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①

On July 28, 1978 at 10:00 a.m. Charles Berk and Dan Hardway of the HSCA conducted a three hour interview ^{at CIA HQ's} w/ Barney Hidalgo. ~~The interview~~ Mr. Hidalgo was provided a copy of the CIA release letter at the outset of the interview. Upon reviewing the letter Mr. Hidalgo stated that whatever ~~Admiral~~ ~~Turner~~ may permit, the letter does not release Mr. Hidalgo from his ~~personal~~ ^{self-imposed} secrecy standards. Mr. Berk explained to Mr. Hidalgo that whatever he discussed during the interview would be treated as confidential. However, Mr. Hidalgo stated that he might not respond to ^{HSCA} questions.

Mr. Hidalgo stated that he has no present connection w/ the CIA. ^{having parted in 1970.} When queried whether he is presently retired, Mr. Hidalgo would not respond to the question. The ~~WASAWAS~~ ^{also would} not provide his current address when asked to do so by Mr. Berk.

Hidalgo was asked if the interviewing room had been discussed w/ anyone prior to this moment. Hidalgo said he had not discussed the interview w/ anyone other than being contacted by the agency to arrange the time & place for the interview. He further stated that he had heard of such a release letter & rumors about a release letter in the press, although he was not sure if the letter was at the time.

He related that he had been
use to Agency component concerned
w/ foreign intelligence & counterintelligence
identities and reporting on them; psychological
warfare matters.

Mr. Hidalgo further stated that he had been
in the CIA for 15 years during 1945-1960.

working at headquarters
on ~~Cuba~~ Cuba-related matters
(2)

Mr. Hidalgo did state that
at the time of JFK's assassin-
ation, he was a CIA case
office. ~~He~~ When asked ~~about~~
his specific responsibilities
in this position ~~was~~, Mr.
Hidalgo responded that
he had no specific responsi-
bilities, rather he ~~was~~
~~was assigned to various~~
was assigned to various
Agency components on a day to
day basis and traveled at
the discretion of his superior.
Mr. Hidalgo ~~did~~ explain
that he ^{had} worked ^{at times} specifically
on Cuba-related operations.
Mr. Hidalgo further stated
that during his CIA career
he had ^{successfully} developed expertise
in a number of operational
activities. When directly
asked if the expertise included
skilled interrogation and surrepti-
tious entry, Mr. Hidalgo
would not respond directly.
He explained that he would
not answer a question if he
believed that lives or the national
security would be threatened by
his response. He further declared

See
back

In this regard, Mr. Hidalgo informed the HSCA interviewer that he had ^{on behalf of the CIA} been involved in the Bay of Pigs operation.

~~Both at Headquarters~~

~~and in the field, including visits~~
Mr. Hidalgo stated that he had visited New Orleans & Miami

~~areas of operations.~~ He indicated that he was indirectly responsible for Brigade 2506. In connection w/ his work on Cuban matters. However these visits had little to do w/ the Bay of Pigs activities. Rather, they involved the handling of a CIA Agent who had been in Cuban Intelligence Service (CIS)

He indicated that he was indirectly responsible for Brigade 2506.

~~which was considered~~ He stated that the 20506 represented

The sixth person he had interrogated & cleared for operational use in the Brigade. 20506 had subsequently met an untimely death and therefore his numerical designation was adopted by the Brigade. It was Mr. Hidalgo's belief that Castro had effected one

Hidalgo served as the CIA's counterintelligence officer on the operation

penetration against the Brigade but he could not recall the name of the penetration agent who ^{was known to him}

that "Espionage is not a gentleman's game!"

Mr. Hidalgo was queried whether he was familiar w/ the CIA cryptonym AMMUS/1. He said that the cryptonym was familiar to him. He further stated that he recalled AMMUS/1 defected from CUI5 to the CIA in April 1964.

Mr. Hidalgo was shown DIR 16369, 23 April 64, a CIA cable describing Ammug/1's ^{his capture} ~~in~~ defection in Canada, a brief ~~summary~~ ^{mentioning} of his knowledge of CUI5. Hidalgo reviewed the cable and was then asked to assess the significance of A/1's defection. Hidalgo refused to answer the question.*

Hidalgo's immediate superior

Hidalgo did state that he was not sent to Canada to bring A/1 back to the country. Rather, Harold Swenson, c/SAS/CI? was

~~given~~ the responsibility. Hidalgo was asked if he knew where Swenson presently was. He said yes but would not provide his location.

* Towards the end of the interview the question was again posed to Hidalgo who then responded that A/1 (over)

defector

was of great significance
to agency. However he ~~did~~
would not elaborate in his
statement when asked to do so.

