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When the Central Intelligence Agency forwarded to the Warren Commission a copy of Duran's signed statement. It read as follows:

...she remembered...(that Lee Harvey Oswald) was the name of an American who had come to the Cuban Consulate to obtain a visa to travel to Cuba in transit to Russia, the latter part of September or the early part of October of this year, and in support of his application had shown his passport, in which it was noted that he had lived in that country for a period of three years; his labor card from the same country written in the Russian language; and letters in that same language. He had presented evidence that he was married to a Russian woman, and also that he was apparently the leader of an organization in the city of New Orleans called "Fair ***(Play) for Cuba," claiming that he should be accepted as a "friend" of the Cuban Revolution. Accordingly, the declarant, complying with her duties, took down all of the information and completed the appropriate application form; and the declarant, admittedly exceeding her responsibilities, informally telephoned the Russian consulate, with the intention of doing what she could to facilitate issuance of the Russia visa to Lee Harvey Oswald. However, they told her that there would be a delay of about four months in processing the case, which annoyed the applicant since, according to his statement, he was in a great hurry to obtain visas that would enable him to travel to Russia, insisting on his right to do so in view of his background and his loyalty and his activities in behalf of the Cuban movement. The declarant was unable to recall accurately whether or not the applicant told her he was a member of the Communist Party, but he did say that his wife***was then in New York City, and would follow him,*** (Senora Duran stated) that when Oswald understood that it was not possible to give him a Cuban visa without his first having obtained the Russian visa,***he became very excited or

angry, and accordingly, the affiant called Consul Ascue (sic), *** (who) came out and began a heated discussion in English with Oswald, that concluded by Ascue telling him that "if it were up to him, he would not give him the visa," and "a person of his type was harming the Cuban Revolution rather than helping it," it being understood that in their conversation they were talking about the Russian Socialist Revolution and not the Cuban. Oswald maintained that he had two reasons for requesting that his visa be issued promptly, and they were: one, that his tourist permit in Mexico was about to expire; and the other, that he had to get to Russia as quickly as possible. Despite her annoyance, the declarant gave Oswald a paper***in which she put down her name, "Silvia Duran," and the number of the telephone at the consulate, which is "11-28-47" and the visa application was processed anyway. It was sent to the Ministry of (Foreign) Relations of Cuba; from which a routine reply was received some fifteen to thirty days later, approving the visa, but on the condition that the Russian visa be obtained first, although she does not recall whether or not Oswald later telephoned her at the Consulate number that she gave him.

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The Central Intelligence Agency had relied on Duran's statements but had delted ^E Duran's description of Oswald as blonde and short. ⁷⁰⁶ (~~_____~~) It had also excised Duran's statement, "The only aid she could give Oswald was advising that he see the Soviet Consul, and calling the person in charge of that office" which alluded to Oswald asking for some type of aid at the Cuban Consulate. ⁷⁰⁷ (~~_____~~) ~~_____~~

~~_____~~ ^{its} ~~_____~~ ^{sources} ~~_____~~ ^{and} ~~_____~~ ^{to}
~~_____~~ ^{problems} ~~_____~~ ^{out of the Warren Commission}

Had the statements been included, the Warren Commission's conclusions would not have seemed as strong. ~~_____~~

The Warren Commission Staff was not completely satisfied with Ms. Duran's ten page signed statement obtained by the Mexican authorities. W. David Slawson wrote:

We then discussed ... the problem of (interviewing) Silvia Duran. We pointed out that our only interest in witnesses (in Mexico) other than Duran was to get their formal testimony for authentication purposes.... This was not true of Duran, however, because she had been interviewed only by the Mexican police and we considered that interview inadequate. (I should point out that we do not consider it totally inadequate, however. It is only on details such as Oswald's physical appearance, side comments or remarks he may have made, etc., that we would like to interrogate Mrs. Duran further. On the essential point of whether or not his contacts with the Embassy consisted of anything other than an attempt to travel to Cuban, Silvia Duran's knowledge has probably been exhausted.) * 708

~~(Memorandum for the Record re Trip to Mexico City, from W. David Slawson, 4/22/64, pp. 39-40. Last paranthetical in the original.)~~ The Warren Commission staff's attempts to interview Ms. Duran never succeeded. ⁷⁰⁹ ~~(Memorandum for the Record re Trip to Mexico City, from W. David Slawson, 4/22/64.)~~ Ms. Duran was not interviewed by Americans until 1976, when two reporters from the Washington Post interviewed her. ⁷¹⁰ ~~(S. ... 6/5/76, JFK ... # 922 ... 17.)~~ On June 6, 1978, representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations interviewed Ms. Duran in Mexico City.

Very well

VI. Information not available at the time of the

Warren Commission INVESTIGATION

A. Silvia ~~Duran~~ **TIRADO (NEE DUPAN)**

1. House Select Committee on Assassinations 6/6/78

Interview of Silvia Tirado

~~_____~~
Ms. Tirado (^{SILVIA}Duran divorced Horatio Duran in 1968)

was never questioned by American officials in 1963. Thus, the Committee established contact with the Mexican government and requested that the Mexican government make Silvia Tirado available for an interview. ⁷¹¹ * ~~(Letter HSCA to Mexican government, JFK DOC. # _____)~~

The Mexican government complied on 6/6/78. Ms. Tirado told the House Select Committee on Assassinations the following:

Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate three times on September 27, 1963, not twice as the Warren Commission previously reported. ⁷¹² * ~~(HSCA interview of Silvia Tirado, 6/6/78, JFK DOC. ⁰¹¹⁶⁵¹ p. _____)~~ Oswald first visited the Cuban Consulate at approximately 11:00 a.m., requesting an intransit visa to Cuba with Russia as the final destination. ⁷¹³ * ~~(Ibid., 523-526)~~ He showed her some documents, then, left to obtain photographs needed for his application. ⁷¹⁴ * ~~(Ibid., 523-526)~~

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Oswald returned at approximately 1:00 p.m. with four photographs. ^{x 715} (~~Ibid., p. 526.~~) Ms. Tirado typed the application in duplicate, stapled a picture on top of each and had Oswald sign each in her presence. ^{x 716} (~~Ibid., p. 527-8.~~) As identification, Oswald showed her documents he had brought: his Russian labor card, marriage certificate with the name of his Russian wife, his American Communist Party membership card and his "Fair Play for Cuba" membership card. ^{717 x} (~~Ibid., p. 531.~~)

Ms. Tirado found Lee Harvey Oswald's behavior suspicious because normally a Communist traveled only with his passport as belonging to the Communist Party was illegal in Mexico in 1963. ^{x 718} (~~Ibid., p. 533.~~)

There was a procedure whereby the American Communist Party would arrange visa matters for their members with the Cuban Communist Party. ^{719 x}

(~~Ibid., p. 532-533.~~) The American would then come to Mexico, visit the Cuban Consulate, and receive his visa immediately. ^{720 x} (~~Ibid., p. 533.~~)

When Tirado asked Oswald why he did not have the American Communist Party arrange his trip to Cuba, he stated that he had not had the time. ^x (~~Ibid., p. 532.~~) ⁷²¹

Do Not Invent - [scribble]

After explaining to Oswald that he had to acquire a Russian visa before he could receive a Cuban visa, Tirado jotted her name and business phone number on a piece of paper and gave it to Oswald who then left to get his Russian visa. (^{* 722} ~~Ibid., p. 549, 534.~~)

Oswald returned to the Cuban Consulate between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., which was after normal working hours, ^{723 +} ~~10:00 to 2:00 p.m.~~ (~~Ibid., p. 543.~~) The guard called Tirado, stating that someone who did not speak Spanish was at the gate inquiring about a visa. (^{724 *} ~~Ibid., p. 543-4.~~) As routine procedure, she asked the guard to escort the individual to her office. (^{725 +} ~~Ibid., p. 544.~~)

Oswald told her that he had acquired a Russian visa. (^{726 +} ~~Ibid., p. 544.~~) Since he did not produce it when asked, she called the ^{727 +} Russian Consulate. (~~Ibid., p. 545.~~) The Consul told Duran that Oswald had been to the Consulate requesting a visa and had been told that the reply would take approximately four months. (^{728 +} ~~Ibid., p. 545.~~) When she relayed the message to Oswald, he got very excited, insisting that as a person who had been in jail because of the Cuban Revolution he should receive a visa. (^{729 +} ~~Ibid., p. 546.~~) Oswald stated that he could not wait that long because his Mexican visa expired in three days. (^{730 +} ~~Ibid., p. 546.~~) At this point, Ms. Tirado informed Consul ^{731 +}

Eusebio Azcue of the situation. ^{* 731} (~~Ibid., p. 546.~~)

Azcue had been in his private office which he shared with his upcoming replacement, Alfredo Mirabal. ⁷³² (~~Ibid., p. 546.~~) Azcue politely explained the requisites for an

intransit visa to Oswald. ⁷³³ (~~Ibid., p. 546, 554.~~) When

he noticed that Oswald was a stubborn man he told Oswald that he was obviously not a friend of the Cuban revolution because he would otherwise understand that

Cuba had to be extremely careful with the people it allowed in the country. ⁷³⁴ (~~Ibid., p. 554.~~) Azcue and Oswald

yelled at each other. ⁷³⁵ (~~Ibid., p. 551.~~) Then Azcue went

to the door, opened it and asked Oswald to leave. ⁷³⁶ (~~Ibid.,~~

~~p. 554.~~) Oswald did not revisit or telephone the Consulate. ⁷³⁷ (~~Ibid., p. 554.~~) Ms. Tirado described Lee Harvey

Oswald as approximately five feet six, with ^{SPARSE} blonde hair,

weighing about 125 pounds, ⁷³⁸ ~~and with very little hair~~

(~~Ibid., p. 96.~~)

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2. CIA information not available at the time of the Warren Commission investigation.

a. [LIRING/3] allegation.

