

UNCLASSIFIED INTERNAL ONLY CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

LP

FROM:

RI/AN

EXTENSION

NO.

XAAZ-22759

DATE

21 Feb 64

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

CI/RA 2C 29

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Document Number

559-243

14.

for FOIA Review of

JUN 1976

15.

**MICROFILMED
AUG 20 1965
DOC. MICRO. SER.**

*Bill
how' about ZR'ing to
O's 201 and classifying
into Duran's 201? Or
maybe better yet, how
cross-filing? If you agree
with latter, I'll have
copies made.*

*3-5/ Originals of attachments
filed in DURAN's 201. I have
ZR'd to show that they
have been sent to Comms.*

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CIA/RA/PS/ABSTRACT PROGRAM**

AN LEA
PS **CI/RA**
ABSTRACT INDEX

AN LEA
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201-289248

~~SECRET~~

Commission No. 426

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

21 FEB 1964

**APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1992
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM**

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

SUBJECT: Translations of Interrogation
Reports of Silvia DURAN

This is responsive to numbered paragraph two, in your letter to this Agency dated February 10, 1964 and is further to my reply of February 19, 1964.

There are attached translations, from the Spanish, of the results of interrogations of Silvia DURAN and her husband in Mexico City during the period 23 to 28 November 1963.

These interrogations were conducted by the Mexican police in the course of their follow-up of the OSWALD case after the assassination. [These materials were given to us by the Mexican police agency that performed the interrogation.]

Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachments - 2

~~SECRET~~

Deletion in bracket is the only deletion in this document

THIS NOTE CONCERNS DOCUMENT XAAZ-22759 , DATED 21 Feb '64
(ALSO KNOWN AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES AS DOCUMENT # ~~WADA~~ Commission Doc # 426).
THE ATTACHED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOWS THE SEGMENT(S) WHICH REMAINS
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*the only deletion is
last sentence of last para of cover letter.*

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4-0940

MICROFILMED
AUG 20 1965
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XAAZ-22759
21 FEB 1964

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

SUBJECT: ^o Translations of Interrogation
Reports of Silvia DURAN as Transmitted
to Warren Commission (201-740720)

This is responsive to numbered paragraph two, in your letter to this Agency dated February 10, 1964 and is further to my reply of February 19, 1964.

There are attached translations, from the Spanish, of the results of interrogations of Silvia DURAN and her husband in Mexico City during the period 23 to 28 November 1963.

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Document Number 559-243

for FOIA Review on JUN 1976

(Signed) Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachments - 2

Distribution:

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CI:RGROcca/dc (attachments are copies of DIR 85758 of 29 Nov. '63 and CSCL 3/279,482 of 10 Jan. '64)

2 ATTS. h/w

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201-289248
21 Feb 64

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MICROFILMED
AUG 20 1965
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TRANSLATION

Results of the Interrogation of Silvia Tirado De DURAN (Silvia DURAN), her husband, Horacio DURAN Navarro et al, Immediately Following Their Detainment on 23 November 1963.

With regard to the assassination of the President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, it was learned that Lee Harvey OSWALD had been in Mexico previously and accordingly this investigation was undertaken with the following results:

Lee Harvey OSWALD was in fact in Mexico entering through Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. On 26 September 1963 as a tourist from New Orleans and leaving through this same port of entry on 3 October 1963.

It was confirmed that he had come to Mexico to obtain a visa from the Cuban Embassy to transit Cuba enroute to Moscow.

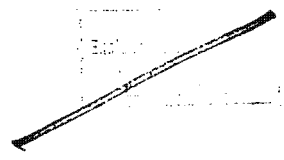
In this connection he made contact with Silvia Tirado De DURAN, Mexican, (Silvia DURAN) with whom he met on two occasions since she is the Consulate employee in charge of carrying out the necessary procedures for this type of visa and filling out the cards with data about the requester, an essential requirement to obtain a Cuban visa.

