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As Redacted

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

142-10081

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 leter telephoned her at the Consulate number that she gave him.* [redacted]
705

The Central Intelligence Agency had relied on Duran's statements but had delted Duran's description of Oswald as blonde and short. 706 ([redacted]) 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 ([redacted]) [redacted]

[redacted] its [redacted] to [redacted] problems [redacted] out of the [redacted]

Had the statements been included, the Warren Commission's Conclusions would not have seemed as strong. [redacted],

The Warren Commission Staff was not completely satisified 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 ([redacted]) On June 6, 1978, representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations interviewed Ms. Duran in Mexico City.

VI. Information not available at the time of the Warren Commission INVESTIGATION

A. Silvia ~~Duran~~ TIRADO (NEE DURAN)

1. House Select Committee on Assassinations 6/6/78 Interview of Silvia Tirado

[redacted]

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 Triado 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:

DO NOT INDENT

> 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)~~

Oswald returned at approximately 1:00 p.m. with four photographs.[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.[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] (~~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.[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] (~~Ibid., p. 532-533.~~) The American would then come to Mexico, visit the Cuban Consulate, and receive his visa immediately.[720] (~~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.[721] (~~Ibid., p. 532.~~)

Do Not Tribunal

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 Russian Consulate.* 727 ~~(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

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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. [illegible].~~) 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.~~)

Ed. Can you highlight the [illegible] if any between this statement and other [illegible] Onc(s).

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]

FN

what did [the tap] actually confirm?

received a call from Silvia Duran. 740 ibid A telephone tap on [LIRING/3's] telephone confirmed that the ~~call~~ Duran had ~~been~~ called [Liring] * 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 had (is) 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 (had) 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~~ Raymond Rocca 750 notes: "Why didn't Mexi police give us all info?" (~~WK 7241, entry no. 613~~.)

That the Mexican government did not disclose all the information in ~~their~~ its possession to ~~the Central Intelligence Agency~~ American Authorities raises one of two possibilities:

1) the Mexican government did not want to disclose that one of ~~their~~ its 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 ~~their~~ its 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

agent for either the Americans, Mexicans or Cubans.

(1) was Silvia Duran an agent, for Mexican or American intelligence?

In an effort to resolve this question, the House Select Committee reviewed the United States investigative agencies' files on Silvia Duran. 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. Mr. Phillips stated that "at one time the agency pitched almost everyone at the Cuban Embassy." (~~Phillips Interview, 8/3/78, p.~~ 8. ~~"Pitched" is a term used by the CIA to designate an attempt to recruit an individual.~~) Mr. Phillips stated that he had first heard ~~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." (Ibid.) Mr. Phillips had previously mentioned the CIA Mexico City Station's interest in recruiting a former Cuban Ambassador to Mexico named Luchuga. Mr. Phillips was shown a memorandum written by W. David Slawson of the Warren Commission staff regarding ~~his~~ trip to Mexico

which said:

> Mr. Scott's (Chief of the CIA Station in Mexico City) narrative disclosed that the CIA's action immediately after the assassination consisted basically of alerting all its confidential sources of information throughout Mexico to immediately channel all information into their headquarters, and of compiling as complete dossiers as possible on Oswlad and everyone else throughout Mexico who at that time the CIA knew had had some contact with Oswald.... This meant especially Silvia Duran, who because she had previously been having an affair with Lechuga, the former Cuban Ambassador to Mexico and presently the Cuban representative at the United Nations, had previously been of substantial interest to the CIA.... # 758

(~~Memorandum for the Record re Trip to Mexico City, from W. David Slawson, 4/22/64, pp. 22-23. Emphasis added.~~)

Mr. Phillips was surprised by this and stated that "No one let me in on this operation." 759 # ~~(Phillips [illegible] 8/3/78, p. 8.~~) But Mr. Phillips added that he doubted that Duran would have been pitched because the Station could not identify any of her weaknesses. The Committee staff members then told Mr. Phillips about the reporting on file concerning ~~about~~ Ms. Duran, from [one of the Station's penetration agents, LITAMIL/9, 760 #] at the the Cuban Embassy. At one point [LITAMIL/9 had reported [to his case officer] that all that would have to be done to recruit Ms. Duran was to get a blonde, blue-eyed American in bed with her. 761 # ( ) With this, Mr. Phillips said that it did indeed sound as if [the Station had targeted Ms. Duran for recruitment, that the Station's interest had been substantial, and that]

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" (personality) file available for review.[769] The CIA informed the Committee that there was no "P" file available on Ms. Duran.[770] ~~An explanation of why there is no availbale "P" file was requested from the CIA on~~ ~~(Add CIA response when we get it.)~~

Another CIA employee, [redacted] 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

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.)