In 1967 a report that Silvia Duran had had intimate relations with Lee Harvey Oswald came to the attention of the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station. ⁷³⁹ (~~Write up. [Wallace B. Rowton] meeting with [LIRING/3], May 26, 1967.~~) The source, [LIRING/3, ~~a source the CIA rated extremely reliable~~] stated that he had recently]

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What
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taps
confirmed]

received a call from Silvia Duran. ⁷⁴⁰ ^{ibid} A telephone tap on
 [LIRING/3's] telephone confirmed that the ^{Duran} ^{called} call had been
 [Lirings] * 741 made. (~~Ibid.~~) [LIRING/3 reported that he] had visited
 Silvia to renew acquaintances. ⁷⁴² * (~~Ibid.~~) During the visit,
 Duran told [LIRING/3] that she ^(US) had met Lee Harvey Oswald
 at the Cuban Consulate when he applied for a visa and
 had dated him on several occasions. ⁷⁴³ * (~~Ibid.~~) Duran
 admitted that she had ^(and) intimate relations with Oswald,
 but insisted that she had no idea of his plans. ⁷⁴⁴ * (~~Ibid.~~)
 In addition, Duran told [LIRING/3] that when the news of
 the assassination became public knowledge, the Mexican
 government arrested her and during the interrogation
 beat her until she admitted that she had had an affair
 with Lee Harvey Oswald. ⁷⁴⁵ * (~~Ibid.~~) [Rowton ^{* 746} (~~LIRING/3's~~
~~case officer's pseudonym~~)] counseled LIRING/3 against
 any further contact with Duran because the Cubans or
 the Mexican police might become suspicious of him. ^{* 747}
 (~~Ibid.~~) There is no indication in [Rowton's] report as
 to why contact with Silvia Duran would make the Mexican
 Police suspicious [of the agent.] The report also notes
 that Ms. Duran says that she has not had contact with
 the Cubans since the time of the assassination. ⁷⁴⁸ * (~~Ibid.~~) There
 is no indication in the report as to why [LIRING/3's]
 contact with Duran would make the Cubans suspicious.

The CIA Mexico City Station reported this information to Headquarters:

First that Silvia Duran had sexual intercourse

with Lee Harvey Oswald on several occasions when the latter was in Mexico is probably new, but adds little to the Oswald case. Second the Mexican police did not report the extent of the Duran-Oswald relationship to this Station. # 749

(~~HMMA-32243, 5/27/67.~~) This was not the first report of such a relationship between Oswald and Duran. Elena Garro ^{had} reported the same information to Charles Thomas ~~in 1965.~~ ^{# * 751} (See Section VI, C, below.) ~~In addition,~~ In

~~her~~ ^{the} chronology of the Mexico City investigation of Oswald. Ann Goodpasture notes: "Why didn't Mexi police give us all info?" ^{RAYMOND RECCA 750} (WX 7241, entry no: 613.)

That the Mexican government did not disclose all the information in ^{its} ~~their~~ possession to ^{AMERICAN AUTHORITIES} ~~the Central Intelligence Agency~~ raises one of two possibilities:

- 1) the Mexican government did not want to disclose that one of ^{its} ~~their~~ citizens had had intimate relations with the assassin of John Kennedy; or
- 2) Silvia Duran was a Mexican penetration agent in the Cuban Consulate and the Mexican government was protecting ^{its} ~~their~~ informant by minimizing her relationship with

Oswald.

- 3) ^{or + they forgot, i.e. pure simple mistake}
 - b. The possibility that Silvia Duran was an agent for either American, Mexican or Cuban Intelligence.

Since the publication of the Warren Commission Report in September 1964, critics have written about the possibility that Silvia Duran was an intelligence

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agents for either the Americans, Mexicans or Cubans.

(1) was Silvia Duran an agent, ^{ASSET OR SOURCE} for Mexican or American intelligence?

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In an effort to resolve this question, the House Select Committee ^{ON ASSASSINATIONS} reviewed the United States investigative agencies' files on Silvia Duran. ^{752 X} The Committee found no evidence in this file review that Silvia Duran was either an American or Mexican intelligence agent.

In addition, the Committee has interviewed most of the Mexico City Station employees about the possibility.

Only David Phillips, Chief of Covert Action and the Cuban Section in the Mexico City Station in 1963, considered that Duran was possibly an agent. ^{OR SOURCE} Mr. Phillips ^{* 753}

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stated that "at one time the agency pitched almost everyone at the Cuban Embassy." ^{754 X} (Phillips interview, ~~8/3/78, p. 8.~~ "Pitched" is a term used by the CIA to designate an attempt to recruit an individual.) Mr.

~~Confidential~~

Phillips stated that he had first heard ^{755 X} ~~the~~ Duran's name from the [telephone intercept] transcripts. ^(Ibid.)

But Mr. Phillips asserted that the CIA had no interest in Ms. Duran because "She wasn't friendly with anyone."

^{756 X}

(Ibid.) Mr. Phillips had previously mentioned the CIA Mexico City Station's interest in recruiting a former Cuban Ambassador to Mexico named ^{757 X} Luchuga. Mr. Phillips

was shown a memorandum written by W. David Slawson of the Warren Commission ^A staff regarding his trip to Mexico.

BY WARREN
COMMISSION
STAFF
MEMBERS

the weaknesses and means had been identified. ^{762 *} ~~(Phillips Interview, 8/3/78, p. 9)~~ Mr. Phillips pointed out, however, that because Duran had been targeted did not necessarily mean that she had been pitched. ^{763 *} ~~(Ibid.)~~ In addition, he stated that he had never heard that Duran had been pitched. ^{764 *} ~~(Ibid.)~~

Mr. Phillips did state that he would expect that Ms. Duran's file at the CIA would be "very thick" because of all the telephone intercepts that concerned her and the substantial interest that the Station had in her. ^{765 *}

~~(Ibid.)~~ He stated that much of the material in her file should predate the assassination. ^{766 *} ~~(Ibid.)~~ Mr. Phillips stated that he would be very surprised if Ms. Duran's 201 file was small and contained only a few pre-assassination documents. ^{767 *} This is in fact the case of the Headquarters 201 file. ⁷⁶⁸ ~~(Cite summary.)~~ This Committee has asked the CIA to make Ms. Duran's Mexican "P" ^{769 *} (personality) file available for review. The CIA informed the Committee that there was no "P" file available on Ms. Duran. ⁷⁷⁰ An explanation of why there is no available "P" file was requested from the CIA on ~~file was requested from the CIA on~~ ^{771 *} ~~(Add CIA response when we get it.)~~

Another CIA employee, who worked on an "Oswald Task Force" in late September or early October of 1975 dealing with Freedom of Information act law suits brought against the agency concerning the files on Lee Harvey Oswald, stated that he believed that Ms. DURAN

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may have been a source of information for either [the CIA or the Mexicans.]⁷⁷¹ Mr. [redacted] could not recall why he specifically had this recollection, but thought that it was due to something he had seen in Oswald's file.⁷⁷² He said that it may have been [the Agency's] attempts to protect Ms. Duran after the assassination and the heavy cable traffic that those attempts generated that led him to his inference that she was a source of information for either [the Agency or the Mexicans.]⁷⁷³

[redacted]

Interview, 8/29/78, p. 1.)

[case/officer asking him 3 out to contact]

Despite [LIRING/3's] being warned off Ms. Duran [by his case officer,] Mr. Phillips statements, and Mr.

[redacted]

hazy recollections, the Committee can not definitely resolve whether Silvia Duran was a Mexican or American intelligence agent or source.

(2) was Silvia Duran a Cuban intelligence agent?

In an effort to resolve this question, the HSCA reviewed the United States investigative agencies' files on Silvia Duran.⁷⁷⁴ The Committee found no evidence in the files that would indicate that Ms. Duran was associated with Cuban intelligence.

In addition, the HSCA interviewed most of the Mexico City Station employees about the possibility that Duran worked for Cuban intelligence. Only Barney Hidalgo, a CIA officer who travelled to Mexico City in 1963, considered the possibility to be likely.⁷⁷⁵ Mr. Hidalgo,

not professing to remember all the details, stated that he thought that Duran was a Cuban intelligence agent. *⁷⁷⁶

~~(Hidalgo Testimony, 8/10/78, p. 16.)~~ Hidalgo said:

At the time when this contact told me of Silvia Duran I tied the two together, yes, sir. I don't know, how at that time it was obvious to me as an intelligence agent that there was some connection there but it was of no interest whatsoever to me, I do remember that when I next saw this contact of mine I mentioned the fact to him and let him proceed to do whatever he wanted to. *⁷⁷⁷

~~(Ibid.)~~ Mr. Hidalgo further stated that he never resolved the issue. ⁷⁷⁸ ~~(Ibid., p. 6.)~~

With no corroborating evidence for Mr. Hidalgo's memory, the Committee must conclude that Silvia Duran was probably never employed by Cuban intelligence.

