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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
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Springfield, Illinois
July 13, 1964

OLGA BAQUERO,
Also known as
Mrs. Alfonso Baquero
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA

MICROFILMED
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On June 16, 1964, Olga Baquero was interviewed at her residence, 212 Iroquois Street, Rankin, Illinois. She stated that she was married to Doctor Alfonso Baquero, M.D., and that they had two children, Olga, age 13; and Erick, age 11. She stated that during September of 1964, they planned to move to Paxton, Illinois, where they are building a fifteen-room home.

Baquero stated that she was born at Ekaterinoslav, Russia, on January 14, 1922. She stated that all of her official papers would give the date of birth as September 1, 1922, and place of birth as Ekaterinoslav, Russia. She stated that she, herself, did not know the exact date of her birth until she talked to her mother in Moscow in May of 1964, and at this time her mother gave her a small paper wrapped package which contained the torn page of a religious records book of the Russian Orthodox Church. She displayed this torn paper and by putting it together, it indicated that she was born January 14, 1922, at Ekaterinoslav, Russian, and was also baptized in the church. Baquero explained that her mother had informed her that her godfather had been a white Russian General and that the Priest had torn the page from their records in order to protect the family and had, subsequently, given it to her mother who had kept it for the past forty years. Baquero stated that at the time of her birth, no birth certificates were made by any official office in Russia to her knowledge. She stated that the name of the city in which she was born

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was subsequently changed to Dnepropetrovsk, Russia. She stated that she resided in this city of over 200,000 people until 1938, when she went to Moscow to study the piano at the Moscow Conservatory. She stated that she resided with her parents and brother, Nicholi, and that her father practiced law until approximately 1930. She stated that during 1930, when she was approximately eight years of age, her father was seized by the Communists and sent to Siberia. She stated that no formal charges were ever made concerning his arrest other than that he was an enemy of the regime and that they had subsequently received information that he had been shot in 1931. She stated that her father was French and had come to Russia prior to the Communist takeover in 1918. Baquero stated that because her father had been a traitor to his country, according to the Communist viewpoint, that when she went to Moscow in order to study at the Moscow Conservatory, she was the only one of her class who had to pay the expenses. She stated that her mother was a music teacher and provided her upkeep while she studied music at the Conservatory from 1938 to 1941.

Baquero returned to her home city, Dnepropetrovsk, Russia, in 1941, and was, subsequently, captured approximately four weeks after her arrival by German troops. She stated that she was taken to Nurnberg, Germany, in either late 1941 or early 1942 where she was placed in a factory making electronics. She stated that she was employed for approximately a year and then was released to return to Dnepropetrovsk, Russia, where she stayed approximately a year under German occupation until approximately 1943, when the Russians were counter attacking. She stated that she never had any love for Russia or the Communist regime, and as a result when the Germans were withdrawing from the area, she went with the Germans. She stated that her mother did not accompany her inasmuch as she thought that the Germans would defeat the Russians and that the Russians would not return to Dnepropetrovsk, Russia. She went with the German Army and returned to Munich, Germany, during September or October of 1943, where she stayed until 1947. Prior to the defeat of Germany, she was employed by the

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German military as a censor of mail. During her employment as a censor, she was defended by an elderly German Colonel who helped her in her continuation of her piano playing at the Munich Music Conservatory. At one time during her employment as a censor, she was denounced by a Nazi who turned in her name to the Gestapo who subsequently called her to their office for questioning. She stated that when they found out that her father was actually French and not Russian and had been executed by the Russians, they released her. She stated that she was never imprisoned by the Gestapo, but merely questioned by a Gestapo agent on this one occasion.

