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Memorandum

~~SECRET~~

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)

11/8/70

TO : ~~Confidential~~
LEGAT, MEXICO CITY (105-3702) (RUC)

DATE: CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR,
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JRH 5-16-93
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FROM : LEE HARVEY OSWALD
SUBJECT: IS - R - CUBA

u/s
Classified by ~~2042~~
Declassify on: OADR

Reference Mexico City letter 10/14/69 in OSWALD case; Mexico City letter 7/30/58 and Havana letter 2/29/58 entitled, "TERESA PROENZA; SM - C;" and Mexico City letter and LHM 10/5/70 entitled, "JORGE LUIS ROJAS MENDOZA; IS - CUBA" (Bufile 105-115365).

PROENZA's full name appears to be MARIA TERESA PROENZA PROENZA. She is currently said to be in Havana, Cuba, after spending several years in Santa Clara Province under near house arrest. She now appears to have more freedom. She is the sister of the wife of JORGE LUIS ROJAS MENDOZA, a Mexican employee of the Cuban Aviation Company in Mexico City. Her brother ALVARO ESTANISLAO PROENZA PROENZA resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is the subject of an IS - CUBA investigation. TERESA PROENZA was the secretary of the Mexican communist muralist DIEGO RIVERA prior to the revolution. She became an employee of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City following the revolution. She was described by her brother ALVARO in 1965 as a "dedicated communist" and a "slave of the Cuban communist government."

~~Declassify on OADR~~
~~9/1/93~~
~~9/1/93~~
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The following information is extracted from the letter and LHM submitted by Mexico City on 10/5/70 concerning JORGE LUIS ROJAS MENDOZA and the efforts of his family to arrange for his sister MARGOT ROJAS MENDOZA to leave Cuba and join the family in Mexico:

According to information furnished by MEX 197 on 9/21/70, the ROJAS family has become very embittered about the Cuba situation and Mrs. ROJAS, whose full name is CARIDAD

- 6-Bureau
 - (1-105-135744) (ALVARO PROENZA PROENZA)
 - (1-64-29479) (TERESA PROENZA PROENZA)
 - (1-Foreign Liaison Desk)
 - (1-Philadelphia) (105-11156) (ALVARO PROENZA PROENZA) (Info)
- 3-Mexico City
 - (1-100-1834) (TERESA PROENZA PROENZA)
 - (1-105-0-9027) (ALVARO PROENZA PROENZA)

Classified by 2040
Exempt from GDS, Category II, III
Date of Declassification Indefinite
7-27-77

RIG:kvw

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MEX 105-3702

"CACHITA" PROENZA PROENZA DE ROJAS, complained that Cuba has become a police state and that Cuban authorities have the family "all tied up." ROJAS and his wife told MEX 197 that a Cuban communist named JUAN MARINE is a friend of the family. On one trip to Cuba, CACHITA ROJAS asked him to look into the situation of her sister TERESA PROENZA to see how it could be straightened out. MARINE recently visited Mexico "incognito" and informed the ROJAS that the situation now is extraordinarily good but that TERESA was once under a death sentence because she had dealt with LEE HARVEY OSWALD while assigned to the Cuban Embassy prior to the assassination of JOHN F. KENNEDY. Her friends interceded for her and her life was spared. ROJAS told MEX 197 that MARINE warned them not to tell the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City that he had spoken to them about this matter. (S) (u)

The source stated that JORGE ROJAS and his wife do not know how to cope with the present situation. They fear going to Cuba and they are speaking out against the Cuban revolution in a most forthright manner. The bitterness displayed by ROJAS' wife far exceeds any that the source can recall in the past. (S) (u)

The source stated that some years ago, as best he could recall, he heard JUANA LUISA PROENZA, a sister of CACHITA who died some years ago, telling a similar story of how TERESA PROENZA was somehow involved with LEE HARVEY OSWALD at the Cuban Embassy. At the time TERESA was employed at the embassy, she lived with JUANA LUISA and another sister. Within the family it has always been said that JUANA LUISA worried herself to death after TERESA was ordered to Cuba. (S) (u)

The Mexico City Office has conducted a review of references to TERESA PROENZA especially those dealing with the OSWALD investigation and it is noted that as set forth in Mexico City letter to the Bureau 1/24/64 in the OSWALD case MEX 18 and MEX 19 both of whom have furnished reliable information in the past, reported on 1/13/64 that they had conversed with ELIZABETH CATLETT MORA, Bufile 100-395934, who told them of a conversation she held with TERESA PROENZA, the Cultural Attache of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. According to MORA, TERESA PROENZA had told her that OSWALD walked in "cold" to the Cuban Embassy and the first person he talked to was PROENZA. Since PROENZA did not speak English, she turned him (S) (u)

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MEX 105-3702

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While it is not clear from available information, it would appear that PROENZA was able to return from Cuba for a visit to Mexico following her dismissal and departure in 1/64. (X) (u) ~~see Agency 143 728 83~~

By report dated 1/14/65 the CIA reported on the investigation by the Cuban government of old line communist JOAQUIN ORDOQUI MESA. In this report it was indicated that TERESA PROENZA had been arrested at her home and was being held incommunicado. (u) (X) ~~see Agency 143 728 83~~

A review of the foregoing material indicates that TERESA PROENZA got into trouble with the Cuban government more as a result of her criticism of the handling of the OSWALD matter following the assassination of President KENNEDY than because of anything she did when OSWALD visited the Cuban Embassy. Her harsh criticism of high Cuban officials (the Ambassador and Foreign Minister) was apparently well known in the embassy and hardly helped her case. It fails to indicate that she did anything for OSWALD that would substantiate the remarks made by JORGE ROJAS and his wife to MEX 197 that TERESA PROENZA had nearly been executed because of her activities during OSWALD's visit to the Cuban Embassy in 1963. In the absence of additional information regarding this activity, no further investigation is contemplated at this time. It is noted that it is not feasible to directly interrogate JORGE ROJAS or his wife. However, MEX 197 will closely follow this matter with them and any additional, significant developments will be called promptly to the attention of the Bureau. (X) (u) (u)

One information copy is being furnished to Philadelphia in view of their interest in ALVARO PROENZA. Concerning ALVARO PROENZA, MEX 197 reported on 7/2/70 that he had recently visited the ROJAS family in Mexico City and CACHITA remarked that ALVARO said he was surrounded by "gusanos" (referring to Cuban exiles in a derogatory manner) in Philadelphia. (X) (u) (u)

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