B. The Cubans.

1. Eusebio Azcue Lopez.

When Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly visited the Cuban Consulate, Eusebio Azcue Lopez, a Cuban ⁷⁷⁹ Citizen, was the Cuban Consul. Because he had diplomatic immunity, the Cuban government had never been asked to make him available for questioning. *⁷⁸⁰ ~~(Azcue traveled from Mexico to~~

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The Americans remained together the entire evening and did not dance. ⁸⁰⁷ When Elena tried to speak with the Americans, she was "shifted" ⁸⁰⁴ to another room by one of her cousins. (~~Ibid.~~) The memo does not state whether Elena had mentioned which cousin had not allowed her to speak to the Americans. ⁸⁰⁹ One of Elena's cousins told her at the time that (he or she) did not know who the Americans were except that Silvia Duran (an employee of the Cuban Embassy and the wife of Horatio Duran), had brought them to the party. ⁸⁰⁹

The day after the party, Elena and Deba saw the three Americans on the Insurgentes, a main avenue in Mexico City. ⁸¹⁰ (~~Ibid.~~) The Garros claimed that they had recognized Oswald's photograph when it was published after the assassination. ⁸¹¹ (~~Ibid.~~) Silvia Duran's arrest "underlined the Garros' certainty" that the man had been Lee Harvey Oswald. ⁸¹² (~~Ibid.~~)

The source of the memo was [a witting Central Intelligence Agency asset] ⁸¹³ [known by the cryptonym] [redacted] [whom the Committee identified as June Cobb Sharp while ⁸¹⁴ receiving [redacted] file. According to Elena, Ms. Cobb was sent to her house shortly after the assassination for a few days, by a mutual friend, a Costa Rican writer named Eunice Odio. (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~)

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~~Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #719.~~) Ms. Garro asserted that while at her house, Ms. Cobb expressed interest in the Kennedy assassination. ⁸¹⁵ (~~ibid.~~) One night, Elena's sister Deba, who was visiting, got drunk and told the whole story. ⁸¹⁶ (~~ibid.~~) Claiming to be a CIA agent, Cobb suggested that Elena and Deba go to Texas to tell their story. ⁸¹⁷ (~~ibid.~~) Elena stated that when Cobb's suggestion was rejected, Cobb stated that she would arrange a meeting with the CIA Station Chief. ^{818x} (~~Winston Scott was the Mexico City Station Chief in 1964.~~) The meeting did not occur because Ms. Cobb was asked to leave the Garro house evidently because she kicked Elena's cat. ⁸¹⁹ (~~CIA No. 580-583; Wx7241, Entry #427, p. 42, CIA #719.~~) A notation on the memo says that never regained contact with Elena Garro de Paz. ^{CAS 820} (~~Wx7241, p. 94, Entry #430, CIA #721; Blind Memo dated 10/5/64, CIA #576.~~)

The memo was not inserted in either the Elena Garro or Lee Harvey Oswald ⁸²¹ "p" (personality) files ^{CAP} but in a local leftist and Cuban project file. The Committee learned about the memo from Wx-7241, a chronological history of the Oswald case prepared by ^{Raymond} Anne Good-
^{R.ccc} ~~pasture~~ ⁶⁷ for the CIA in 1976.) The memo was found in December, 1965. ^g (See Wx 7241, p. 94, CIA #721.) Stanley Watson, ⁸²² ~~found the memo~~ A marginal notation on Wx7241

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says, "Why was this not sent to Headquarters?" (p. 87, CIA #714.) The Committee has been able to determine that the memo was forwarded to headquarters shortly thereafter.

2. October 12, 1964 CIA Memo for the Record

On October 12, 1964 the ^{CIA MEXICO CITY STATION'S} Chief of Covert Action,

[redacted] wrote a memo for the record reporting that Elena Garro de Paz had told ^{her} the story to Eunice Odio. ⁸²⁴ The Committee has not been able to determine

if Elena Garro told Ms. Odio the story personally or if Ms. Cobb related ^{first} to Ms. Odio what Elena had told

^{her} who relayed it to [redacted] was Henry

P. Lopez ^{cryptonym}. Mr. [redacted] ^{writing asset}

who ~~wrote propaganda pieces for the CIA.~~ ~~After careful review of his CIA file, the HSCA has not been able to establish a link from Mr. Lopez to either Ms. Odio or Ms. Garro on 10/9/64.~~ ~~(CIA #714, CIA #826,~~

~~and CIA #714.)~~

The story is not as detailed as the 10/5/64 version. There is no mention of Deba Garro Guerrero Galvan. The story, perhaps because it is third hand, differs from the previous story in two areas: ^{IT STATES THAT} the party was at the Cuban Embassy, ^{AS OPPOSED TO} not at Ruben Duran's; Elena talked to a Cuban Embassy official, ^{INSTEAD} not one of her

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cousins about the three Americans.

Attached to the memo was a note from [redacted] to the Chief of Station, Winston Scott, which read, "Do you want me to send the gist of this to Headquarters?" Scott then noted that the memo should be filed. The file indications show that the memo went into the Oswald "P" file and the Elena Garro "P" file. (Ibid.)

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3. November 24, 1964 CIA Informant Report

On November 24, 1964 a Central Intelligence Agency informant (~~the House Select Committee has been unable to determine the informant's identity since his name does not appear in any CIA files~~) reported information

~~from Winston Scott to the files, re. June Cobb, 11/25/64, CIA Nos. 592-593, Wx 7241, p. 88, Entry #404, CIA #715)~~

derived from [redacted] ^{AN ASSET,} ⁸³⁰ ~~while reviewing~~ [redacted]

~~file the Committee determined that the CIA asset's true name was Manuel Calvillo. Elena claims that (the day following John F. Kennedy's assassination) Calvillo escorted her and her daughter to the Vermont Hotel for protection;~~

~~See also December 25, 1965, Thomas memo, for more information on Manuel Calvillo.)~~ The ^{agent} informant asserted that

June Cobb was an "American Communist" who rented a room from Elena Garro. ⁸³¹ ~~(Memo from Winston Scott to the files,~~

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~~re June Cobb, 11/25/64, CIA Nos. 592 593, Wx 7241,
 re [redacted] Entry #404, CIA No. 715.) The [redacted] also
 stated that Elena tried to talk to Robert Kennedy when
 he was in Mexico because she had met Oswald "and two
 friends (Cubans)" at a party at Henao's Duran's house.
 (Ibid.) In addition, the informant claimed that Elena had
 also told her story to an American official at the
 Embassy, who claimed to represent the Warren Commission. ⁸³²
 (Ibid.) The Chief of Station noted that he had asked
 [redacted] to pursue the story. ⁸³³ (Ibid.) but there is no
 indication that ^{check of station} he ^{followed through} ever ^{the} complied with ^{the} this request. ⁸³⁴
 (HSCA Review of Classified CIA Documents.)~~

^{GARRO}
 4. November 24, 1964 Elena Meeting with Mexico City Legal
 Attache Officers

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story

Elena and her daughter ^{also} told their story to
 the Mexico City Legal Attache. ^{ON NOVEMBER 24, 1964 835} (The Legal Attache in
 1964 was Clark Anderson.) They recounted the same story
 previously given to June Cobb Sharp. ^{ON Oct 1961. ELINA GAVE THE} The date of the
 party ⁸³⁶ was given as September 30, October 1 or October 2,
 1963. ⁸³⁷ (FB ~~105-82555~~ Report, ~~December 11, 1964~~ entitled
~~Lee Harvey Oswald, p. 1.~~) The agent who wrote the
 report (⁸³⁸) noted that Lee Harvey
 Oswald could not have been identical with the American
 allegedly observed by Mrs. Paz at the party if this party

were held on the evening of October 1 or October 2, 1963. (FBI 103-825555 Report, December 11, 1964 entitled Lee Harvey Oswald, p. 1) ~~FBI report of the President's Commission stated that Lee Harvey Oswald had departed Mexico City by bus at 8:30 a.m. on October 2, 1963, when Ms. Paz stated that she saw Lee Harvey Oswald walking on Insurgentes. (Ibid., p. 3)~~

Elena was questioned regarding the identity of other persons attending the party at the Ruben Duran home who might have been in a position to observe the three Americans. Elena stated that in the course of the party her daughter met a young man named "Alejandro" at the party and danced with him. He was apparently quite smitten with the daughter and tried to call her on several occasions after the party. (Ibid., p. 3) The daughter did not take the calls and as a result "Alejandro" wrote several letters to the daughter.

Ms. Garro exhibited two of the letters, as well as a business card which identified the young man as Ario Alejandro Lavagnini Stenius. (Ibid., p. 3.)