By direction from her, he contacted the Russian Consulate for the same purpose. On learning that Silvia DURAN has been one of the contacts Lee Harvey OSWALD made in Mexico, this woman and her husband, Horacio DURAN Navarro, were detained for interrogation. They made the following declarations:

1. Horacio DURAN Navarro: Mexican by birth, the son of a Chilean father and Mexican mother. He said that he is an industrial designer, having received his degree at the Escuela Nacional De Artes Plasticas. He works for U.N.A.M. receiving a salary of 1400.00 pesos monthly, 40 years old, no religion, married, address Constituyentes 143, Dept. 3, Mexico City. He lived in Los Angeles, California for the first eight years of his life coming to this capital (Mexico City) with his parents Rufino DURAN and Lidia Navarro De DURAN. Later they went to live in Santiago, Chile where they remained for one and one-half years. He returned to Mexico with his brother Ruben, his sister Lydia and his mother came later.

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ATT. 1 to: XAAZ-22759



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2. He entered the Escuela Nacional De Agricultura De Chapingo, where he studied agricultural engineering for five years and as such had practiced at the Academia De San Carlos; he chose to continue to study this art, which served as a base for specializing in industrial design which he now practices, being head of that subject at the Escuela De Artes Plasticas De La U. N. A. M., dedicating his free time to private work as a designer, for which he obtains an income of approximately 5000.00 pesos monthly.

3. In 1950 he married Lucille DEJARDIN, French, and they have one son named Paul DURAN Dejardin, who is now ten years old. The marriage lasted about six years after which he was divorced on 5 November 1958.

4. He then married his present wife Silvia DURAN by whom a child was born, a daughter named Patricia age three and one-half years. When he met his present wife she was working as a secretary at Galeria Porteo and she later began to meet other people, among them Professor Agustin Cue CANOVAS, the cultural attaches of the Cuban Embassy and others. She has served as coordinator of the Mexican-Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations, Jose MARTI, and for the last four months has worked for Consul Eusebio AZCUE and now with MIRABAL receiving a monthly salary of 1500.00 pesos. He admitted that his ideology is leftist and that he is sympathetic to the Cuban revolution giving this as a reason why he permitted his wife to engage in the activities which it promotes.

5. He stated that in talking to his wife about the assassination of President Kennedy she recognized the name of the accused Lee Harvey OSWALD and immediately said that she thought that she had dealt with the same individual who in the last days of September or first days of October had been in the Cuban Consulate requesting a visa for Cuba in transit to Russia. That she personally attended to him and gave directions regarding the visa request but indicating that it was necessary to first have a visa from the Russian Consulate and that he should send his request to the Ministerio De Relaciones De Cuba which probably would take several days. OSWALD became very annoyed and Silvia called Consul AZCUE, with whom OSWALD had a heated argument. He stated that he had

never seen or known Lee Harvey OSWALD personally and that in December 1961, he made a trip to Cuba accompanied by his wife. They paid for their own tickets.

6. Sylvia Tirado De DURAN stated she is Mexican by birth, 26 years old, married, no religion, employed, address in Dept. 3, house no. 143 Constituyentes, Mexico City; that she has been married to Horacio DURAN Navarro since 5 November 1958 and that they have a daughter named Patricia three and one-half years old; that in July or August of 1961, she was offered employment as coordinator at the Mexican-Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations, then headed by Lic. Agustin Cue CANOVAS. That since that time she had frequently visited officers of the Cuban Embassy, having personal friendship with Ambassador PORTUONDO, the cultural attaches Teresa PROENZA and Luis ALVERU as well as with other employees. Her contacts were principally with Maricarmen OLAVARRI, Secretary to Consul Eusebio AZCUE, a Spaniard and relative of AZCUE, and who received 500.00 pesos monthly.

7. In December 1961 she and her husband made a trip to Havana by plane. They paid for their own tickets, but all other expenses of their visit to all the islands were paid by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (I. C. A. P.), and the Cultural House.

8. She did not know her husband's salary since his income is very irregular - his only fixed income is from the school, 1200.00 pesos monthly. She as well as her husband have automobiles.