In 1947, she left Munich, Germany, and went to Geneva, Switzerland. She stated that from the end of World War II, until 1947, she was employed from time to time by the American Occupation Troops through piano concerts. She stated that while at Geneva, she continued her profession and studied at the Geneva Conservatory, which expenses were paid by the Conservatory on an arrangement which she stated corresponded to a scholarship in the United States. She stated that in 1948, in international competition at Geneva, Switzerland, she took second place in the piano. On June 18, 1949, at Geneva, Switzerland, she married her present husband, Doctor Baquero, a native of Columbia, South America, who was studying medicine at Geneva, Switzerland. During 1950, both she and her husband came to the United States and they received their citizenship in 1956.

Baquero stated that it was not until June 19, 1963, that she learned that her mother and brother were still living. She stated that she had made several attempts through the United Nations for the purpose of locating her mother and brother and that on one of these attempts, during 1955, the card which she had written to her mother at Dnepropetrovsk, Russia, reached a former friend by the name of Lidia Stecher. She stated that this individual had purchased her mother's home in 1946 and that her mother had subsequently moved to Moscow. Baquero stated that she learned from her mother that Stecher then made a trip to

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Moscow and located the sister of her good friend, Professor Vsevolod Zankov. According to her mother, Zankov located her brother, Nicholi Voitovitz. Zankov reported he contacted Nicholi on June 22, 1955, and determined the address of his mother, Maria Dmitrievna Voitovitz. From June of 1955 until June of 1963, her brother had been successful in preventing her mother from corresponding with her or even letting her know that they were still alive and residing in Moscow. She stated that for this reason, she has no use for her brother who is a Moscow civil engineer engaged in bridge building and subway construction. She stated that while her brother is not a party member of the Communist Party, he is deathly afraid of his position and his future pension. He is sixty years of age and resides with his wife and children in Moscow. Nicholi never provided any aid for his mother and permitted her to live in a shack on the outskirts of Moscow.

Baquero stated that the individual, Stecher, subsequently contacted her sister (Stecher's), Mrs. Lubov Stephani of Springfield, Massachusetts, who in turn located Baquero through a mutual acquaintance. Baquero stated that her old music teacher, Mrs. Lubov Stephani, continues as a music instructor at Springfield, Massachusetts, and has known her and her parents prior to her (Baquero's) birth.

Baquero stated after learning that her mother was still living, that she immediately began inquiry to determine if it would be safe for her to return to Russia in order to bring her mother to the United States. She stated that she subsequently contacted a Mr. Gordon of Intourist, the Russian travel agency at Chicago, Illinois, and obtained a visa within one week of her application which permitted her to leave the United States on December 6, 1963, at Chicago. She stated that this visa was for two weeks. Before she left, she received a letter from her mother stating that she did not want her to come to Russia and that this upset her so that she made a call to her friend, Professor Vsevolod Zankov, whom she had initially met while she was studying music at Moscow Conservatory during the late 1930s. She stated that she

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called Professor Zankov direct to Moscow at approximately 1:00 PM and, subsequently, at 5:00 PM, they were able to locate him and he informed her that he had been in contact with her mother and that she was so upset about Baquero coming to Moscow, that she was liable to have a breakdown. For this reason, Baquero advised that she cancelled her reservation and subsequently contacted Mr. Gordon of Intourist in person and he informed her that the administrative procedure of obtaining her visa for December 6, 1963, would cost her \$70. She stated that she was glad to pay the \$70 and gave as an excuse that she had to stay home with her children and nieces. Baquero stated that she subsequently learned that the reason her mother was so upset was because her brother, Nicholi, was attempting to prevent her (Baquero's) arrival in Moscow, which might place him under political suspicion.