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 possiblity 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 citizen, was the Cuban Consul.[779] 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" to another room by one of her cousins.[808] (~~Ibid.~~) The memo does not state whether Elena had mentioned which cousin had not allowed her to speak to the Americans. 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[813] Central Intelligence Agency asset known by the cryptonym [redacted] whom the Committee identified as June Cobb Sharp while ~~receiving~~ reviewing [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.[814] ([redacted],

~~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. 818 ~~(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 [redacted] never regained contact with Elena Garro de Paz. CAPS 820 ~~(Wx7241, p. 94, Entry #430, CIA #721; Blind Memo dated 10/5/64, CIA #576.~~)

The [redacted] memo was not inserted in either the Elena Garro or Lee Harvey Oswald "p" (personality) file 821 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 ~~Anne Good-pasture~~ Raymond Rocca for the CIA in 19~~76~~67.) The memo was found in December, 1965 822 ~~(See Wx 7241, p. 94, CIA #721.~~), Stanley Watson, ~~found the memo~~. A marginal notation on Wx7241

823

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 ~~the~~ her 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 the story to Ms. Odio ~~what Elena had told her~~) who relayed it to [redacted] ~~was Henry P. Lopez's cryptonym.~~] Mr. [redacted]] ~~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.~~ ([redacted], ~~CIA #596~~, [redacted]4.)

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, ~~not at~~ as opposed to Ruben Duran's; and that Elena talked to a Cuban Embassy official, ~~not one~~ instead of her

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.[826] The file indications show that the memo went into the Oswald "P" file and the Elena Garro "P" file.[827] (Ibid.)

3.~~B~~ November 24, 1964 CIA Informant Report

On November 24, 1964 a Central Intelligence Agency ~~informant~~ Agent[828] (~~the House Select Committee has been unable~~ to determine the ~~informant's~~ agent's ~~identity since his name does not appear in any CIA files~~) reported information[829] ~~(memo 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.~~ who ~~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 ~~informant~~ agent asserted that June Cobb was an "American Communist" who rented a room from Elena Garro.[831] ~~(Memo from Winston Scott to the files,~~

~~no June Cobb, 11/25/64, CIA Nos. 592-593, Wx 7241, p. 87, Entry #404, CIA No. 715.~~) The ~~informant 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 Horacio 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 the chief of station ~~ever complied~~ followed through with ~~this~~ the request.[834] (~~HSCA Review of Classified CIA Documents~~.)

4. November 24, 1964 Elena GARRO ~~Meeting~~ with Mexico City Legal Attache Officers

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 1964.[836] ~~The~~ Elena gave the date of the party ~~was given~~ as September 30, October 1 or October 2, 1963.[837] (~~FBI 105-8255 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.[840] (FBI 103-825555 Report, December 11, 1964 entitled Lee Harvey Oswald, p. 1)[840] [redacted]

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.[841] Elena stated that in the course of the party her daughter met a young man named "Alejandro" at the party and danced with him.[842] He was apparently quite smitten with the daughter and tried to call her on several occasions after the party.[843] ~~(Ibid., p.~~ 3) The daughter did not take the calls and as a result "Alejandro" wrote several letters to the daughter.[844] ~~(Ibid., p. 3.)~~ Ms. Garro exhibited two of the letters, as well as a business card which identified the young man as Ario Alejandro Lavagnini Stenius.[845] ~~(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.[846] When this was pointed out to Ms. Garro, ~~was told this~~ she

commented that the Communists probably had facilities for falsifying post~~card~~ MARKS. 847 (~~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. 848 (~~Ibid., p. 4.~~) Lavagnini recalled that there were approximately thirty people at ~~the~~ Ruben Duran's party, few of whom he knew. 849 He recalled having met a Mexican girl who had recently returned from living in France. 850 He was unable to fix the date of the party, but felt it was porbably early in September because of a heavy rain which occurred as they were leaving the party about 2:00 a.m. 851 (~~Ibid., p. 4.~~)

