 1950, enclosing copies of reports on the activities of Romulo Betancourt and other members of the Accion Democratica Party.

There is enclosed herewith one copy of the following investigative reports prepared in response to your request referred to above.

Report of Special Agent Robert J. Ahsens dated January 23, 1950, at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Report of Special Agent Joseph T. Genco dated January 25, 1950, at New York City.

This Bureau's liaison agent in Ottawa, Canada, has checked with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who furnished the following information pertinent to this investigation.

"We have had our records checked for information pertaining to Romulo Betancourt, Mario Diaz, Arturo Priceno, (Lt. Col.) Mario Ricardo Vargas, Lt. Col. De La Rosa, Lloyd Rosenbloom, Herman Greenspoon, Hank Greenspoon, Wilson Brown, and we find that other than on Romulo Betancourt, we have no information on file pertaining to any of these individuals.



*1 att HW
att 2 NSM*

201-861-87

"Information we have of Romulo Betancourt is to the effect that he is one of a group of 14 Latin-American newspapermen who visited Canada from August 6 to 10, 1943, for the purpose of inspecting various war industries. At that time, Betancourt was said to be a writer on political and economic matters for the Venezuelan newspaper 'Ahora.'"

The Bureau's liaison agent further advised that in discussing this matter with the officers at the RCIP Headquarters, the latter stated that it would be a most difficult task to endeavor to trace any funds that might be deposited in banks or in safe deposit boxes in Canada or transfers of money from Canada either to the United States or some other country without having more specific information than that which was furnished. The RCIP have no knowledge of any accounts in Canada which might have been opened by Betancourt or those associated with him. They feel that the circularization of the Canadian banks without more specific information would be impracticable and almost certainly unproductive. The RCIP is hesitant to inquire of other Government departments relative to this matter in an effort to trace the funds without more specific identifying data.

Recently a confidential and reliable source ascertained that Jose Horacio Rodriguez, a Dominican Republic national presently residing in Cuba, was scheduled to go to Mexico City by plane on or about January 10, 1950. The source stated his mission was to attempt to repurchase the plane confiscated by the Mexican Government on or about July 18, 1949, (It is to be noted that apparently the plane referred to was one originally purchased in the United States under a valid export license and was confiscated by the Mexican Government when it was found to have been used in the revolt of June 19, 1949, against the Dominican Republic.)

The above source further advised that Solis and Lopez Clarice were then reported to be in the United States to make arrangements for the purchase of planes, parts and probably arms for the Venezuelan Democratic Action Group. The source was unable, however, to advise as to their present whereabouts in the United States but ascertained that if they were unsuccessful in their mission the Guatemalan Government has offered to purchase necessary war materials for the Group from the United States. The source indirectly ascertained that the Caribbean Legion and the Venezuelan Group had been in contact with Marion Rozelle Finley and Jessie Vickers for over a month but was unable to ascertain the nature of their business.

Another confidential and reliable source has advised that on December 20, 1949, Wilson Brown arrived in Havana, Cuba, by plane from Mexico City, and registered at the Hotel Nacional. The source stated Brown remained in Havana until December 26, 1949, when he returned to Mexico City, by plane checking out of his hotel without paying his bill. The source ascertained that Brown did not possess a passport and visited the Mexican Consulate in Havana, for the purpose of obtaining a Mexican Tourist Card. In order to establish his identity, Brown exhibited a War Department Intelligence Division Card Number B-165359, which card indicated he had held the rank of Major. Brown was issued a Mexican Tourist Card Number 4064.

The source stated it was suspected that while Brown was in Havana, he may have been in contact with one Eugenio De Sosa. According to this source, De Sosa has been under investigation because of suspected activity in connection with the illegal introduction of arms into Cuba for the possible purpose of planning an armed revolt against the Government of President Carlos Prío Socarras.

The source also advised that on January 6, 1950, Robert G. Drake, President of the Drake Shipping Company, Incorporated, 52 Boardway, New York City, was in Havana, and inasmuch as he is the employer of Brown, paid the latter's bill at the Hotel Nacional. At this time Drake indicated that his firm was a foreign freight forwarding company and disclaimed any knowledge that Brown was engaged in illegal arms deals.

As indicated in this Bureau's letter of January 10, 1950, it would be appreciated if you could furnish more specific information as to the location of the alleged funds reported to be deposited by the Accion Democratica in Canada and the United States. The investigation in this matter is continuing.

The information contained herein is furnished to you confidentially and is not intended for further dissemination.

Enclosures