

Agency Information

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VOLUME XXI
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TABS, NOTE, DRAFT MEMO, COURT ORDER, NEWS RELEASE

SECRET

SAC, New York (65-23422)

11/6/69

Director, FBI (65-69127)

MICHAEL JELISAVCIC, aka
ESP - R

1 - Mr. Goble
1 - Mr. McWilliams

Reference is made to Department of State telegram dated 10/29/69 from Embassy Moscow, to State Headquarters which reported subject was ordered by the Soviets on 10/29/69 to leave the USSR. Copies of referenced telegram were previously furnished to New York and Chicago.

New York should remain alert to return of subject to the United States for the purpose of interview concerning information on him previously furnished by "Sammy." Bear in mind during any forthcoming interview that the Soviets have in the past expelled individuals from the USSR to cover the fact he is a developed KGB agent. Subject should also be questioned concerning his name and phone number being in the address book of Lee Harvey Oswald.

1 - Chicago
1 - WFO (65-9483)

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OTHERWISE

3/2/99
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#20,326 MULTIPLE
Classified by SOURCE: BSA/GCL
Declassify on: OADR 12-10-84

LM:as (7)
NOTE:

Sammy, Soviet defector-in-place, advised that the 7th Department, KGB, had been mounting an operation against the subject, [redacted] in Moscow. We are desirous of interviewing subject concerning what he knows about the operation against him. It should be noted that Arsene Krappel, predecessor of subject in Moscow, was recruited by the KGB and admitted same.

CIA INFO IN "NOTE" CLASSIFIED
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11/20/69
12/2/69
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IB
per
CIA

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5601 Potomac Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
July 25, 1969

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(STATE DEPT INFO IS DECLASSIFIED
PER SHAW-CPR-ON 10/25/85)
(BRACKETED INFO CLASSIFIED AND
UPGRADED TO SECRET PER CIA)

Honorable William P. Rogers
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

DoS
REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE

ON 8-10-83 ARK

- RELEASE IN FULL
- RELEASE IN PART
- TOTAL DENIAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In winding up my affairs at the Department of State, there is a pending matter which I believe merits your attention.

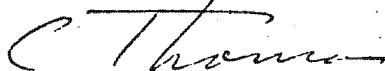
Lee Harvey Oswald, the presumed assassin of President Kennedy, was allegedly present at a party given by a Mexican communist sympathizer and attended by the Cuban Consul, a veteran intelligence officer, when he was in Mexico shortly before the assassination. There are allegations that the Mexican Government may have been aware of Oswald's presence at that party and that the Cuban Government may have tried to intimidate others who saw him there.

A careful investigation of these allegations could perhaps explain them away. Until then, however, their public disclosure could reopen the debate about the true nature of the Kennedy assassination and damage the credibility of the Warren Report.

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. Accordingly, I have prepared a memorandum (enclosed) explaining this information and its initial assessment, keyed to three memoranda of conversations with my Mexican informant.

I believe you would want to consider carefully whether to let well enough alone in this case, or whether the risks attending possible public disclosure of these allegations make further investigation warranted.

Respectfully,



Charles William Thomas

Enclosure:

Memorandum and four attachments.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9803 RDD/pel
2/17/84
CJFK

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July 25, 1969

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DISSEMINATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF INFORMATION AS SANITIZED
IN THIS DOCUMENT. GMB 8/2/99