The letter which Ms. Garro said was the first written by the young man to her daughter bore the date September 1, 1963 and the Mexico City Post Office postmark dated September 2, 1963. When Ms. Garro ~~was told this~~ she this was pointed out to

commented that the Communists probably had facilities for falsifying post^{MARKS 847}card. (~~ibid.~~)

To investigate Ms. Garro's story further, ~~THE~~
~~REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE~~
~~LEGAL ATTACHE'S OFFICE~~
~~Federal Bureau~~ interviewed Ario Alejandro Lavagnini

Stenius on November 27, 1964. (~~ibid., p. 4.~~)⁸⁴⁸ Lavagnini

recalled that there were approximately thirty people at ~~the~~³ Ruben Duran's party, few of whom he knew. He re-⁸⁴⁹

called having met a Mexican girl who had recently re-⁸⁵⁰
turned from living in France. He was unable to fix the

date of the party, but felt it was probably early in September because of a heavy rain which occurred as they were leaving the party about 2:00 a.m. (~~ibid., p. 4.~~)⁸⁵¹

Lavagnini ^{SAID} noted that no Americans ^{WERE} present at this party.⁸⁵² He was familiar with the physical description

of Lee Harvey Oswald because of publicity following the assassination of President Kennedy, but otherwise had no knowledge of him and had never seen him except for news photographs following the assassination. (~~ibid.,~~⁸⁵³

~~p. 4.~~)^A Lavagnini was the only person interviewed by the ~~LEGAL ATTACHE REPRESENTATIVES~~
~~FBI~~ who attended parties at the Duran house in the September-October time frame.

There is no indication ^{on} the FBI document that this information was given to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station. ⁸⁵⁴ (~~A review of CIA files~~)

~~corroborated the above.)~~

5. Charles Thomas' First Meeting with Elena Garro Where Lee Harvey Oswald is Discussed,

On 12/10/65, Charles Thomas^{MA}, a political officer at the American Embassy, wrote a memorandum about a conversation with Elena Garro de Paz. ⁸⁵⁵ (~~CIA #586-587, WX-7241 Entry No. 425, p. 91, CIA No. 718.~~) The meeting with Elena had been about other matters but she mentioned ⁸⁵⁴ knowing Oswald. ⁸⁵⁷ Thomas noted that she was reluctant ⁸⁵⁸ to talk but did. (~~Ibid.~~)

Who initiated this?

Elena's story reported here is the same as that given in the [] memo dated 10/5/64, but with more details. She said that General Jose Jesus Clark Flores (a friend of Ruben Duran's), Silvia Duran, Eusebio Azcue, ^{Emilio Carballido} (a pro-Communist writer-friend of the Durans⁵), and a Latin American Negro man with red hair ⁸⁵⁹ (unidentified) were at the party. A marginal comment by this entry in WX-7241 says, "How did Elena know ⁸⁶⁰ about a red-haired Negro?" Elena also told Thomas that she had later learned that "Silvia Duran had been Oswald's mistress while he was there." ⁸⁶¹ A note by this entry in WX-7241 says, "How did Elena Garro know about Sivilia being the mistress of Oswald?? This is 1965." ⁸⁶²

The Mexico City Station did not hear about the Oswald-Duran "affair" until July 1967 when [a CIA Asset, LIRING/3,]

Who initiated this?

~~Out of file~~

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- 28 -

863 (~~See Section III, A, 2, a~~)

reported it. (After reviewing LIRING/3 file at the CIA the House Select Committee on Assassinations has been unable to determine with whom LIRING/3 was associated who would have had knowledge about Silvia Duran or Lee Harvey Oswald.)

Elena told Thomas that she and her daughter had gone to the Cuban Embassy on November 23, 1963 and shouted "Assassins" and other insults at the Embassy employees. (CIA #586-587, Wx7241, Entry No. 425, p. 91, CIA No. 718)

Garcia's thought to be →

That same day, a friend, Manuel Calvillo, whom the official in the Gobernacion, took her and her daughter to a small hotel in the center of Mexico City. (Ibid.)

Calvillo ^{ELENA GARCIA AND her daughter} They were kept there for eight days under the pretext that they were in danger. (Ibid.) Elena claimed

she have told Calvillo ~~that she wanted to tell~~ her story AND that she wanted to tell to the American ^{Authorities at the U.S.} Embassy. (Ibid.) Calvillo dissuaded

her by telling her that the American Embassy was full of Communist spies. (Ibid.) Elena said that some of the other people who had been at the party were taken to Veracruz where they were "protected" by Governor Lopez Arias. (Ibid.)

~~the House Select Committee was unable to determine the veracity of Ms. Paz' allegation.~~

See ~~NSA Investigation of Elena Garcia de Paz' allegation.~~ She said that Ruben Duran, reportedly

"protected" by General Clark Flores, was very prosperous and was driving a big car. ⁸⁷⁰ ~~(CIA #506-587, Wx-7241, Entry No. 425, p. 01, CIA No. 718/)~~ Elena also claimed that Ruben Duran told her months after the assassination that he was not really a Communist and that killing Kennedy had been a mistake. ⁸⁷¹ ~~(FBI; the House Select Com-~~

~~mittee on Assassinations has not been able to determine whether Ruben actually spoke to Elena about the assassination. (See HSCA Investigation of Elena Garra de Paz'~~

~~Allegations.)~~ ^g ~~In addition,~~ Ruben Duran claimed he had no reason to tell Elena that killing Kennedy had been a mistake since he had no involvement. ⁸⁷² ~~(~~

Charles Thomas circulated a copy of his memorandum concerning Elena's allegations in the American Embassy including the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station to aid them in their investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination. ⁸⁷³ ~~(The House Select Committee has determined that the Central Intelligence Agency received the copy of the Thomas memorandum prior to December 25, 1965, his next meeting with Elena Garro. See~~

~~below.)~~ The COS wrote a note on the memo: "What an imagination she has!?! Should we send to Headquarters?" ⁸⁷⁴

The Officer replied, ^{the memo} "Suggest sending. There have been stories around town about all this, and Thomas is

[Handwritten scribbles]

not the only person she has talked to...If memory serves me, didn't [redacted] refer to Oswald and the local leftists and Cubans in one of [her] squibs?" (CIA No. 588, note from SW to COS.)

The Mexico City Station called the information in Thomas' 12/10/65 memorandum of conversations to CIA Headquarters, (Cable from Mexico City to the Director, MEXI 5621, date out off my copy, CIA Nos. 584-585).

The cable reported that Elena's story would be checked with [LICHANT/1,] against the production [from the Cuban surveillance operation] "and other sources."

Winston Scott wrote, next to the routing indications on the cable, "Please ask Charles Thomas if he'll 'follow up.' Get questions from Ann G. (Ann Goodpasture). Please let's discuss. Thanks."

After the December 10 memorandum of conversations, Winston Scott (Chief/Station) and Nathan Ferris (Successor to Clark Anderson as Legal Attache in Mexico) called Charles Thomas for a meeting. They asked him to get a more detailed account of Ms. Garro's story. At this meeting, Winston Scott made it clear that the FBI had full responsibility for any further investigation in the Oswald case. (State Department: letter from Charles Thomas to William P. Rogers, July 25, 1969, JFK Doc. #)

6 Charles Thomas' Meeting with Elena Garro on December 25, 1965

Thomas met with Elena again on Decmeber 25, 1965.

ON That ~~same~~ date, he wrote a memorandum of conversation which provided a much more detailed restatement of Ms. Garro's alleged encounter with Lee Harvey Oswald. ⁸⁸⁵ (CIA Nos. ~~580-583, Wx 7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #719.~~)

Which meeting?

Elena admitted that she had spoken to two men at the Embassy, "presumably from the Legal Attache's Office."

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X

(~~Ibid.~~ ^{with the} The meeting occurred on November 24, 1964. See supra, p.) Elena said that she did not tell them the complete story because "the Embassy officers did not give much credence to anything she and Elenita said." ⁸⁸⁷ (CIA Nos. ~~580-583, Wx 7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #719.~~)

She stated that the party had been at Ruben Duran's home. ⁸⁸⁸ (~~Ibid.~~) She was unclear about the date of the party. ⁸⁸⁹ (~~Ibid.~~) ^{she thought} It was a few days before the Soviet Astronaut, Gagarin, visited Mexico; she thought that this would put the party around September 2 or 3, 1963. ⁸⁹⁰ (~~Ibid.~~)

She believed that the party was on a Monday or Tuesday because it was an odd night for a party. ⁸⁹¹ (~~Ibid.~~) Elena could not check her calendar to refresh her memory at the time of ^{this} the interview because the calendar was in a desk that had been stored away. ⁸⁹² (~~Ibid.~~)

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During the conversation, Elena described Oswald and his companions. ⁸⁹³ (~~Ibid.~~) The man who she thought was Oswald wore a black sweater. ⁸⁹⁴ (~~Ibid.~~) She said he was quite ⁸⁹⁵ "and stared a lot at the floor." (~~Ibid.~~) One of his companions "was very tall and slender and had long blond hair and a rather long protruding chin." ⁸⁹⁶ (~~Ibid.~~) The other companion was also tall, with short, light brown hair and no distinguishing characteristics. ⁸⁹⁷ (~~Ibid.~~) The three Americans did not dance or mix with the other guests. ⁸⁹⁸ (~~Ibid.~~) Elena saw the same three men on the street the next day. ⁸⁹⁹ (~~Ibid.~~)

Elena was certain that Eusebio Azcue, Horacio Duran, Silvia Duran, Lydia Duran, Deba Guerrero, General Clark Flores and his mistress, a doctor from Dalinde Hospital, a young American couple who were honeymooning in Mexico, and several other people were at the party. ⁹⁰⁰ (~~Ibid.~~) She said that Ricardo Guerra, whom she claimed converted Horatio Duran to Communism, and his wife, ⁹⁰¹ Rosario Castellanos, were supposed to be at the party but did not attend. (~~Ibid.~~)

Elena alleged that the red-haired man and Emilio Carballido were not at the party that Oswald attended but at another party where Carballido and Azcue got into a heated argument about President Kennedy. ⁹⁰² (~~Ibid.~~) "They

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came to the conclusion that the only solution was to kill him." ^{902 (Kennedy)} (Ibid.) Elena was not clear on whether this party was before or after the party where she met Oswald. ⁹⁰⁵

~~(Ibid.)~~ The House Select Committee has been unable to confirm the conversation between Azcue and Carballido.