9. She sympathized with the Cuban movement since its beginning; that she was a coordinator of the Mexican-Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations since July or August 1961 and that she studied for the career of an English-Spanish secretary at the Escuela Bancaria. She mastered English and knows some French and is studying Philosophy. She has a leftist ideology, by conviction, and is in accord with communism, but does not belong to any political group nor has she participated in meetings or acts of this nature. That officers of the Cuban Embassy, including the Consul, have been in her home; that she knows almost all the principal leftists in Mexico without being a friend of them; that except for one visit to Brownsville, Texas, she has not been in the United States.

10. With respect to the attempt on President Kennedy, when she heard the news she became depressed and thought that the author was some maniac and when she knew that it was an element of "The Fair Play for Cuba", she did not believe it at first. During President Kennedy's visit to Mexico, she did not attend any of the functions that were held in his honor and did not otherwise participate. In talking with her husband when they learned of the assassination she said it could have been done by radicals and when Lee Harvey OSWALD entered into the discussion, she recognized him as the same person that had come to the Cuban Consulate about two months previous to request a transit visa to Russia.

11. She remembered his name because of his unusual characteristics and the circumstances of his visit i. e., he was married to a Russian and said he belonged to the "Fair Play for Cuba"; that she checked his data in the Consulate's archives and she was then sure that it was the same person. That he is blond, short, poorly dressed, that his face gets red when he talks; that he was denied a visa because the Consul told him that in order to obtain one he would first need a visa from the Russian Consulate and this procedure would take about four months and urged OSWALD to leave Mexico. OSWALD became angry and for this reason she had to call the Consul with whom he had an argument. That OSWALD was told that the aid which could be given to him was to advise him to go to the Russian Consulate. The Consul then spoke by telephone to the person in charge of that office, and was informed that the case would have to be referred to Moscow and that there would be a four month delay. That in the afternoon of the same day Lee Harvey OSWALD returned to the Cuban Consulate and that she confirmed that he would only be given a visa when he had one from the Russian Consulate giving him, on a piece of paper, her name Silvia DURAN with the office telephone number but that OSWALD was not given her address since he had no reason to have it. That it was not her place to telephone the Russian Consulate and if she did it was in an official form and to help Lee OSWALD in the interest of performing her duties. That if she gave him her telephone number it was so that he could later ask if the visa had been obtained, but he never called again.

12. It should be mentioned that in the home at which the DURANS were detained, Herodoto No. 14, Dept. "A", house of the brother-in-law of Silvia DURAN, Ruben DURAN Navarro, the persons that were visiting this home were detained; their antecedents follow:

13. Ruben DURAN Navarro stated he is originally from Los Angeles, California, married to Betty SERRATOS, 38 years old, awaiting Mexican citizenship. His job is a decorator and is employed with his brother Horacio DURAN Navarro in an office that the latter has at Veracruz Street

No. 42, Mexico City, Telephone 14-10-31. In 1960, he visited Cuba where he remained for two days and later went to Petersburg, Florida where he got a job as a decorator. Approximately one year ago, he visited an art exposition at Tokio Street, No. 63, in Mexico City. He is a friend of General Jose De Jesus Clark FLORES, for whom he has done decorating jobs in Tijuana, Lower California and with whom he went on his trip to Russia last year, staying for seven days in that country. His monthly income fluctuates between 5000.00 and 6000.00 pesos. With respect to his presence at Herodoto Street No. 14, Dept. 7, he indicated that he lived in that place with his wife. Besides the presence of Silvia Tirado De DURAN and Horacio DURAN Navarro in his home, he stated that his wife is a friend of the other persons and today they were only visiting them. He stated that he does not know Lee Harvey OSWALD, the accused assassin of the President of the United States.

14. Betty Serratos de DURAN expressed that she is originally from Honduras and has been in Mexico for ten years, having the status of a resident immigrant. She is 33 years old and has attended a secretarial course in Kentucky, U. S. A. She does not belong to any political party nor does she have leftist ideas. With respect to her presence at Herodoto St. No. 14-7, she stated that she lives there with her husband Ruben DURAN Navarro. Finally, she stated that she does not know Lee Harvey OSWALD, accused assassin of the President of the United States.