To describe Hidalgo was next asked ~~about the~~ relationship ~~with~~ A/1. He responded that it would be best to ask Mr. Swenson that question. Hidalgo was also asked to describe the relationship of Daniel F. Lee and Joseph Piccolo (both CIA case officers who handled A/1) to A/1. Once again, Hidalgo deferred to Swenson for an answer to the question.

~~Hidalgo~~ Beh asked Hidalgo what specific information A/1 provided the CIA on Lee Harvey Oswald. Hidalgo responded that he would rather not answer the question.

Hidalgo was then asked if he knew whether Swenson had tape recorded his meetings w/ A/1 in Canada. Hidalgo said this would have been standard operating procedure in a case of the kind. However,

he said he could not recall whether he had heard the tape recordings of Swenson's Canada debriefings of A/1 or had read the transcripts of these debriefings.

Hidalgo was next queried as to his first knowledge of A/1's defection. He indicated that he first became aware of A/1's defection when he read the cable ~~was~~ describing A/1's defection that was disseminated to HQ 23 April 1964. Hidalgo stated that the first contact w/ A/1 occurred after A/1's transfer to Washington D.C. during the last week of April 1964. Hidalgo said A/1 was debriefed by him ~~while~~ during A/1's stay in Washington which he characterized as being only for "a matter of months — not too long", (i.e. approximately 6 months).

Hidalgo refused to describe the manner in which A/1 was used by the CIA while

remained in Washington. A
 Hidalgo was particularly
 disinclined to discuss A/I's
~~operational~~ operational use by the
 Agency. Hidalgo did state
 that as of 7/11/2/64 he
 no longer had ^{any} ~~operational~~ contact
 Hidalgo was next shown
 OTTA IN 68894, 24 April 64
 which provides additional
 information related to A/I's
 defection & his knowledge of
 CUIS. The cable identified
 certain DSI ~~officers~~ ^{then}
 stationed at the Cuban Embassy/
 Consulate in NY, ~~NY, NY~~
~~at the time of the defection~~

Hidalgo stated that he had
 read the cable when it
 was sent to HQs. When
 asked who the cable's
 author was, Hidalgo declined
 to answer.
 Hidalgo was asked to examine
~~page 2~~ page 2, paragraph 4
 of the above-referenced cable
~~in which~~ where the
 names of Alfredo Mirabal
 & Manuel Vega are cited as
 being CUIS sluffers. Hidalgo
 said that he did not ~~now~~
 know that either person at the
 time

Cuban Embassy in NY ~~NY~~
~~Hidalgo~~ Hidalgo stated that
 he "just knew what the
 Agency knew at the time" ~~but~~
 that he had no personal know-
 ledge of either person.

Hidalgo did indicate, however,
 that he was then aware
 of Vegas & Morales' PSI status.
 He ~~was~~ probably knew
 what their specific duties were
 but he ~~was~~ ^{can} not presently
 recall this information.

Reference was then made
 to P 3 paragraph 6 of
 the Ottawa cable, wherein
 it is stated that A/I had
 brought out ^{intelligence} document
 from Cuba upon his departure.

Hidalgo was asked if any
 of the documents referred to
 concerned Lee Harvey Oswald
 in the JFK assassination. He responded
 that he did not see all
 of the document & that the
 ones which he did see did
 not refer to LHO or JFK assassination.
 but by their ~~subject~~ subject
 matter may have been of interest
 as to LHO or JFK assassination.
 However, on this point Hidalgo

at the
 time
 of the
 cables
 being
 drawn.

again deferred to Swenson
for a more detailed answer.

Mr. Hidalgo was next asked
to examine an 8 May 64 memo,
~~which was subject matter of the~~
~~document~~ ^{the} Debriefing Report #65,
Subject: which details DGI
responsibility for issuance
of visa to persons seeking
entry into Cuba. Hidalgo was
convinced that Swenson
had written the memo & that
the memo was an accurate
summary of available information.
Hidalgo stated, in reference to
~~the~~ DGI visa issuance procedure
that, a ^{traveler} ~~traveller~~ to Cuba,
would not necessarily have
met a DGI officer ~~but~~ but
that the DGI office would have
been aware of the traveler's
presence. A DGI office would
have reviewed all ~~traveler~~
visa applications.

Hidalgo ^{does} not if any
specific word or words were
used in the ~~document~~
~~the~~ visa applications
to indicate that they were
Cuban intelligence agents

when
seeking
visa,
done by
DGI who interviewed
in all travelers

including
"numbers"

Hidalgo explained that he had contact w/ Cuban in Mexico but not to their knowledge. When asked if the meant that he was running penetration agents into the Cuban Embassy, Hidalgo refused to answer.