~~(See HSCA Investigation of Elena Garro de Paz' allega-~~

~~tion.)~~ Eusebio Azcue stated that ^{this} the conversation ^{NEVER} did

~~occur~~ occurred, ⁹⁰⁶

Elena reiterated that the incident at the Cuban Embassy, where she and her daughter shouted "Assassins," etc. at the Embassy employees, occurred on November 23 at or about 3:00 p.m. ⁹⁰⁷ (Ibid.) Elena and Elenita were driven to the Cuban Embassy by Elena's brother who was embarrassed by their behavior. ⁹⁰⁸ (Ibid.) This occurred before they had seen photographs of Oswald. ⁹⁰⁹ (Ibid.)

Ms. Garro claimed that later in the day she and Elenita were visited by Manuel Calvillo who ⁹¹⁰ told them that they were in serious danger from the Communists and that he would take them to a small hotel, where they would be safe for a few days. (Ibid.) Elena said she trusted and believed Calvillo because he was a known undercover agent for the Mexico Government. ⁹¹¹ (Ibid.) He was also a friend of Noe Palomares ⁹¹² (the Minister of Immigration) and President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz. ⁹¹³ (Ibid.)

Calvillo also told Elena and her daughter that Silvia Duran had been arrested. ⁹¹⁴ (Ibid.) Duran's arrest was not public information ^{at that time} ~~on November 23, 1963.~~ ^{915 (ibid)}

Elena could not remember the name of the hotel so that same day (12/25/65) she took Thomas to the section of Mexico City where she thought it was. ⁹¹⁶ (Ibid.) They found the hotel. ^{The Hotel Vermont} ⁹¹⁷ (Ibid.) Elena said that she assumed that Calvillo had registered them as relatives or friends ^{From SAN Luis Potasi} ⁹¹⁸ (Ibid.) They stayed at the hotel until the following Friday, November 30, 1963, hardly leaving their rooms. ⁹¹⁹ (Ibid.) ~~(See Legal Attache Report, p. for confirmation.)~~

Elena claimed that while she and Elenita were at the hotel they saw the photos of Oswald and realized that he had been the man at Ruben Duran's party. ⁹²⁰ (Ibid.)

When Calvillo visited them at the hotel, Elena told him that she wanted to report ^{her story, which she related to Calvillo,} ~~it~~ to the American Embassy.

however, Calvillo dissuaded her by ^{saying} ~~stating~~ that the American Embassy was full of Communists. ⁹²¹ (Ibid.) Elena stated that when she returned home, guards were posted outside. ^{her house 922}

~~(Ibid.) (The House Select Committee has been unable to confirm the veracity of Ms. Garro's claim. See HSCA Investigation of Elena Garro's allegations.)~~

Elena alleged that after she returned home she saw her sister, Deba Guerrera, who had independently come to

W

the ~~same~~ conclusion; that Lee Harvey Oswald had been at Ruben DURAN'S PARTY. → 923
Deba was "terrified" because approximately two months after the assassination two "Communists" personally warned her never to reveal that she had been to a party with Oswald. ⁹²⁴ ~~(Ibid.)~~ Deba, consequently, would not accompany Elena to the American Embassy to tell her story on November 24, 1964. ⁹²⁵ ~~(Ibid.)~~

Elena stated that it was "common knowledge" that Silvia had been Oswald's mistress. ⁹²⁶ ~~(CIA Nos. 580-582; Wx 7241, Entry #427, p. 92 CIA #319.)~~ When asked who could verify the allegation, she could only remember one person who had told her this. ⁹²⁷ ~~(Ibid.)~~ Elena claimed that person was Victor Rico Galan, a "pro-Castro journalist." ⁹²⁸ ~~(Ibid.)~~ ~~(Victor Rico Galan is dead. The Committee could not verify Ms. Garro's allegation. Silvia Duran denied the allegation. Nonetheless, LIRING 3, a CIA asset, reported the same story in 1967.)~~ ^{SEE SECTION VI, A, 2, a., ABOVE.)}

^{Thomas} During these conversations, Elena also said that she "understood" that Oswald had been in Mexico more than once. ⁹²⁹ ~~(Ibid.)~~ ~~(The HSCA has been unable to determine the exact date.)~~

Subsequent to December 25, 1965, ~~Thomas wrote in~~ ~~the December 25, 1965 memo that~~ Elena ~~had~~ found her calendar and ~~had~~ reconstructed the date of the party as

should + be
a separate section
Thomas 12/25 received No! Same memo!

late September and not early September. ⁹³⁰ (~~CIA Nos. 580-583, Wx 7241, Entry #427, p. 42, CIA #719.~~) When Thomas went to Ferris' office and informed him, Ferris replied that Elena had given the late September date when she had originally reported her story at the American Embassy. ⁹³¹ (FBI Report, 9/30/69, pp. 3-4, JFK Doc. No.)

However, Mr. Ferris explained to Thomas that someone who had been at the twist party had stated that there were no Americans there. ⁹³² (Ibid.) Mr. Ferris did not tell Mr. Thomas that Ario Alejandro Lavagnini Stenius ~~Ferris in~~

⁹ ~~a 1964 interview~~ had provided this information in 1964. ⁹³³

~~Supra, p.~~) Mr. Ferris suggested that it was not necessary for Thomas to pursue Elena's allegations since he considered the Oswald case closed and had heard all the rumors before. ⁹³⁴ (~~FBI Report, 9/30/69, pp. 3-4, JFK Doc. No.~~)

^{Thomas} ~~The State Department~~ forwarded (the same day) a copy of the ~~Charles~~ ^{his} Thomas memorandum to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station to aid in their investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination. ⁹³⁵

On the first page of the memorandum of conversation, Winston Scott wrote, "Shouldn't we send to Headquarters?" Someone responded, "Of course." (~~CIA Nos. 580-583, Wx 7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #719.~~) ⁹³⁶ *was Mexico City Station*

~~on December 16, 1965, [CIA 582, Wx 7241, reporting that~~ reporting that ~~they~~ it was "following up" and would cable the results. ⁹³⁷

The memo was sent to Headquarters

7. December 27, 1965 Legal Attache Memo to the United States
Ambassador re Elena Garro

On December 27, 1965 Nathan Ferris wrote a memo to the Ambassador reporting that Elena and her daughter were interviewed on 17 and 24 November 1964 by the Legal Attache's office in Mexico City. ⁹³⁸ (~~Memo to the Ambassador from the Legal Attache, 12/27/65, CIA #578; WX-7241; Entry 429, p. 94, CIA #721.~~) The memo recorded that Elena and her daughter had furnished information similar to the informant ^{ti.v.} reported in Thomas' 12/10/65 memo. ⁹³⁹ (~~Ibid.~~) The memo further stated,

"Inquiries conducted at that time (November 1964), however, failed to substantiate the allegations made by Mrs. Garro de Paz and her daughter. In view of the fact that Mrs. Garro de Paz' allegations have been previously checked out without substantiation, no further action is being taken concerning her recent repetition of those allegations. ⁹⁴⁰

~~(Ibid.)~~

The Legal Attache forwarded a copy of the memorandum to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station. ⁹⁴¹ (~~The House Select Committee has determined that the copy was forwarded prior to 12/29/65, ⁹⁴² see~~

~~See~~

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fill us what
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~~Winston Scott superimposed a note to Anne Goodpasture on this memo which read, "Can we send in a report to Headquarters 'dismissing' our cable?"~~

First time you mention it.

~~Goodpasture responded, "Done." (Memo to the Ambassador from the Legat Attache, 12/27/65, CIA #758, WX 7241~~

~~Entry #429, p. 94, CIA #721.) The cable Winston Scott wanted dismissed was MEXI 5621. (Supra., p. 94, Limited)~~
Which reported that station was investigating Garros's story
LICHANT + others source

A cable written by Anne Goodpasture on December 29, 1965 reporting the Legat interview with Elena and the Legat Office's failure to substantiate Elena's story was sent to Headquarters. ⁹⁴³ (Memo from Mexico City to the

~~Director, 12/29/65, MEXI 5741, CIA #575; WX 7241 Entry #430, p. 94, CIA #721.)~~ The cable promised to keep

Headquarters advised if any further information were ~~was~~ to develop. ⁹⁴⁴ (Ibid.)

[redacted] 10/5/64 memo is attached to the 12/29/65 cable. (Ibid.) WX-7241 explained this in a marginal comment, "This document by [redacted] was not in (Oswald's file), but was copied from (a project file) and attached to MEXI 5741, 29 Dec. 65." ⁹⁴⁶ (Ibid.)