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. 853 (~~Ibid.~~, ~~p. 4.~~) 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~~ IN 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, 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[856] but she mentioned knowing Oswald.[857] Thomas noted that she was reluctant to talk but did.[858] (~~Ibid.~~)

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 Durans), and a Latin American Negro man with red hair (unidentified) were at the party.[859] A marginal comment by this entry in WX-7241 says, "How did Elena know about a red-haired Negro?"[860] 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 Sivlia 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,]

863 (~~See Section VI, 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. 864 (~~CIA #586-587, Wx7241, Entry No. 425, p. 91, CIA No. 718~~) According to Elena That same day, a friend, Manuel Calvillo, whom the Garro's thought to be an official in the Gobernacion, took her and her daughter to a small hotel in the center of Mexico City. 865 ~~(Ibid.)~~ Calvillo ~~They were~~ kept Elena Garro and her daughter there for eight days under the pretext that they were in danger of bad harms ~~from Communists~~. 866 (~~Ibid.~~) Elena claimed ~~to have~~ she told Calvillo ~~that she wanted to tell~~ her story and that she wanted to tell it to the American Authorities at the U.S. Embassy. 867 (~~Ibid.~~) Calvillo dissuaded her by telling her that the American Embassy was full of Communist spies. 868 (~~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. 869 ~~(Ibid.; the House Select Committee was unable to determine the veracity of Ms. Paz' allegation.~~ ~~See HSCA Investigation of Elena Garro 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 #586-587, Wx-7241, Entry No. 425, p. 91, 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] (~~Ibid.~~; the House Select Committee on Assassinations has not been able to determine whether Ruben actually spoke to Elena about the assassination. ~~See HSCA Investigation of Elena Garro de~~ Paz' Allegations.) ~~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 on the memo, "Suggest sending. There have been stories around town about all this, and Thomas is

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?" 875 ~~(CIA No. 588, note from SW to COS.~~)

The Mexico City Station called the information in Thomas' 12/10/65 memorandum of conversation to CIA Headquarters. 876 (~~Cable from Mexico City to the Director, MEXI 5621, date cut 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." 877 ~~(Ibid.~~) Winston Scott wrote, next to the routing indications on the cable, "Please ask Charles Thomas if he'll 'follow up.' Get questions from Anna G. 878 ~~(Anna Goodpasture~~). Please let's discuss. Thanks." (879 ~~Ibid.~~)

After the December 10 memorandum of conversation, Winston Scott (880 C~~hief/Station~~) and Nathan Ferris (881 ~~Successor to Clark Anderson as Legal Attache in Mexico~~) called Charles Thomas for a meeting. 882 They asked him to get a more detailed account of Ms. Garro's story. 883 At this meeting, Winston Scott made it clear that the FBI had full responsibility for any further investigation in the Oswald case. 884 (~~State Department: letter from Charles Thomas to William P. Rogers, July 05, 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.)~~

Elena admitted that she had spoken to two men at the Embassy, "presumably from the Legal Attache's Office." 886 (~~Ibid. The meeting~~ which meeting with the ~~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~~ had been 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 ~~the~~ this interview because the calendar was in a desk that had been stored away. 892 ~~(Ibid.)~~

Eddie: Can we make [illegible] the [illegible] differences in these stories?

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 "and stared a lot at the floor." 895 ~~(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 Ctark 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, stet Rosario Castellanos, were supposed to be at the party but did not attend. 901 ~~(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

came to the conclusion that the only solution was to kill him." (KENNEDY) 903 904 (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' allegations.~~) Eusebio Azcue stated that ~~the~~ this conversation ~~did~~ NEVER 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 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. 910 (~~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 ~~on November 23, 1963.~~ at that time 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 ~~it~~ her story, which she related to Calvillo, to the American Embassy. however, Calvillo dissuaded her by ~~stating~~ saying 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

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. 580-583; Wx 7241, Entry #427, p. 92 CIA #719.)~~ 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, 928 a "pro-Castro journalist." 929 ~~(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.) Specific page

