

Additional background information and questions to supplement the Assassination Records Review Board May 15, 1997 Request for Records Related to the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy (attached).

In making our request for records to the Cuban Government, the Review Board would like to point out that our primary interest is to identify new records that could shed additional light on the Kennedy assassination or enhance the historical understanding of the related events. To the extent possible we are making these records available to the public. We have already released a great amount of material which touches on U.S. policy toward Cuba in the 1960s. It is ironic that much of this material actually portrays the United States in a poor light, and is favorable to Cuba. We have not held back any information that might be embarrassing to the United States.

Our mandate was never intended for the purpose of conducting another investigation, nor supporting any particular theory about the assassination. Our interest is purely to ensure the broadest possible release of information to dispel the mysteries about the assassination. We have reason to believe that the Cuban government could be a source of records that has never been fully explored.

1. Our understanding from a number of different sources is that there was a report prepared for President Castro following the assassination. Specifically, Cuban exile groups were suspected of having some involvement in the assassination, and the report was intended to address that subject and whatever else may have been known about the assassination. **Is there a file in existence today that includes any report prepared for President Castro concerning the Kennedy assassination?**
2. Presumably, Cuban intelligence was monitoring and/or infiltrating some of these exile groups operating in the United States. **Does the Cuban government, including its intelligence service, have any records of what the Cuban exile groups were saying about President Kennedy during the early 1960's?** This should not be limited to explicit discussions of the assassination, but should also include any records that could give insight into what these groups thought about President Kennedy and his policies toward Cuba.
3. It has become common knowledge that Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Cuban consulate in Mexico City in the fall of 1963, shortly before the assassination, ostensibly to apply for a transit visa for the Soviet Union. During this visit, according to records available, Oswald got into an argument with then consul Eusebio Azcue. **Does the Cuban government have any written record of Oswald's interaction at the Cuban consulate in Mexico City? Was there any communication between Cuban Embassy in Mexico City and Havana about Oswald, either before or after the assassination?**
4. Silvia Tirado de Duran (referred to in most of the U.S. records as simply Silvia Duran), a Mexican national working at the Cuban consulate, had direct contact with Oswald and reportedly assisted him with his application and with his phone calls to the Soviet Embassy. After the assassination, Duran was interrogated by Mexican authorities. A telephone conversation between Ambassador Hernandez Armas and President Dorticos indicated that Cuban officials had concerns about Duran's arrest and statement she gave to the Mexicans.

Does the Cuban government have any records related to this communication or to Silvia Tirado de Duran's contact with Oswald? Did Cuban officials retain any type of logs or notes of telephone calls between Havana and the Embassy in Mexico City during the time of Oswald's visit or after the assassination?

5. It is possible that DGI agents in Mexico City during the fall of 1963 kept their own records or office files. **Is the Cuban government aware of any DGI files at overseas locations, particularly in Mexico City, that contain records relating to Lee Harvey Oswald or to the assassination?**