A note stapled to this cable by [redacted] stated, "I don't know what FBI did in November 1964, but the Garros have been talking about this for a long time and she is said to be extremely bright." ⁹⁴⁷ Anne Goodpasture

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wrote that the FBI had found Elena's allegations unsubstantiated but that "we will try to confirm or refute Ms. Garro de Paz's information and follow up." ⁹⁴⁸ ~~(ibid)~~
Win Scott wrote, "She is also 'nuts.'" ⁹⁴⁹ ~~(ibid., CIA #574)~~

CIA Investigation of Elena's Allegation that She Created
A Disturbance at the ^{5x2x} Cuban ^{5x2x} Embassy on November 23, 1963

On February 3, 1966, Anne Goodpasture forwarded Thomas' December 25, 1965 memo to the Cuban section at the Mexico City Station with an attached note asking ~~them~~ ^{the section} to check whether Elena was "seen creating such a disturbance as they claimed in front of the Cuban Embassy."

⁹⁵⁰ (It is apparent that the Mexico City Station was attempting to either refute or corroborate some of Elena Garro's allegations.) ~~(Note from Anne Goodpasture to "Cubans," 2/3/66, CIA No. 579, WX 7241, Entry 428, ~~pc 94, CIA #721.~~)~~

One Cuban section officer responded, "No bells ring with me." Another one wrote, "Me neither." The third officer wrote, "No pictures either." ⁹⁵¹ ~~(ibid.)~~

⁹⁵² There is no indication that [the penetration agents] in the Cuban Embassy were queried about Elena's allegation. ~~(ibid.)~~
~~ibid.~~ That there are no pictures is reasonable since Elena claimed that the event happened: 1) on a Saturday

at 3:00 p.m. when the Cuban Embassy was not normally
photographically surveilled; ⁹⁵⁴ ~~SEE SECTION II, A, B, ABOVE.~~ and 2) the "disturbance"
occurred inside the Cuban compound. HSCA Examination
of the CIA Cuban Embassy photographic surveillance
showed no surveillance on 11/23/63. ⁹⁵⁴ ~~(Classified Sum-~~
~~mary of Staff Review of CIA Documents, undated, p. 3,~~

~~CIA #763.) The Committee found that Central Intelligence~~
~~Agency made no other effort to corroborate~~
~~Ms. Garro's allegations.~~

9 Legal Attache 2/23/66 Memo to the United States Ambassador
Regarding Elena Garro's Allegations

On 2/23/66 the Legal Attache wrote a memo to the
Ambassador reporting that "extensive investigation"
failed to disclose that Oswald had traveled to Mexico
prior to September 26, 1963 and that no information had
developed that would show that he had not been in New
Orleans in the early part of that month. ⁹⁵⁵ ~~(Memo from Legat~~

~~to Ambassador, 2/23/66, CIA #571, WX-7241 Entry #455,~~
~~p. 95, CIA #722.) The memo reiterated that no further~~
~~action was being taken by the FBI because Elena's alle-~~
~~gations had not been substantiated. ^{by #455 956} (Ibid.) The Legal~~
~~Attache forwarded a copy of this memo to the Central In-~~
~~telligence Agency's Mexico City Station. ⁹⁵⁷ ~~(The House Se-~~~~
~~lect Committee on Assassinations has been unable to~~

~~determine when the copy was forwarded to the CIA.) A~~
~~marginal comment made by Raymond Rosca next to this~~
~~entry in WX-7241 says, "How can it be ascertained that~~

What
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Attache

Oswald did not travel to Mexico prior to early September 1963? There must be some basis for Elena's reporting." ⁹⁵⁸ (~~Ibid.; referenced to Thomas; 12/25/65 memo.~~)

10 Legal Attache Memo to Winston Scott re Elena's Allegation that She Had Stayed at the Hotel Vermont from the Day After the Assassination until November 30, 1963

On 10/13/66, the Legal Attache wrote a memo to the ^{WIN SCOTT} CIA/COS reporting that a reliable confidential informant had reported that the records of the Hotel Vermont disclosed that ^{ONE} "Elena Paz, housewife from San Luis Potosi," had registered at the Hotel Vermont on November 23, 1963. ⁹⁵⁹ She left on November ³⁰ 30, 1963. ⁹⁶⁰ (~~Memo~~

~~from Legat to Winston Scott, 10/13/66, CIA NO. 564; WX-7241, Entry #466, p. 98, CIA #725; Thomas' 7/13/66 memo.~~) ³ The House Select Committee on Assassinations

has been unable to determine why the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigations waited until 1966 to investigate this aspect of Elena's story. ³ The memo said, "The above individual may or

may not be identical with Elena Garro de Paz. ^{" 961} (~~Ibid.~~)

Charles Thomas' 12/25/65 memo ^{states} corroborates Elena Garro's presence at the Hotel Vermont. It states, "She and her daughter did not personally register at the

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962 corroborates Elena Garris presence at the Hotel Vermont. 241 - 42 -

hotel. She thinks Calvillo registered them as relatives or friends of his from San Luis Postosi." ~~(Memo of Conversation by Charles Thomas, 12/25/65, p. 3, CIA #582.)~~ The entry for the 10/13/66 Legat memo in WX-7241 bore the notation, "This is what Elena claimed and no one would believe her." ⁹⁶³ ~~(WX-7241, Entry #466, p. 09, CIA #175.)~~

|| Charles Thomas' September 30, 1969 Letter to State Department and Legal Attache's Response

No further report on Elena's story was generated until 1969 when Charles Thomas was "selected out" ⁹⁶⁴ ~~of the~~ ^{OF THE} United States ~~Foreign Service.~~ ^{FOREIGN SERVICE.} ~~leaked out this phrase and when an officer is promoted after having been in one grade for the maximum period of time and is not considered qualified for promotion to a higher grade.~~ ^{It should be noted that Thomas} At that time, he wrote a memorandum to the Secretary of State which included a cover letter stating, "Since I was the Embassy Officer in Mexico who acquired this intelligence information, I feel a responsibility for seeing it through to its final evaluation." ⁹⁶⁵ ~~(State Department. Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969)~~

Charles Thomas' memorandum stated that "he got no reaction from Nathan Ferris and Winston Scott" regarding

his memorandum of December 25, 1965. ⁹⁶⁶ (~~State Department~~)
~~Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary~~
~~of State, July 25, 1969~~) In addition, Thomas wrote
that the only person to speak to him about the Decem-
ber 25, 1965 memorandum, Clarence Boonstra ⁹⁶⁷ (~~Deputy Chief~~
~~of Mission, State Department, Chief of Affairs at the~~
~~time of President Kennedy's assassination and subsequent~~
~~Wald investigation~~) told him that Oswald had not been
in Mexico on the date given for the party. ⁹⁶⁸ (~~Ibid.~~)

(~~State Department Letter from Charles Thomas to William~~
~~Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1964~~) Thomas noted
that even when he reiterated that Elena had not changed
her story but rather that she had now given a more ~~an~~ ^{more} detailed
~~curate~~ account, Boonstra stated that the date was wrong
and dismissed the entire affair. ⁹⁶⁹ (~~Ibid.~~)

One of the Mexico City Legat Officers, Nathan Ferris,
in reply to Thomas' letter and memorandum, asserted
that ~~Thomas' office had been advised by memoranda that~~
Thomas' office had been advised by memoranda dated Decem-
ber 27, 1965 and February 23, 1966 that since Elena
Garro's allegations had previously been investigated
without substantiation, no further action was being taken
concerning her recent repetition of those allegations. ⁹⁷⁰

(~~State Department Letter from Nathan Ferris to Charles Thomas~~) In

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⁷⁵
~~their~~ report, the Legat's Office concluded that either the Counselor for Political Affairs did not route the memoranda to Charles Thomas or that Thomas did not recall receiving them. ⁹⁷¹ (~~Ibid.~~)

Thomas wrote that when he went to Nathan Ferris' office to inform him that Elena had found her calendar and had reconstructed the date of the party as late September, Ferris replied that Elena had given the late September date when she had originally reported her story at the American Embassy. ⁹¹² (~~State Department: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969.~~) Thomas noted that Ferris

explained that someone who had been at the party had stated that there had not been any Americans. ^{AIN Attendance (973)} (~~Ibid.~~)

^{Thomas}
He wrote that he had assumed that Elena could have clearly been mistaken about the identity of the American she saw there, but never doubted that she had seen some Americans. ⁹⁷⁴ (~~Ibid.~~)

Thomas wrote that Ferris had suggested that it was not necessary for Thomas to pursue the matter since he considered the Oswald case closed and had heard all the rumors before. ⁹¹⁵ (~~Ibid.~~)

The Legal ^{ATTACHE'S} ~~Office's~~ reply to Thomas' memo stated that Mr. Ferris had not told Thomas that someone who was at the party had stated that there had not been any Americans present. ⁹⁷⁶ (~~FBI Report, 9/39/69, p. 4, JFK Doc. No.~~)

The Legal Attache's memo asserted that Thomas had been told that it would not be necessary for him to pursue the matter any further since Elena's story had been investigated previously without being substantiated. 977

(Ibid.) In addition, the memo stated that Thomas had been told that Elena's story was considered a closed issue, not that the Oswald case was closed. (Ibid.) 978

12 House Select Committee on Assassination's Investigation of Elena Garro's Allegations

The House Select Committee on Assassinations investigated Elena Garro's story both through file reviews and personal interviews. The Committee requested and reviewed the CIA's, FBI's and State Department's files, ~~when available~~, on Elena Garro de Paz, Elenita Garro de Paz, Manuel Calvillo, Noe W. Palomares, June Cobb Sharp, Victor Rico Galan, Eunice Odio, Sylvia Duran, Lydia Duran, Ruben Duran, Betty Serratos, Horatio Duran, Eusebio Azcue, and Emilio Carballido. Only the Elena Garro de Paz file contained information on her allegations. Though all the names listed above played a role in Elena Garro de Paz' story, not one of their files included a reference to Elena Garro de Paz.