Subsequently, she obtained another visa from Intourist in Chicago dated from April 9, 1964, through April 26, 1964, which visa was extended to May 11, 1964, when she made an oral request in Moscow for its extension. After arriving in London, she flew to Moscow in a Russian chartered plane where she was met at the airport by her friend, Professor Vsevolod Zankov, who took her to the Ykaraina Hotel where she stayed for a period of four weeks. During this period of time her mother stayed with her at the hotel in violation of Moscow regulations that residents of Moscow could not reside in a hotel. Baquero stated that she was able to override this regulation when she created a loud disturbance with the desk clerk at the Ykaraina Hotel when she was informed that her mother could not stay at the hotel. She stated that she shouted at this desk clerk that her mother was living in a shack and that she had made a trip to Moscow from the United States in order to see her and that she did not intend to go out in the rain and cold every day in order to contact her mother. She stated that there was a large delegation of Chinese in the lobby at that time who were in Moscow on a trade delegation, as well as numerous other nationalities, who were in Moscow in order to observe the Russian May Day. She stated that "tough talk" was the only language the Russians understood and that as a result she was able to

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permit her mother to stay with her in her room. She stated that she paid the \$16 a day for the first two weeks and was, subsequently, moved to a better room which cost her \$35 a day for the last two weeks.

Baquero stated that during the period of time while in Moscow, that she attempted to contact numerous Russian officials in order to obtain the release of her mother. She stated that on a couple of occasions she had gone to the Ovir Department which is the Department for visas and registrations and that she talked to an individual by the name of Puzahyel Rjazancev, who was a supervisor at Ovir. On one occasion, this individual told her, "If you push the right button you can get things done." She stated that he did not say anything further inasmuch as another individual came in the room and that she expected to be recruited by the Soviets, but was never approached. She voluntarily admitted that she would have spied for the Russians at this time if they would have permitted her mother to leave Russia, but they did not make any request of her. She stated that she was possibly approached by a Soviet agent, while she was in an establishment with her mother eating, who asked her to dance with him. This individual stated that he was an engineer from Kiev, Russia. After returning to her hotel room at the Ykaraina Hotel with her mother, she received a telephone call from this same individual, whose name she could not recall, who requested that he meet her in the lobby. She stated that she asked him why and he stated that he merely wanted to talk to her. She then went to the lobby and stated that her only interest while in Russia was for the purpose of taking her mother to the United States and that he was very attentive concerning her attempts at obtaining the release of her mother. She stated that he made no approach to her concerning recruitment of any type, but did state that he wanted to contact her again and she informed him that she had no further reason to contact him.

Baquero stated she was also approached by an individual who gave his card to her by the name of A. Bywaletz

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who stated that he worked for the American Embassy. She stated that his card that he gave her indicated that he was a technical and sales director for Joy International and that the business address was 11 Rue Van Eyck, Brussels 5, Belgium. She stated that she was suspicious of this individual and called the American Embassy and that they informed her that he was a member of the Embassy.

Baquero stated that she was informed by her friend, Professor Vsevolod Zankov, to contact Khrushchev's son-in-law and editor of a newspaper because he was partial to Western women and their dress. She stated that she then obtained her best clothes and made an attempt to contact him at his office, but was informed by one of his secretaries that he was out of Moscow. She also stated that she called on the American Embassy several times and that when she made entrance she was given an indication not to talk and to write everything out on a pad. She stated that she now realizes the reason for this was because the Russians had wired the Embassy and found this out in the newspapers after she arrived in the United States. She stated that at the time the official informed her the Russians had listening devices in the building and she could see where they were doing plaster work and painting inside the Embassy.

Baquero stated that towards the end of her visa extension, she again made a trip to the Ovir Office in an attempt to obtain the release of her mother and that they told her to extend her visa and continue her efforts. She stated that upon learning this that she became suspicious that they might attempt to keep her in the country and that she, thereafter, left Moscow by the Russian airlines on May 10, 1964. She was taken to the airport by her good friend, Professor Zankov, a Professor of Physics, Moscow University, who had previously met her at the airport on April 8, 1964, when she had arrived in Moscow. On this occasion, he had given her a formula which his father had developed some twenty years previously and which was to be used for anti-radiation. She stated that she and Zankov had arranged