Hidalgo then stated that while in Mexico he had been in contact w/ the Mexican federal police on the occasion

knew Besty i.e. ~~not~~ ^{in the hardware} personally.
 However, when queried concerning
 Hunt, Hidalgo countered by asking
 why Mr. Hardware had brought
 up the subject of Hunt. He further
 explained that HSCA was "spin-
 ning its wheels" by investigating
 Hunt.

Insert
 earlier

~~Regarding~~ Questioned
 further on his relationship
 w/ A/1, Hidalgo said that
 his last contact w/ A/1 was
 in 1964.

Mr. Hardware queried
 Mr. Hidalgo at the
 point ~~on a number of other~~
 as to his knowledge of the
 following persons:

- 1) ~~Mr. [redacted]~~: Hidalgo said
 he knew her but would not
 discuss Mr. ~~[redacted]~~
- 2) Silver Duman: Hidalgo
 stated that he "sure does
 (know her) but I sure don't
 want to discuss it." He
 did state that he had had
 indirect contact w/ Mr. Duman
 but doesn't recall when the
 contact took place. He did

state that he ~~has~~ received
information regarding S. Duran
from a CIA agent in Mex. He also
stated that he would
not know whether Duran
~~had~~ had been employed by
either the CIA or the Mexican
government.

This information was put into report from
the agent, [female] was in
direct contact w/ the Mex Com-
munist Party. He also said
he could not now recall her
name. ~~He did say~~

that the agent CIA
case officer spoke w/ a
chap and had a hair lip.
When asked if the person
was Robert Shaw He also
replied it might have been him.

and was
a close
associate
of Duran's.
He did not
believe that
she had
worked in
the Cuban
Embassy.

with
2 R's
2 KIFLE

- 3) William Hawez: Hedalgo was acquainted w/ Hawez. Hedalgo stated he had never heard of him.
- 4) Frank Sturge: he knew of him but had no personal contact w/ him.
- 5) Tony Varma: he knew Varma as the result of operational contact.

Hedalgo was next asked to examine a debriefing report of A/1 30 April 64. This report identifies Alfredo Morales, Manuel Vega, Ricardo Concepcion and D61 Officer at the Cuban Emb/Cons. in Mexico. Hedalgo reiterated that he had no knowledge of these persons. He did state that he had previously seen the debriefing report which was a verbatim translation from the Spanish, which he had done himself.

When asked about the polygraph test administered

To A/1 on 11 May 1964, Hidalgo stated that he was not present. He did, however, read the results of the polygraph but does not recall if LHO was discussed but ~~believes~~ it would have been because it was a long session.

He believes that John White, on a need to know basis, would have been given access to the polygraph results.

Hidalgo was again asked what information A/1 provided about LHO. Hidalgo again deferred to Swenson for the information.

In an effort to refresh his recollection Hidalgo was not shown a 5 May 64 blind memorandum by Harold Swenson recounting A/1's knowledge regarding LHO & JFK assassination. ~~This report was~~ Hidalgo states that he may have seen the memo previously. He did not know who wrote it but was confident of its accuracy. He didn't recall reading

Harold Swenson + probably the person who was present.

Chuck Berk
HSCA
27 July 64

Ammunition Materials for Hidalgo Interview

- II ① DIR 16369, 23 April 64 A
- ✓ ② OTTA IN 68894, 24 April 64 B
- ③ Debriefing of Ammug/1, 30 April 64 C
Subj: Docs brought out by A/1
- ④ OCOA 7763, 1 May 64 D
- ⑤ 17 July 64, Contact Report ✓ E
From: J. Piccolo
- ✓ ⑥ 28 Nov 64 Hidalgo memo WH/SA 64-781 ✓
- VIII ⑦ EGOW-4675, 15 June 66 M
- IV ⑧ 9 April 71, Contact Report, ^{cover memo} UFAA-2925 F ✓
From: Eustace D. Kloock
- Box 19
Folder 15
"Raw" ⑨ 21 August 64 ✓ G
Info from A/1 on Agent
- " ⑩ 8 May 64, memo for chief, WH/PO/A ✓ B
Subj: debriefing report #65 of A/1
- ✓ { ⑪ 5 May 64 - debriefing of A/1 W
Blind memo
- ⑫ 11 May 64, FOIA 687-295, XRAZ-272B
- Calders ✓ ⑬ 28 Jun 63 Report #EE390 H
- ✓ ⑭ 11 March 65, LX-2467 ✓ J
- ⑮ 26 April 65, CSCI-316/01783-65 ✓ I
- ⑯ 1 Sept 63, HMMW 11935 ✓ K

.. - Bustos

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