Furthermore, the House Select Committee on Assassinations requested and reviewed the Central Intelligence

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Agency's [redacted] [LIRING/3] ~~7/1~~
and [redacted] files. Once again, not one of the files included a mention of Elena Garro's allegations. The House Select Committee on Assassinations learned that

[redacted] ⁹⁷⁹ was June Cobb Sharp, who first reported to the CIA Elena's allegation, (Supra, p. 4.) The Commit-

tee also learned that [redacted] was Manuel Calvillo who had hidden Elena Garro and her daughter in a hotel the day following the assassination. ⁹⁸⁰ (Supra, p. 13.)

He also told Elena that Silvia Duran had been arrested before this fact had become public knowledge. ⁹⁸¹ (Ibid.)

Since a file review was inconclusive, the Committee ~~decided to~~ arrange ^d interviews in Mexico with Ruben Duran, Horatio

⁹⁸² Silvia Duran, Lynn Duran, Emilio Carbillido and Betty Serratos. The Mexican Government informed the House

Select Committee on Assassinations that Elena and Elenita Garro disappeared in 1968 during the student uprisings and have never returned to Mexico. ⁹⁸³ The officials stated

that Elena and her daughter might be in Spain. ⁹⁸⁴ (See ~~Mexico City Procedural Write up Trip 1.~~) The Mexican

government reported that Emilio ^c Carballido could not be found. ⁹⁸⁵ (Ibid.) The others were interviewed between June 1 and June 6, 1978. ⁹⁸⁶ (Ibid.)

Betty Serratos, Lydia Duran, Ruben Duran and Horatio Duran all stated that Elena was not the dancing

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Duran, Elena and Elenita Garro,

type and therefore did not attend any of the twist parties at the Duran homes. ⁹⁸⁷ (See ~~"HSCA Interview of Betty Serratos, 6/6/78, p. 6, JFK Document No. [redacted]; HSCA Staff Interview of Lydia Duran, 6/5/78, p. 6, JFK Document No. [redacted]; HSCA Document No. [redacted]; HSCA Staff Interview of Heratio Duran Navarro, 6/5/78, p. 25, JFK Document No. [redacted]~~) When Sivlia Duran was asked if Elena or Elenita Garro ever attended twist parties at the Duran homes, she recalled Elena attending one twist party at Ruben's home in 1963 ^{AFTER} when the Garros returned to Mexico from France. ⁹⁸⁸ (~~HSCA Staff Interview of Silvia Tirado Bazan, 6/6/70, p. 90, JFK, Document No. [redacted]~~) All the Durans denied that Lee Harvey Oswald ⁹⁸⁹ had attended any party at one of their homes. (String cites.)

The Committee next asked the Central Intelligence Agency to arrange ~~with~~ ^{with} interviews with [redacted] (Manuel Calvillo), [redacted] (June Cobb), ~~along with a list of other assets who may have had information related to Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City.~~ ⁹⁹⁰ ()

The Central Intelligence Agency declined to aid the Committee in ⁹⁹¹ this aspect of the investigation. ^{on August 7, 1978}

The Committee returned to Mexico City and attempted to locate June Cobb Sharp and Manuel Calvillo. ^{on [redacted] 992} (See ~~Procedural Write up Trip 2 Mexico City.~~) The results of the

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~~Committee's work were as follows~~

DON'T INDENT

The Mexican government told the Committee that June Cobb Sharp received a tourist permit, number 72781, on June 27, 1947 when she entered Mexico through Nuevo Laredo. She asked, but was denied, permission to represent the magazine, Modern Mexico. On June 21, 1948, she received a courtesy permit, number 25556. Furthermore, the Mexican government explained that she disappeared in 1954 and never returned to Mexico. ⁹⁹³ (See ~~Procedural Writoup Trip 2 Mexico City.~~)

97 The Committee believes ~~there is a possibility~~ that this information is incorrect. [According to Ms. Cobb's CIA file, she worked for the agency as an asset in Mexico from 1961 through 1966.] ⁹⁹⁴ (CIA report, 1965, ~~June Cobb file 201-~~) Elena also stated that Ms. Cobb resided at her home in 1964. ⁹⁹⁵ ~~Supra p.~~

DON'T INDENT

98 The Mexican government told the Committee that Manuel Calvillo did not live at Cuohthemoc 877-5 as the Committee had informed ~~them~~. Their agent-in-charge had spoken to the superintendant at the apartments at which Lamuel Calvillo was believed to reside, ^{and was informed by} the superintendant who had worked at the apartments for twenty-five years,

The Mexican government meets

Page 4 Indent X

said that no Manuel Calvillo had ever re-
sided there. When Committee staffers gave the
Mexican government Calvillo's pen name, the
Mexicans gave the same answers. 996

(See Procedural Write Mexico City Trip 2.)

believes that there is a possibility

The Committee is certain that Mr. Calvillo lived at this
address since it acquired the address from a recent CIA
document. (CIA Report, 1976, Manuel Calvillo file,
201-)

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The Committee believes that there is a possibility
that the Mexican government received orders from the Cen-
tral Intelligence Agency to refrain from aiding the Com-
mittee with this aspect of its work. (See Procedural Write-
up Trip 2 Mexico City.)

a U.S. Coast agent requested the Mexican government

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AND SECTION VII, C, BELOW

The Committee made every attempt possible to locate
Elena. On July 7, 1978 the Committee ~~staffer~~ telephoned
her publisher, Moritz, in Mexico City and ~~asked~~ ^{INQUIRED} about her
whereabouts. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 7/7/78, JFK Do-

document No. 10016) The publisher stated that Ms. Garro
was living in the Hotel S.A.C.E. in Madrid, Spain. (Ibid.)

The Committee ~~staffer~~ telephoned the Hotel ^{S.A.C.E.} in Spain and
spoke to the manager who told him that Ms. Garro had
moved. (Ibid.) (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 7/7/78,

JFK Document No. ~~1001~~) On July 14, 1978 ^{the} a Committee

~~Staffer~~ called her publisher again and was told to contact the Mexican Embassy in Madrid, Spain. ¹⁰⁰² (~~HSCA Staff Contact Report, 7/14/78, JFK Document No. 9950~~) The publisher stated that all Elena's payments were sent there because she did not even trust her publisher with her address. ¹⁰⁰³ (~~ibid.~~)

The Committee ~~Staffer~~ called the Mexican Embassy in Madrid, Spain and spoke to Adolfo Padilla, a Mexican employee of the Embassy who stated that when Elena had visited the Embassy a couple of weeks before to pick up a check she ^{SEEMED} looked financially ^{prostitute 1004} poor. (~~HSCA Staff Contact Report, 8/31/78, JFK Document No. _____~~) He stated that when he asked Elena her new address she declined to give one, stating that she would return every few weeks to pick up checks and mail. ¹⁰⁰⁵ (~~Ibid.~~) The Committee gave Padilla a telephone number and a message asking Elena to telephone the Committee collect. ¹⁰⁰⁶ (~~Ibid.~~)

On September 5, 1978 Elena Garro called the Committee. ¹⁰⁰⁷ ~~Staffer~~. When ^{IT WAS} the ~~staffer~~ ^{Committee} explained that the Committee wished to talk to her in person and would pay both her daughter's and her travel from Spain ^{to the United States}, Ms. Garro asked why she should believe the ^{Committee} ~~staffer~~ ^{what is} was who he claimed to be. ¹⁰⁰⁸ (~~HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/5/78, JFK Document No. _____~~) The ^{Committee} ~~staffer~~ asked Ms. Garro to call back collect in the next few days when ^{It} he could explain

to her when and where she could receive a Committee letter delineating why the Committee wished to interview her. ¹⁰⁰⁷ (~~Ibid.~~) The Committee wrote the letter and made arrangements with the State Department for a letter to be hand-delivered to Elena at the American Embassy in Spain. ¹⁰¹⁰ (~~See attached letter, also, HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/5/78, JFK Document No. _____~~)

On September 7, 1978, Elena Garro called the Committee ~~staffed~~ ^g and asked when the letter would arrive. ¹⁰¹¹
(~~HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/7/78, JFK Document No. _____~~)

The Committee ~~staffed~~ ^g explained that ~~the~~ ^{she} letter could ^{Pick up the letter} be gotten on Monday, September 11, 1978 from George Phelan, the Counsellor for Consular Affairs at the American Embassy. ¹⁰¹² (~~Ibid.~~) Ms. Garro stated that she would get the letter on September 11, 1978 and follow our ¹⁰¹³ suggestions. (~~Ibid.~~)

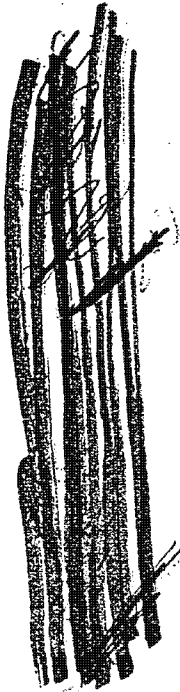
Ms. Garro never went to the American Embassy in Spain to ^{Pick up} get the Committee's letter. ¹⁰¹⁴ (~~HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/15/78, JFK Document No. _____~~) The Committee,

hoping she would pick up the letter before her flight date, proceeded to purchase air tickets for both Elena and her daughter. ¹⁰¹⁵ (~~HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/12/78, JFK Document No. _____~~) Elena did not ^{Pick up} get the tickets at

the airport. ¹⁰¹⁶ (~~HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/15/78, JFK Document No. _____~~) The Committee was not ^{BEEN ABLE to REGAIN} contacted ^o

WITH
by Ms. de Paz again.