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between themselves that she was to have her arm loaded with packages and that when they arrived at the custom's inspection, that he was to say in front of the custom's officer, "Let me take your handbag inasmuch as you have so many packages". She stated that he had made this arrangement in the event they found the formula in her handbag so he could state she knew nothing about it and that he, Zamkov, had placed it in her handbag without her knowledge. She stated that they were fortunate and that the Russians did not check any of her outgoing luggage. She stated that they had checked her luggage when she came into Moscow. She stated that Zamkov had told her that he was anti-Communist and that she knew this for a fact through her previous relationship with him. She stated that Zamkov's father was a famous Russian physician who had attempted to escape with his wife and son, Vsevolod, and were caught at the Polish border by Russian Security Police sometime during 1938. She stated that all were sent back to Moscow where they were imprisoned for a short period of time and that he and his mother were released, but that his father was sent to Siberia for one year. She stated that he was so well known that professional circles were able to obtain his release and that he, subsequently, worked for the Russian Government during the early war years as a doctor of research. Baquero stated that his father died of a heart attack during 1942 or 1943 and had been working on an anti-radiation cure at the laboratory, but had developed the finished formula at his residence. He had never informed the Russian Government of his formula because of his hatred for the Communist system. She stated that Zamkov stated that he had experimented with this injection for anti-radiation on rabbits and that he had only used it on two humans. She stated that he used it on his own son who was suffering from tuberculosis and that he cured him completely. She also stated that while she was studying music at the Moscow Conservatory from 1938 to 1941 that she had suddenly gone blind and was unable to provide information as to the reason for her blindness. Baquero stated that she was completely blind and that

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Doctor Zamkov had given her an injection of his formula and that she regained her eyesight completely. She stated that Zamkov had informed her that this was the identical formula in which his father had treated her and himself and that he had kept it since his father's death. He stated that on occasion he had thought of giving this formula to Ludmille Shipiro, who was a Russian girl who married an international press correspondent by the name of Henry Shipiro. Baquero stated that Zamkov was a very good friend of Ludmille and Henry Shipiro. She stated that Zamkov, himself, desired to escape from Russia with his wife and child, but had been unable to do so and that he propositioned that she, Baquero, make a request through the State Department to have him explain his mother's sculpturing works. Zamkov told her that there was going to be a cultural exchange with the United States in which his mother's sculpturing works were to be displayed in New York in the coming year. She advised that his mother's sculpturing name was Vera Mukhina, the most famous Russian sculptress who had died a few years ago. Baquero stated that all Russians are well familiar with the sculpturing of Vera Mukhina and stated that the Russian Government had printed numerous books on her sculpturing. Zamkov informed her that he would like her to persuade officials to request him as the sculpter's son to explain her work inasmuch as he would know them much better than any Communist sculpturing expert.

In regard to the formula, Zamkov stated that his life would be in jeopardy if any connection could be made that he furnished her the formula and suggested that contact be made with some researcher in the United States who might write him requesting articles on his father's research. He stated that in this way the Russian Government would not be suspicious of him in the event the formula was known at the present time and could be used by the United States Government. He stated that he has access to his father's former library and could furnish the research data to the research body which made the request. He even suggested that it might be better

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that the research individual or organization might make their request from South America. He also stated that it was quite possible that American scientists might have possession of this formula at the present time inasmuch as he was aware that American scientists were working on such an antidote for anti-radiation. She stated that Zamkov had told her that he did not request any financial benefits from this formula, but if it were successful, he would ultimately like to have his father's name known so that his father might receive the benefit of his research.