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico

1. While serving as Political Officer in the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City from 1964 to 1967, I became quite friendly with the Mexican playwright, Elena Garro de Paz. An intelligent, witty, and outspoken woman, I found her a very useful if sometimes biased source of political gossip and personal history on significant Mexican personalities. She introduced my wife and me to many important people in Mexico. She was also particularly knowledgeable about agrarian affairs. A biographic report that I prepared on her on May 3, 1966 is attached (Tab A).
2. On one occasion, Miss Garro inadvertently mentioned to me that she had been at a party with Lee Harvey Oswald and two American companions when Oswald was in Mexico just before the Kennedy assassination. The party had been at the home of her cousin, Ruben Duran. The memorandum of that conversation, dated December 10, 1965, is attached (Tab B). I had not read the Warren Report, but I assumed that if Oswald had been to such a party in Mexico, it would have been well known to the Embassy. I also knew Miss Garro to be something of a professional anti-communist who tended to see a communist plot behind any untoward political event. However, the episode about her being escorted into hiding at an obscure hotel intrigued me. Accordingly, I decided to report the matter in writing. I gave the memorandum of conversation limited distribution within the Embassy, and did not send any copies to Washington.
3. A few days later I was called to the office of Mr. Winston Scott, who headed the Embassy's Political Research Section (CIA). Also present was Mr. Nathan Ferris, the Embassy's Legal Attache (FBI). They had noted with interest my December 10 memorandum of conversation. They pointed out that there had been a great many rumors about Oswald at the time of the assassination and that some could not be verified and others had proved false. They asked me, however, to try and get a more detailed replay of Miss Garro's story. Mr. Scott made clear that the FBI had full responsibility for any further investigations of the Oswald case.
4. In a memorandum of conversation dated December 25, 1965 (Tab C), I provided a much more detailed and accurate restatement of Miss Garro's alleged encounter with Oswald and subsequent developments. Certain errors in my original presentation were corrected. Miss Garro guessed that the date of the party at her cousin's house was in early September, 1963. She admitted that she had gone to the Embassy to report briefly about this matter on an earlier occasion.

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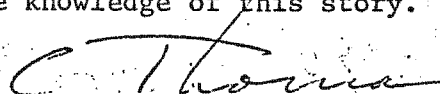
Durans after the assassination about a party which Oswald had reportedly attended, but that the transcript of the interrogation was entirely unsatisfactory by normal investigatory standards. Furthermore, the party inquired about was not the one at Ruben Duran's house, reported by Elena Garro, but at an entirely different place. This transcript may well be the source of Mr. Ferris' belief that Elena Garro's story had been checked out and found to be untrue.

10. It would appear that whereas the FBI has discounted the Elena Garro allegations, the CIA is still considerably disturbed by them. The CIA may not have pressed for further investigation, however, for a number of reasons: 1) considering the sensitive overlap and subtle competition between two intelligence collecting agencies, it had to yield to the FBI's clear jurisdiction; 2) there are obvious complications in conducting such an investigation in a foreign country; 3) there is a [redacted] relationship between the CIA Station Chief and [redacted] and 4) some of the people appearing in the Elena Garro scenario may well be agents of the CIA. Under the circumstances it is unlikely that any further investigation of this matter will ever take place unless it is ordered by a high official in Washington.

11. If all the allegations in the attached memoranda were true, they would not, in themselves, prove that there was a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. However, if they were ever made public, those who have tried to discredit the Warren Report could have a field day in speculating about their implications. The credibility of the Warren Report would be damaged all the more if it were learned that these allegations were known and never adequately investigated by the competent American authorities.

12. Reference is made again to the biographic report (Tab A) on Elena Garro. She is hardly an ordinary or average person. Her strengths and weaknesses become exaggerated precisely because she is not. It would be easy and convenient to sweep this matter under the rug by claiming that Miss Garro is an unreliable informant since she is emotional, opinionated, and "artistic." I have been affected at times by that temptation, myself. No American official, however, knows her better than I do. On the basis of the facts that I have presented, I believe that, on balance, the matter warrants further investigation.