15. Lidia DURAN Navarro Vda De Flores stated she is originally from Chihuahua, Chihuahua; she is 35 years old, lives at Luz Savinon St. No. 1211-2, and works at the Tourist Department and at the Mexican Sports Confederation. She indicated she is not militant in any political party nor has any determined ideology. With respect to her presence at Herodoto St. No. 14-7, she stated that she was visiting her brother and her sister-in-law, Ruben DURAN Navarro and Betty SERRATOS, who live in that Department.

16. Agata Roseno GARCIA stated she is originally from this capital (Mexico City). Her home is at Rivera St. No. 63, Colonia Las Agullas, Mexico City, Telephone No. 48-53-53; that she studied dramatic art with Seki Sano, Luis Del Llano and Andres Soler and said she has portrayed secondary roles in the movies and acted as director of Teatro Infantil. Likewise she stated she is not militant nor has ever been in political parties nor does she have a leftist ideology. With respect to her presence at Herodoto St. No. 14-7, she stated that it is due to her friendship with Ruben DURAN Navarro and his wife Betty SERRATOS and that she visits them frequently as occurred on this date. She said she did

not know Lee Harvey OSWALD accused assassin of the President of the United States of North America.

17. Barbara Ann BLISS stated that she has been a tourist for eight years, having renewed her documentation five months ago; her home is at Bahla De Magdalena No. 125, Telephone No. 45-13-41, for which she pays a monthly rent of 1500.00 pesos. She is divorced and received 800.00 dollars monthly from a company in Washington which administers her father's estate and of which she holds the stock. She said she has been married to Juan Esquivel, Costa Rican, whose mother was Mexican and who presently resides in the United States. She lived in Cuba for three years since her father, Alonso BLISS, was the owner of a sugar plantation in Trinidad and the last time she was in Cuba was three years ago, but only in transit on a trip to Miami, Florida.

18. She stated she maintains correspondence with a Cuban who sends her information which she passes to her father. With respect to her father, she said that he has been in Mexico for two weeks, staying at the Hotel Park Villa, S. A., located at Gomez Pedraza St. No. 62, Mexico City, in which he has stayed for ten days. His home is at 2585 South Bashore Drive, Coconut Grove, Miami, Florida; he does not belong to any group nor has any relations with the Cubans.

19. Regarding her presence at Herodoto St. No. 14-7, she indicated this arose from three months ago, in the home of Carmen PINO. She met Betty SERRATOS, with whom she has a friendship and has visited in Betty's home on four other occasions even though Betty herself visits her frequently because both are interested in hearing musical records. She also stated she met Silvia Tirado De DURAN at a concert but is not her friend. Finally, she said she does not know Lee Harvey OSWALD, accused assassin of the President of the United States.

20. Charles E. BENTLEY stated he is a tourist, 27 years old, has been in the country for three months and is living at Palermo St. No. 9, Colonia Hipodromo, Mexico City, and that he is employed by Campana Ganadera De Sonora. In the United States he worked in Minneapolis as an assistant manager of business and from 1954 to 1957 served in the U. S. Navy. He indicated that he does not belong to any political party nor does he profess leftist ideas. He asserted that he does not know Lee Harvey OSWALD, accused assassin of the President of the United States and that he learned of the death from the Newspaper. He declared he does not have any connections with the Cubans and indicated that if he soon did not find employment in Mexico, he would

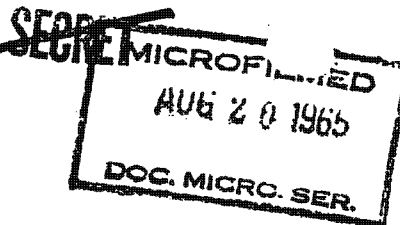
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leave the country, since the money he has and that which he has in savings in Minneapolis, is diminishing.

21. With respect to his presence at Herofoto St. No. 14-7, he indicated that he is a friend of Barbara Ann BLISS and Betty SERRATOS. Their friendship began two months ago at the Restaurante Rigus, through the "Baterista". (as in text) Tino Conteras and that was why he was visiting those people.