Baquero was asked if there had been anything in what Zamkov had told her or any of his activities which might reflect suspicion on him concerning her belief that he was anti-Communist. She stated that she was absolutely positive that he was an enemy of Communism because of what had happened to his father and the fact that his mother had incurred her death through the partial activities of a Communist who had demanded that she finish a large sculpturing work on a deadline and that she had had to get out of bed and work on this sculpturing work in order to meet the date they had set for the deadline. He told her that as a result of this, she had soon died because of her illness. She also advised that on one occasion her brother, Nicholi Voitovitz, and Zamkov had gotten into a violent argument. She stated that the reason for this argument was that Zamkov was questioning her brother as to why he was so afraid of trying to do ~~anything~~ for his mother and that this angered her brother, and he stated that he was going to denounce Zamkov to the authorities inasmuch as he was associating with his sister, Olga, and pressuring Soviet officials to release his mother. She stated that Zamkov then told her brother that he could see who he wanted in Moscow and that then he, Zamkov, would contact his friends and denounce Nicholi, and that he would soon find out who had the most influence in political circles. She stated that after this argument, her brother calmed down and that she felt that Zamkov had actually scared her brother inasmuch as he was quite subdued after the

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argument. She stated that her brother constantly pressured her to leave Moscow and leave their mother in Moscow for her remaining days. She stated that her brother was afraid of his own shadow and was afraid that he could possibly lose his pension from the Soviet Government because of his association with his sister who was now an American citizen attempting to cause embarrassment to the Government in her efforts to obtain the release of their mother. She informed him that she was going to do everything in her power and that he (Nicholi) was not fit to have a mother if he could not stand up for his mother's request to leave Russia. She stated that she had pictures of her mother and that if she had not had the pictures she would have never recognized her mother inasmuch as she was over 78 years of age and in failing health by living in a tiny one-room shack, without running water. She stated that from June through December of 1963, she had sent numerous packages to her mother and brother, but that neither one of them had even opened these packages because of the possible consequences they might incur by the Russian Government. Baquero also advised that she had sent a man's dress suit to Professor Zamkov prior to her arrival in Moscow because of his concern with her mother's welfare. Baquero stated that since she left Moscow that she and her son, Erick, have written to Premier Khrushchev and Mrs. Khrushchev in an attempt to obtain her mother's release, but have not received any reply to their letters. She stated that she is now contemplating contacting a well-known musician in New York who is a very good friend of Van Cliburn. She stated that she was not personally acquainted with Van Cliburn, so would not make the request to him. She stated that in this respect she is hoping that Van Cliburn might correspond with Premier Khrushchev requesting her mother be released.

Baquero stated that after leaving Moscow on May 10, 1964, she flew to Munich, Germany, and stayed there for one week until approximately May 17, 1964, when she flew to New York arriving on May 17. She stated that

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while at Munich, she looked up her past friends and one individual in particular, whose name she would not disclose. She stated that this individual had been a German Intelligence Officer working in Russia during the Second World War and after telling him of her efforts to obtain the release of her mother, he expressed amazement that the Russians had not made an attempt to recruit her. Baquero was asked how she knew that he was a former intelligence officer and she stated that he had told her he was doing this work when she had previously resided in Munich. She stated that this individual was also employed after the war by the British Intelligence Agency and possibly the CIA. After arriving in New York on May 17, she then went to Washington and contacted Fred Dutton, Assistant Secretary of State, State Department, who informed her to avoid any television interview on her return to Illinois, and if she were approached by reporters, to inform them that her mother would arrive in the United States in seven or eight weeks. She stated that she has had absolutely no response from the State Department or the Russian Government concerning her attempt to have her mother returned, and that her mother, herself, is becoming discouraged having sensed this in the five letters she has received from her mother since her return to Rankin, Illinois. Since her return to Rankin, there has been no approach made to her by any agency whatsoever concerning her mother's release. Baquero stated also that she has not heard from the Russian Government concerning the possibility of her returning to Russia in order to provide a piano concert. She added that she had been approached by them at the Ovir Building, after they learned she was a concert pianist to play in one of the coming concerts and that she advised them that she would think it over. She stated that she does not intend to return to Russia again, but if a request is made of her to play in a concert, she would certainly comply with their wishes if it would enable her to return to the United States with her mother.

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