The Committee also investigated whether ^{Charles} Thomas' "selection out" was related to the Oswald case. After interviewing his widow, Ms. Cynthia Thomas, the Committee has concluded that his dismissal was unrelated. ¹⁰¹⁷ (HSCA Staff Interview of Cynthia Thomas, ~~_____~~, p. ~~_____~~, JFK Document No. ~~_____~~)



In sum, the House Select Committee on Assassinations has not been able to confirm the evidence that would indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald, on one night while he was in Mexico, attended a "twist party" at the home of Ruben Duran Navarro, the brother-in-law of Silvia Duran. In addition, the House Select Committee on Assassinations has been unable to confirm the allegation that Lee Harvey Oswald travelled while in Mexico City with "two beatnik-looking boys." A large part of the Committee's attempts to investigate these issues has met with frustration.


D. Oscar Contreras Lartigue


On March 16, 1967, B. J. Ruyle, the American Consul in Tampico, reported to the American Embassy that he had spoken to a reporter whom allegedly had met Lee Harvey Oswald at National Autonomous University of Mexico City ¹⁰¹⁸ (UNAM) in 1963. ¹⁰¹⁹ ~~(American Embassy Incoming Telegram #A 43-570, p. 110, CIA #737)~~ stressing that he had only a fleeting contact with Oswald, The reporter had

^{have} claimed to know only about Lee Harvey Oswald's desire to travel to Cuba and the Embassy's unwillingness to grant him a visa. ¹⁰²⁰ (~~Ibid.~~) When B. J. Ruyle asked the reporter for permission to cable the story to the American Embassy, the reporter declined stating that he feared losing his job. ¹⁰²¹ (~~Ibid.~~) Subsequent to the assassination, the reporter had told his editor about his contact with Lee Harvey Oswald, who had advised him not to report it. ¹⁰²² (~~Ibid.~~) The reporter granted B. J. Ruyle permission to cable the story to the American Embassy when Ruyle promised that it would be handled with the strictest confidence. ¹⁰²³ (~~Ibid.~~) Ruyle wrote that he thought the reporter was genuinely concerned about his job. ¹⁰²⁴ (~~Ibid.~~)

A letter from B. J. Ruyle to the State Department dated May 11, 1967 provided additional details of the reporter's story. ¹⁰²⁵ (~~Letter to Wesley D. Bowles, Chief of Mexican political affairs, Office of Mexican Affairs, Department of State from B. J. Ruyle, American Consul, Tampico, 5/11/67; WX 7241 entry #597, p. 114, CIA #741~~) The reporter alleged that he and some fellow students had met Lee Harvey Oswald as they exited the Cineclub at the Escuela de Filosofia ¹⁰²⁶ (School of Philosophy) at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. ¹⁰²⁶ (~~Ibid.~~) Oswald

told the group that he had gone to the National Autonomous University of Mexico looking for pro-Castro students who might help him persuade the Cuban Embassy to grant him a visa. ¹⁰²⁷ (~~Ibid.~~) Oswald claimed that he was from California and was a member of a pro-Castro group ¹⁰²⁸ in New Orleans. (~~Ibid.~~) Oswald remained with the students the rest of that day and evening, as well as the following day. ¹⁰²⁹ (~~Ibid.~~) The reporter described Oswald as a strange and introverted individual who spoke very little Spanish. ¹⁰³⁰ (~~Ibid.~~)

 On ~~the~~, The State Department forwarded a copy of Ruyle's letter to the Central Intelligence Agency. ¹⁰³¹ (~~The Committee could not determine when the State Department forwarded the letter to the CIA.~~) On June 14, 1967, CIA Headquarters sent the Mexico City Station a copy of Ruyle's letter to Bowles. ¹⁰³² (~~Dispatch from the Director to Mexico City, 6/14/67, RMMW 15557, Wx 7241 Entry #616, p. 117, CIA #744~~) ^{CIA Headquarters} CIA Headquarters considered Ruyle's report "the first piece of substantive info about Oswald's sojourn in Mexico" since the assassination. ¹⁰³³ (~~Ibid.~~) Consequently, Headquarters cabled that though ^{it} ~~they~~ understood the source's reluctance to become involved "the fact remains that this info cannot continue to be withheld or concealed." ¹⁰³⁴ (~~Ibid.~~) Headquarters instructed the Mexico City Station to elicit the identity of the source from Ruyle. ¹⁰³⁵ In addition,



Headquarters asked the Mexico City Station to bear in mind, while interviewing Ruyle's source, that Lee Harvey Oswald was a homosexual. ¹⁰³⁶ (~~Ibid.~~) The final sentence of the dispatch, "It is our hope that the facts obtained through these interviews will help to confirm that several of Garrison's allegations about involvement of anti-Castro Cubans, the CIA, etc. are false," ¹⁰³⁷ (~~Ibid.~~) explained the Central Intelligence Agency's motives for pursuing the story.

On June 29, 1967, the Mexico City Station cabled Headquarters that a station officer had gone to Tampico where he had interviewed Ruyle's source, Oscar Contreras. ¹⁰³⁸

~~(Cable from Mexico City to the Director, MEXI 1950, 6/29/67, WX 7241 entry #622, p. 118, CIA #745)~~ ^{The cable} The cable re-

ported that Contreras was a reporter ^r for El Sol (a newspaper, The Sun) in Tampico; was circa 30 years old;

married, with three children; studied law at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) from 1960 to

1964; belonged to a pro-Castro group at UNAM; was persecuted by the Mexican police for this affiliation and

moved to Tampico to escape the persecution. ¹⁰³⁹ ~~(Cable from Mexico City to the Director, MEXI 1950, 6/29/67; WX-7241, entry #622, p. 118, #745.)~~ ¹⁰⁴⁰ ~~The Director's office.~~ (1040)

Contreras told the Mexico City Station official ¹⁰⁴¹ that he and four other individuals (~~When Contreras was~~

~~... the other four individuals who had met Lee Harvey Oswald, he refused to reveal their names because he feared that informing on them might endanger his family.)~~ had met Oswald as they exited a roundtable discussion held at the School of Philosophy at UNAM. ¹⁰⁴² (Cable from Mexico City to Director, MEXI 1950, 6/29/67; ~~WX~~ 7241, entry # 622, p. 118, CIA #74S) Contreras stated that Oswald had made inquiries on the UNAM campus about pro-Cuban groups and had been directed to his group. ¹⁰⁴³ (Ibid.) Contreras reported that though the group initially mistrusted Oswald fearing he was a "CIA provocation," they allowed Oswald to remain with them that day and night and part of the following day. ¹⁰⁴⁴ (Ibid.) Contreras noted that Oswald never mentioned assassination but kept emphasizing that he had to get to Cuba. ¹⁰⁴⁵ (Ibid.) In addition, Oswald had exhibited no homosexual tendencies while he was with the group. ¹⁰⁴⁶ (Ibid.)

On July 4, 1967, Headquarters cabled the Mexico City Station that Contreras' story should be explored to the fullest even though he might have fabricated it. ¹⁰⁴⁷ (~~Cable from the Director to Mexico City, 7/4/67, DIR 16823, WX 7241, Entry 626, p. 119, CIA #746~~) Headquarters suggested that the FBI handled the story. ¹⁰⁴⁸ (Ibid.) The following day, July 5, 1967, the Mexico City Station

~~leaders of the group were Victor Manuel, Carlos~~
~~, Hugo Castro, Antonio Teniro Adame,~~
~~Jose Guerrico, Carlos Ortiz Fijeda, Daniel~~
~~Holma Balvez, Humberto Hiriante, Oscar Gonzales,~~
~~Hibam Garcia, Pedro Sainz Cepeda, Alberto Jose~~
~~Eduardo Pascual, Juan Saldana, Martin Reyes Baissade,~~
~~Vicente Lvillamas, Rubillo Hernandez Borado and Jesus~~

9.) The memo speculated that Contreras probably signed the protest as a front man to protect the real leaders of the group. ¹⁰⁵⁵ (Ibid.) The Mexico City station called the information to Headquarters the following day, June 11, 1969. ¹⁰⁵⁶ (~~Dispatch from Mexico City to Director, HMMA, 32497, 7/11/69; WX 7241, Entry #635, p. 121, CIA #748.~~)

The Committee has determined that the Central Intelligence Agency's main interest in Oscar Contreras was "to confirm that several of Garrison's allegations about involvement of anti-Castro Cubans, the CIA, etc. are false." ¹⁰⁵⁷

~~After~~ After the CIA Mexico City station official's interview with Contreras ¹⁰⁵⁸ revealed nothing that could be useful to the agency, it decided to allow the FBI to follow the story through. ¹⁰⁵⁹ Nevertheless, the Agency's Mexico City station

interviewed the ~~key witness~~ ^{key witness}, reviewed pertinent ^{records} files, and ^{about the} reported all the information to Headquarters expediently. ^{witness in the} ^{Mexican government} ^{3/4} ^{Possession}