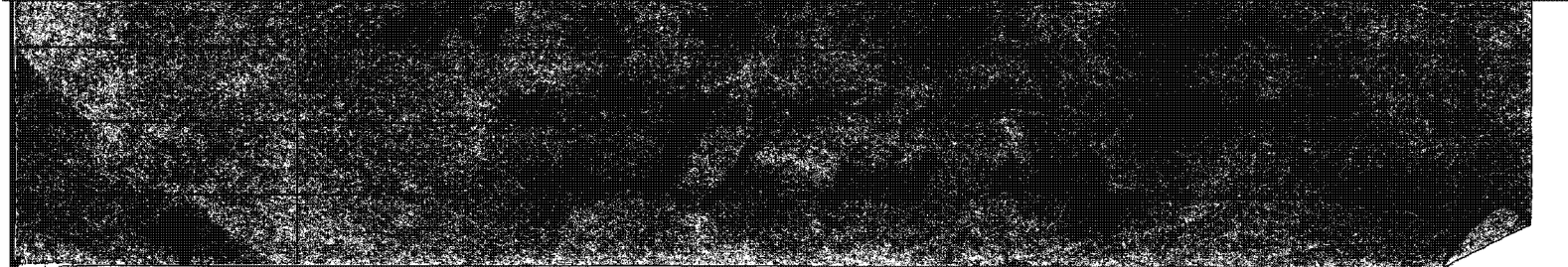
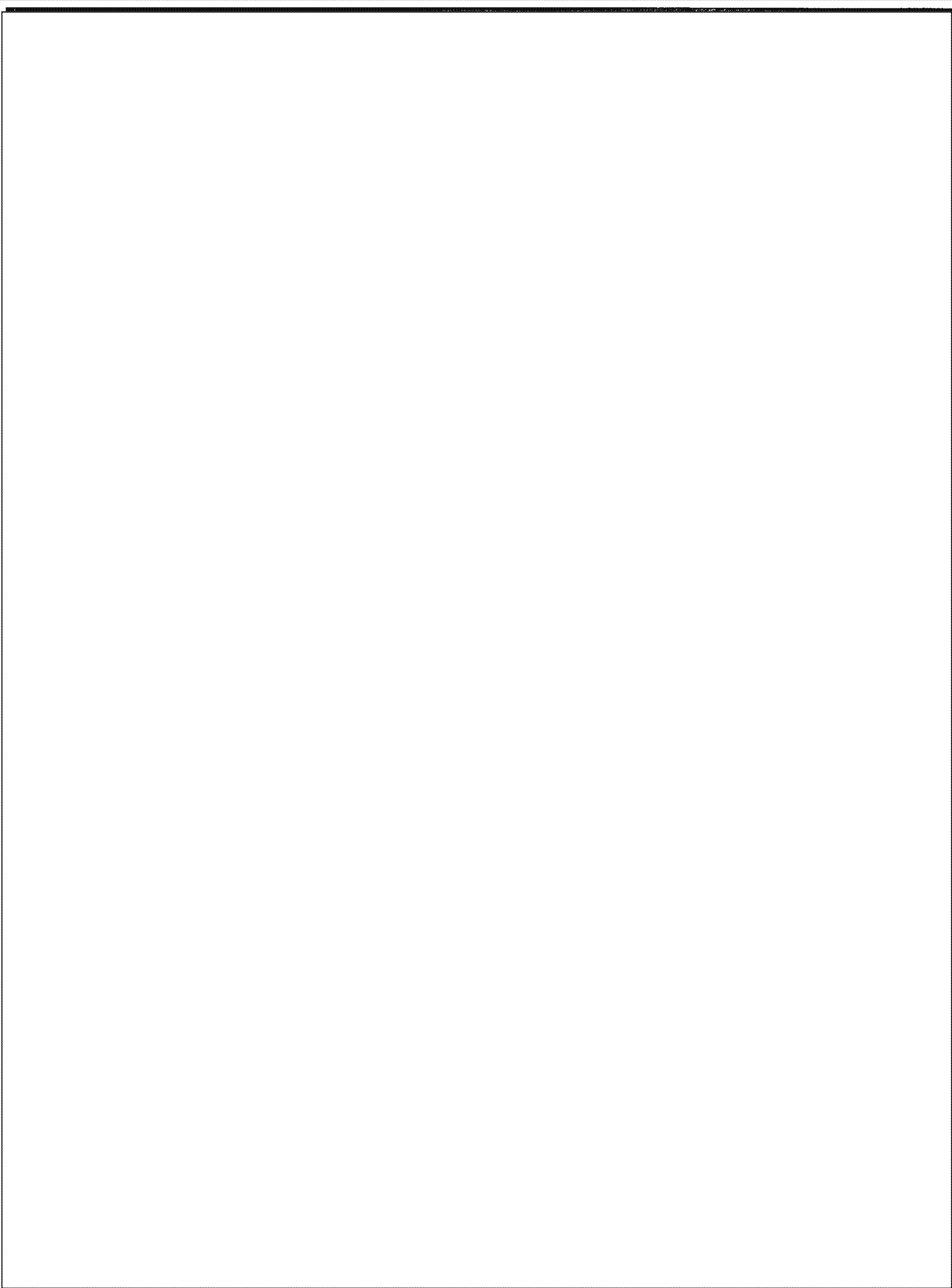
13. Finally, the record should show that a representative of a major American publication has at least some knowledge of this story.