During ~~these~~ Thomas conversations with Elena, ~~Elena~~ she also said that she "understood" that Oswald had been in Mexico more than once. 930 ~~(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 this be a separate section [illegible] Thomas 12/25 [illegible] 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 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.~~)

~~The State Department~~ Thomas forwarded (the same day) a copy of the ~~Charles Thomas~~ his 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 #710.~~)[936] The Mexico City Station sent the memo to Headquarters on December 16, 1965, ~~[illegible], WX 7241, reporting that~~ reporting that ~~they~~ it was "following up" and would call the results.[937]

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 information 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~~

tell us what

~~below.) Winston Scott superimposed a note to Anne Goodpasture on this memo which read, "Can we send in a report to Headquarters 'dismissing' our cable?" Goodpasture responded, "Done." (Memo to the Ambassador from the Legal 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. ...)~~ which reported that station was investigating Garro's story with Lionson [LICHANT + other sources]

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~~ developed.[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

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 Win Scott wrote, "She is also 'nuts.'" 949

CIA Investigation of Elena's Allegation that She Created a Disturbance at the Cuban 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 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.)

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

There is no indication that the penetration agents in the Cuban Embassy were queried about Elena's allegation. 952 That there are no pictures is reasonsable 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;[953] (SEE SECTION II, A, 3, 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 Summary 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 allegations had not been substantiated by FBI.[956] ~~(Ibid.)~~ The Legal Attache forwarded a copy of this memo to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station. ~~(The House Select Committee on Assassinations has been unable to determine when the copy was forwarded to the CIA.)~~ A marginal comment made by ~~Anne Goodpasture~~ Raymond Rocca next to this entry in WX-7241 says, "How can it be ascertained that

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, 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.)~~ 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. The memo said, "The above individual may or may not be identifical with Elena Garro de Paz." 961 ~~(Ibid.)~~

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

corroborates Elena Garro's presence at the Hotel Vermont. 962 241

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. 08, CIA #325.)~~

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 United States Foreign Service. ~~(The "selected out" is a phrase used when an officer is retired 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 December 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 Oswald 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 detailed 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 December 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] ([redacted]) In

~~their~~ its 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. 972 (~~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 in 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. 975 ~~(Ibid.)~~

The Legal Attache's ~~Officer'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, 9/30/69, 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, ~~whom 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

Agency's [redacted] [LIRING/3] 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], was June Cobb Sharp.[979] who first reported to the CIA Elena's allegation. (Supra, p. 4.) The Committee 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~~ arranged interviews in Mexico with Ruben Duran, Horatio Duran, Elena and Elenita Garro, Silvia Duran, Lynn Duran, Emilio Carbillido and Betty Serratos.[982] 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 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

type and therefore did not attend any of the twist parties at the Duran homes.[987] (~~See" HSCA Interview of Betty Berlatos, 6/6/78, p. 6, JFK Document No. ;~~ ~~HSCA Staff Interview of Lydia Duran, 6/5/78, p. 6, JFK Document No. ; HSCA Document No. ; HSCA Staff Interview of Horatio Duran Navarro, 6/5/78, p. 25, JFK Document No.~~) 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.~~) All the Durans denied that Lee Harvey Oswald had attended any party at one of their homes.[989] (String cites.)

The Committee next asked the Central Intelligence Agency to arrange ~~[illegible]~~ interviews with [redacted] (Manuel Calvillo), [redacted] (June Cobb), ~~along with a list of others~~ who may have had information related to Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City.[990] (~~[illegible]~~) The Central Intelligence Agency declined to aid the Committee in this aspect of the investigation.[991]

The Commitee returned to Mexico City on August 7, 1978 and attempted to locate June Cobb Sharp and Manuel Calvillo ON ~~ON THEIR OWN~~ ITS OWN.[992] (~~See Procedural Write up Trip 2 Mexico City.~~) ~~The results of the~~

~~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 Lardeo. 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 Writeup Trip 2 Mexico City~~.)

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

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

Don't Index

said that no Manuel Calvillo had ever resided 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~~.)

