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C. J. ...

3 DEC 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interview with Charlotte Bustos-Videla

1. John Leader, Ted Anderson (O/S) and I met with Ms. Bustos yesterday to discuss her recollections that might bear on the Oswald matter.

2. She stated that she has not yet been contacted by Mr. Kessler. She and her husband have arranged for an unlisted telephone and a post office box to protect their privacy. If contacted she will decline to have any discussions with Mr. Kessler. Contrary to my understanding she is returning to Headquarters PCS and will be here for some time.

3. Ms. Bustos stated that the most important person to whom we can talk is Ann Goodpasture who has retired to Texas. She stated that Ms. Goodpasture was a case officer in the station; she "ran liaison;" she handled sensitive things for the COS; and, after the assassination of President Kennedy she would have been the one to conduct the reviews at the station. She was involved in the investigations of the Duran aspect of the matter (we do not know if Ms. Goodpasture is the person interviewed by the Downing Committee investigators; she does not fit the description of a secretary).

4. The next person that she mentioned was Milly Rodriguez. She handled Tasaroff and the Soviet transcribers. Ms. Bustos feels that Ms. Rodriguez would be more informed on what happened than Dave (Reardon -sp ?).

5. Ms. Bustos stated that she got involved from the Cuban angle, not from the Soviet point of view. It is her present recollection, contrary to what we have been told, that the Cuban tap was active at the time that Oswald visited Mexico. We discussed the fact that he called the Soviet Embassy from the Cuban Embassy and asked if this might explain her recollection that the Cuban tap was active; she thought not.

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6. Ms. Bustos said that when the report on Oswald came in from Mexico she did the name trace on him. She took action to notify the Navy, the FBI, and the field. She states that the station was told to notify the Legal Attache and the three Military Attaches. In notifying the "Pentagon" she said that she asked for a photo of Oswald from his military file which might be used in his identification against photography coverage in Mexico City. She said there was no answer from the "Pentagon." In response to our questions she stated that this would mean his military service, which probably was the Navy as Oswald was a Marine. She said that she waited for comments and reaction but that there was no response. By way of explanation she observed that lots of people were in contact with the Soviet and Cuban Embassies in Mexico City and no response at that time might not be unnatural. She cannot recall if there was a follow up.

7. She stated that initially our telephone taps in Mexico City were unilateral, bearing the cryptonym LIFEAT. Later, joint ²⁴ telephone taps were established (she could not recall the date); it came to be known as LIENVOY. The LIENVOY LP had about 30 lines, 15 each for CIA and Liaison. Most of the embassy lines were switched to LIENJOY, but LIFEAT continued to have houses for LP's "all over town." The lines in LIENVOY were tapped from central ²⁴ which Ms. Bustos sees as indicating that there was probably no standdown on the Cuban Embassy so far as technical reasons are concerned. She felt that the LP case officer managed the distribution of coverage so that there would be no duplications in the lines covered. She could not remember the identity of the person but she said that Win Scott read everything. Ms. Bustos stated that there was photo surveillance on both the Soviet and the Cuban Embassies. ²⁴ The Cuban photo surveillance project (LIONION) was a joint operation.

8. Ms. Bustos said that Ann Goodpasture handled the material from LIFEAT and she recalled that a person named Anderson handled LIENVOY. Ms. Goodpasture did the history of the Mexico Station and would be very familiar with all of it. As Ms. Bustos did not go to Mexico until 1967 her personal recollections are a mix of the period commencing when she arrived PCS and her knowledge from the Headquarters desk.

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9. Ms. Bustos stated that Win Scott retired around 1969 and that the files were purged around 1970. She felt that all permanent material was sent to Warrenton¹⁰ and would not be at the station¹⁰. She said that about 75% of all the paper was destroyed but that the Oswald file would have been sent to Washington.

10. Ms. Bustos has no real recollections now about what she did at the time of the Kennedy death. She recalls only the Oswald 201-file. Her assumption is that a task force would have taken over the matter, as was customary of LA Division handling special matters which would take it out of the Mexican Branch.

11. We agreed to get some information that might help Ms. Bustos refresh her recollection and agreed on a later contact.



S. D. Breckinridge

cc: O/S

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