Charles William Thomas
July 25, 1969

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SECRET



1/8/68 PD N.O. 110-282 Bunday
arrested for armed robbery. Affidavit
refused by Dist. Atty.

SECRET

DIRECTOR, FBI

7/15/69

SAC, WFO (62-G-19290)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

SAMUEL P. BERZON

MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING;
IS - ISRAEL

2/22/99
CLASSIFIED BY Sdo8-sls/rude
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
JFA

ReWFOlet to Bureau dated 1/7/63, under first character above, no copy MF, which enclosed a copy of a letter dated 12/8/62, from subject to INS and in which he indicated he had attended the U.S. Naval Academy. A copy of subject's letter is enclosed for the information of MF.

For the additional information of the Bureau and MF, on 7/10/69, [WF 56*-S* reported] that SAMUEL P. BERZON (sp), [S] contacted the Embassy of Israel, [from Minnesota,] exact [S] location not obtained by informant, at which time he inquired of [Miss PNINA POLLACK, a secretary at the Embassy,] [S] as to the status of a letter he had written to the Embassy a few weeks ago. [POLLACK] asked as to the nature of the contents of the letter and subject said he did not care to discuss its contents over the telephone. However, he did state he has quite a military background in the U.S.; has not been able to get clearance to serve [in the Israeli] [S] Defense Forces, [since he might lose his citizenship, but] [S] thought [the Israelis] might find something suitable for him. [S] He mentioned that his letter also contains "many things of a political nature", which he thought [the Israelis] should [S] know about; that he had been [to the Embassy] a couple of [S] years ago; that he could not go [to Israel] then and that he [S] could not reveal the reason why, but that he told all about this in the letter.

According to informant, [POLLACK] did not give subject [S] an affirmative answer as to the status of his letter, or as to what action would be taken in the matter.

- ③ - Bureau
 - (1 - [105-10822] (EMBASSY OF ISRAEL)) [S]
 - 2 - Minneapolis (Enc. 1) (RM)
 - 2 - WFO
 - (1 - [105-524] (EMBASSY OF ISRAEL)) [S]

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CAK:nsr
(7)

SECRET

WFO 62-0-19290

If information from [WF 568-S*] is disseminated, [S] it should be classified "Secret - No Foreign Dissemination" and should be suitably paraphrased, since it contains information furnished by [a sensitive source in the Israeli field.] [S] In the event MF prepares a communication which may subsequently be disseminated and which includes information from [WF 568-S*], the cover communication should explicitly [S] state that the LHM, or report, contains information which should be designated [SCOPE]. The Bureau will stamp the [S] document prior to dissemination.

Since there is no indication that subject is presently in the Armed Services, it being noted that in his letter to INS, above, he furnished his employment as Vitro Laboratories, Silver Spring, Md., and the fact that his exact location is unknown, no recommendation is being made to further identify subject. However, MF should search its indices on subject and furnish the Bureau and WFO the results thereof. It is further requested that MF designate a copy of its reply to the Bureau and WFO files on [the Embassy of Israel.] [S]

SECRET