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TRANSLATION

RESULTS OF THE INTERROGATION OF SILVIA TIRADO DE DURAN (SILVIA DURAN) ON
THE MORNING OF 28 NOVEMBER 1963

1. She said that she knew Carlos LECHUGA Hevia who was Cuban Ambassador in Mexico and who arrived here when she was working as Coordinator in the Mexican-Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations. She became friendly with this person but she never did any personal work for him. She said that this Ambassador came to her house to visit her on the occasion of a party which she held. She considers him as a friend and she saw him frequently. She said that he came to be friendly with her husband, but that she had seen him more frequently.

2. Upon being asked if she knew Carlos SOLES, Thomas L. ROSS, Richard J. ARANDA, Harry Lee ZAFE and Ramon Danzos PALOMINO, she answered that neither did she know them nor had she heard speak of them except for the last one, whom she does not know but does know of him and of the activities to which he is dedicated. Neither does she know Patricio NORIEGA.

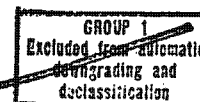
3. She said that while she was working in the aforementioned Institute, and before working as a secretary in the Consulate she went to the Cuban Embassy to help Teresa PROENZA. The help she rendered there consisted of answering the telephones and doing secondary tasks. The Cultural Attache PROENZA never assigned her any work outside the Embassy. She said that she had known PROENZA before she had been coordinator for the Institute since she was a good friend of Paul FLORES Guerrero, the husband of DURAN's sister-in-law, who died about three and a half years ago. It was through FLORES that DURAN met PROENZA. She said that the in-law referred to was a teacher and a writer.

4. She stated that she has had her present ideology for about five years, and that it is based on conviction and studies. She said she had not belonged nor does she belong to any student groups.

5. DURAN indicated she was acquainted with the Leninist Spartacus League (Liga Leninista Espartaco) but that she is not in agreement with it, and that her husband shares her opinion. They admire Jose REVUELTAS

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as a writer but not as a politician since they are in disagreement with his book entitled "The Headless Proletariat" (Proletariado sin Cabeza) in which he tries to prove the inexistence of the Mexican Communist Party (Partido Comunista Mexicano, PCM) while it is obvious that this party does indeed exist, although it is disorganized. She said that she had not belonged to this organization but that she is friendly with its leaders such as Jose REVUELTAS and the two LIZALDES.

6. She disclaimed membership in the PCM, and said she had not tried to join it because she was in disagreement with it except for its support of Cuba.

7. DURAN went on to say that her beginning salary in the Consulate was \$1,500 (Mexican pesos) per month, and she continues to receive this amount. She said she has no other income nor does she receive any overtime pay or commissions because in Cuba this is called voluntary work and is not remunerated. When she explained her problem to the Ambassador--that she had been arrested--he indicated to her that he did not believe that it would be necessary for him to intervene but he told her that he would make a protest. She said when she was arrested, the Cuban Consulate never gave her any other kind of help nor did they offer to have her go to Cuba or become a Cuban citizen because it has always been well established that she and her husband are Mexicans and they have not wanted to go to Cuba. On one occasion when it was learned that her husband was a designer, and sketched an idea for the construction of a school in Cuba, they asked him to go and do it or design it. He did not accept because he is first and foremost a Mexican.

8. She said that the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos, ICAP) is a coordinating institution wherein are concentrated the invitations made by diverse groups who pay expenses of the guests through ICAP. Those invited to Cuba by ICAP are not necessarily young people. She is grateful to that institution because she received good treatment and was very pleased when she went to Cuba. She has not kept in touch with the institution nor does she have any more to do with it. She cannot facilitate travel for other persons as she lacks contact with the Cubans.* The visas which are requested by ICAP are processed directly by the Embassy as is done with all of those invited to Cuba. This type of courtesy or special visas do not go through the Consulate. The Consulate is limited to dealing with paid visas. She has no contact with anyone in the Soviet Embassy and has been there only twice; once for the reception for TERESKOVA and GAGARIN

*Translator's footnote: The meaning of this phrase is not at all clear.

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and again for the last anniversary of the revolution of the USSR. On the latter occasion she went because the Consul did not have a car and he asked her to go with him. She stayed only 20 minutes.