The Committee ~~is certain~~ believes that there is a possibility that Mr. Calvillo lived at this address since it acquired the address from a recent CIA document. 997 (~~CIA Report, 1976, Manuel Calvillo file, 201-~~)

The Committee believes that there is a possibility that ~~the Mexican government received orders from the Central Intelligence Agency~~ a U.S. Gov't agent requested the Mexican government to refrain from aiding the Committee with this aspect of its work. 998 (See Procedural Write-up Trip 2 Mexico City. 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 INQUIRED ~~asked~~ about Elena's ~~her~~ whereabouts. 999 (~~HSCA Staff Contact Report, 7/7/78, JFK Document No. 10016~~) The publisher stated that Ms. Garro was living in the Hotel S.A.C.E. in Madrid, Spain. 1000 (~~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. 1001 (~~Ibid.~~) (~~HSCA Staff Contact Report, 7/7/78, JFK Document No.~~) On July 14, 1978 the 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 destitute ~~poor~~.[1004] ~~(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.~~staffer~~.[1007] When ~~the staffer~~ It was 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 ~~staffer~~ Committee was ~~who~~ what ~~he~~ it claimed to be.[1008] ~~(HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/5/78, JFK Document No.~~) The ~~staffer~~ Committee asked Ms. Garro to call back collect in the next few days when ~~he~~ It could explain

to her when and where she could receive a Committee letter delineating why the Committee wished to interview her.[1009] ~~(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 ~~staffer~~ and asked when the letter would arrive.[1011] ~~(HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/7/78, JFK Document No.)~~ The Committee ~~staffer~~ explained that ~~the letter~~ she could ~~be gotten~~ pick up the letter 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 suggestions.[1013] ~~(Ibid.)~~

Ms. Garro never went to the American Embassy in Spain to ~~get~~ pick up 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 ~~get~~ pick up the tickets at the airport.[1016] ~~(HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/15/78, JFK Document No.)~~ The Committee was not contacted or been able to regain

~~by~~ WITH 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 who 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

claimed to have known 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. II4, 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 (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 in New Orleans.[1028] ~~(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 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, HMMW 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 ~~they~~ it 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 reported that Contreras was a reporter for El Sol[1039] (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.[1040] ~~the Mexico City police.~~ (1040) ~~(Cable from Mexico City to the Director, MEXI 1950, 6/29/67; WX-7241, entry #622, p. 118, #745.)~~

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

~~asked to identify 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 inquires 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 #74~~6) Headquarters suggested that the FBI handled the story.[1048] ~~(Ibid.)~~ The following day, July 5, 1967, the Mexico City Station

cabled that it preferred turning Contreras' case over to the Mexican authorities and to the F.B.I.[1049] ~~(Cable from Mexico City to the Director, 7/5/67, MEXI 1991; WX 7241, Entry 627, p. 119, CIA #746.)~~ Headquarters ~~suggested that the F.B.I. handle the story. (Ibid.)~~ ~~The following day, July 5, 1967, the Mexico City Station cabled that it preferred turning Contreras' case over to the Mexican authorities and the F.B.I. (Cable from Mexico City to the Director, 7/5/67, MEXI 1991; WX 7241, Entry 627, p. 119, CIA #746.)~~ The same day, the Chief of Station informed the Legat of Contreras' story, but asked him not to take any action without ~~previously~~ first consulting the Mexico City Station.[1050] ~~(Memo to Legat, 7/5/67 from Chief of Station; WX 72X1, entry 628, p. 119, CIA #746.)~~

On July 10, 1967, [redacted] wrote a memo delineating the results of a Mexican government review of Oscar Contreras' file.[1051] (~~Memo from~~ [redacted] ~~re Oscar Contreras, 7/10/67, WX 7241, Entry #634, p. 120, CIA #747.)~~ According to the memo, a lone Oscar Contreras appeared in the UNAM law school records, Oscar Contreras Lartigue, ~~dob~~ born 2/14/39 in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas.[1052] (~~Ibid.~~) The memo also reported that a newspaper article appearing in "Excelsior" listed an Oscar Contreras as a signer of a protest for the Bloque Estudiantil Revolucionario[1053] which had been formed mid-1961.[1054] (~~Ibid.~~) (The

~~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 Baissadel, Vicente Lvillamas, Rubillo Fernandez Dorado and Jesus .)~~ 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, 7/11/67; 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

~~DK~~ 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 Nonetheless, the Agency's Mexico City station interviewed the key witness ~~handled the matter expeditiously~~, reviewed pertinent records files, and reported all the information to Headquarters expeditiously about the witness in the Mexican government possession