9. DURAN added that she does know Maria Dolores de La MORA who must be about 27 years old and is a newspaper woman. She met her in the Cuban Embassy on the occasion of the October crisis, and she has only seen her two or three times since. DURAN described La MORA as very nice and a person with whom she struck up a mutual attraction from the moment they met. She saw her once in the Mexico-Cuba Institute and has conversed with her some. DURAN has not been to La MORA's house nor has she been to DURAN's, but they have seen one another in the Consulate. DURAN knows that La MORA belongs to an aristocratic family, is not reactionary, and that she does not go to the Embassy very much. At least, DURAN has not seen her there. According to DURAN, she is pretty.

10. DURAN stated that she knows Luisa CALDERON, the secretary to the Commercial Delegation in the Cuban Embassy who was already working there when DURAN began to work in the Consulate. CALDERON is unmarried and DURAN considers her a friend although they see one another infrequently. She is a white person, about 22 or 23 years old, and DURAN does not know exactly what her work involves. She may be First, Second or Third Secretary of the Commercial Delegation. Luisa has been to DURAN's home, and she was there on DURAN's birthday. She lives with her mother. Two weeks ago she went to Cuba because her father was ill. DURAN and Luisa went to the movies once.

11. In answer to special questions, DURAN said that only she and the Consul are in the Consulate. She said that the first time that Lee Harvey OSWALD was in the Consulate in the morning, to request information about getting to Cuba, she did not observe him very well. In the afternoon, however, when he had the argument with the Consul, she did observe him closely and is sure that he was not wearing glasses.

12. There is no red-headed negro of that description in the Embassy. Lately, no new person has arrived at the Embassy.

13. She has had no further contacts with Carlos LECHUCA by mail, by telegram or through any third person.

14. When she spoke with the Ambassador about her arrest, no insinuation was made to her that she might be taken to Cuba, and she reiterates that she knows no one from the Soviet Embassy.

15. She said the following regarding her trip to Cuba where she spent two weeks with her husband.

a. During the last days of November 1961, I went uninvited to Cuba and paid my own expenses.

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b. Upon arriving on Cubana Airlines in Habana, I went to the Hotel Victoria where I paid for my lodging. On the second day of my stay in Habana, I met Senor MAZOLA, the Director of ICAP, for whom I was carrying a letter of introduction from Ambassador PORTUONDO. In the letter he recommended my husband and me in order that we might have an invitation to stay at the Habana Riviera Hotel, which is the hotel for the guests of the ICAP, and where we took a room.

c. Three days after my arrival, my husband arrived in Habana. We had agreed to travel separately for fear of some aerial accident, in which case our family would not be left completely helpless.

d. We were invited to travel through the Oriente Province with a Brazilian lady named ANTONIA, the wife of the painter Elbio ROMERO; and an African whose name I do not know. This trip was by the direct invitation of Fernando REVUELTAS, Manager of the Prensa Latina. In Pinar del Rio we went with him to visit his daughter Albita REVUELTAS.

e. In the "House of the Americas" (Casa de las Americas) we were attended by Mrs. Maria LEYSECA and Senor Mariano RODRIGUES, a painter, after we had traveled from Habana to Santiago de Cuba by car and visited the intermediate points. We also visited Manzanillo and the School Center, "Camilo Cienfuegos", which lies at the foot of the Sierra Maestra. We were in Holguin, where we visited the people's farms, and we returned to Santiago where we boarded a passenger plane for Habana.

f. In the Capital, we visited almost all of the schools for art instructors, and we were attended by personnel of the House of the Americas, who have been mentioned.

g. The wife of the writer, Alejo CARPANTIER (correct spelling is CARPENIER), at our request, took us for a courtesy visit to Ambassador BOSQUES.

h. In Varadero, we spent a day with the poet Pablo ARMANDO Fernandez. In Pinar del Rio, at the Mines of Matahambre (Minas de Matahambre) we were in a camp of literacy teachers with Fernando REVUELTAS.

i. We made the return trip separately. My husband left on Friday, and I left on the following Monday.

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