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October 12, 1964 CIA Memo for the Record

Box 2
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On October 12, 1964 the Chief of Covert Action, Jim Flannery, wrote a memo for the record reporting that Elena Garro de Paz had told her story to Eunice Odio. (The Committee has not been able to determine if Elena Garro told Ms. Odio the story personally or if Ms. Cobb related to Ms. Odio what Elena had told her) who relayed it to "Tichborn" [redacted] Mr. Lopez was a witting asset 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. [10/12/64 memo, CIA #596; Wx7241, p. 87, CIA #714]

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: The party was at the Cuban Embassy, not at Ruben Duran's; Elena talked to a Cuban

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The day after the party, Elena and Deba saw the three Americans on the Insurgent a main avenue in Mexico City./ (Ibid.) The Garros claimed that they had recognized Oswald's photograph when it was published after the assassination. (Ibid.) Sylvia Duran's arrest "underlined the Garros' certainty" that the m n had been Lee Harvey Oswald. (Ibid.)

Deba added that Lynn and one of the Duran brothers had made trips to Texas. (Ibid.) She added that, even though the Duran brothers had always been poor before the assassination, they were both driving expensive new cars. (Ibid.)

The source of the memo was a witting Central Intelligence Agency asset known by the cryptonym LICOOKIE I whom the Committee identified as [redacted] while receiving LICOOKIE's 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 Eunice Odio. (CIA No's 580-583; WX-7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #719) Ms. Garro asserted that while at her house, Ms. Cobb expressed interest in the Kennedy assassination./ (Ibid.) One night Elena's sister Deba, who was visiting, got drunk and told the whole story. (Ibid.) Claiming to be a CIA agent, Cobb suggested that Elena and Deba go to Texas to tell their story. (Ibid.) Elena stated that when Cobb's suggestion was rejected, Cobb stated that she would arrange a meet-

ing with the CIA Station Chief. (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. (CIA No's 580-583; Wx7241, Entry #427, p. 42, CIA #719). A notation on the memo says that L/1 (Licookie I) never regained contact with Elena Garro de Paz. (Wx7241, p. 94, Entry #430, CIA #721; Blind Memo dated 10/5/64, CIA #576).

The LiCookie memo was not inserted in either the Elena Garro or Lee Harvey Oswald "p" (personality) files 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 Goodpasture for the CIA in 1976). The memo was found in December, 1965. (See Wx 7241, p. 94, CIA #721). Stanley Watson found the memo. A marginal notation on Wx7241 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.

Embassy official, not one of her cousins about the three Americans.

Attached to the memo was a note from Flannery 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. The file indications show that the memo went into the Oswald "P" file and the Elena Garro "P" file. (Ibid.)

November 24, 1964 CIA Informant Report

On November 24, 1964 a Central Intelligence Agency informant (The House Select Committee has been unable to determine the informant's identity) reported information (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) he had learned from "LICHANT/1. (While reviewing LICHANT I's file the Committee determined that the [redacted] 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 asserted that June Cobb was an "American Communist" who rented a room from Elena Garro. (Memo from Winston Scott to the files, re June Cobb, 11/25/64, CIA Nos. 592-593, Wx 7241, p. 88, 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 also told her story to an American official, at the Embassy, who claimed to represent the Warren Commission. (Ibid.) The Chief of Station noted that he had asked the informant to pursue the story (Ibid.) but there is no indication that LICHANT I ever complied with this request. (HSCA Review of Classified CIA Documents.)

November 24, 1964 Elena Meeting with Mexico City Legal Attache Officers

Elena and her daughter also told their story to the Mexico City Legal Attache. (The Legal Attache in 1964 was Clark Anderson.) They recounted the same story previously given to LICOOKIE I. The date of the party was given as September 30, October 1 or October 2, 1963. (FBI 105-825555 Report, Dec. 11, 1964 entitled Lee Harvey Oswald, p. 1) The agent who wrote the report (

) 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. (FBI 103-825555 Report, Dec. 11, 1964 entitled Lee Harvey Oswald, p. 1) FBI investigation of President Kennedy's assassination had established that Lee Harvey Oswald had departed Mexico

City by bus at 8:30 a.m. on Octber 2, 1963 when Ms. Paz stated that she saw Lee Harvey Oswald walking on Insurgentes. (Ibid. p.3)

Elena was questioned regarding the identity of ther persons attending the party at the Ruben Duran home who might have been in a position to observe the three Americans. Elena stated that in the course of the party her daughter met a young man named "Alejandro" at the party and danced with him. (Ibid. p.3)/ The daughter did not take the calls and as a result "Alejandro" wrote several letters to the daughter./ (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. (Ibid. p. 3)

He was apparently quite smitten with the daughter and tried to call her on several occasions after the party. (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 September 2, 1963. When Ms. Garro was told this she commented that the Communists probably had facilities for falsifying postcards. (Ibid.)

To investigate Ms. Garro's story further, the Federal Bureau interviewed Ario Alejandro Lavagnini Stenius on November 27, 1964. (Ibid. p.4) Lavagnini recalled that there were approximately thirty people at the Ruban Duran party, few of whom he knew. He recalled having met a Mexi-

can girl who had recently returned from living in France. He was unable to fix the date of the party, but felt it was probably early in September because of a heavy rain which occurred as they were leaving the party about 2:00 a.m. (Ibid. p. 4)

Lavagnini noted no Americans present at this party. He was familiar with the appearance 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. (Ibid. p. 4) Levagnini was the only person interviewed by the FBI who attended parties at the Duran house in the September-October time frame.

There is no indication on the document that this information was given to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station.

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. (CIA #586-587, WX-7241 Entry No. 425, p. 91, CIA No. 718.) The meeting with Elena had been about other matters but she mentioned knowing Oswald. Thomas noted that she was reluctant to talk but did. (Ibid.)

Elena's story reported here is the same, but with more details, as that given in the Licookie memo dated

10/5/64. She said that General Jose Jesus Clark Flores (a friend of Rubin Duran's), Silvia Duran, Esuebio Azcue (Cuban Consul in Mexico City), Emilio Carballido (a pro-Communist writer-friend of the Durans), and a Latin American Negro man with red hair (unidentified) were at the party. A marginal comment by this entry in WX-7241 says, "How did Elena know about a red-haired Negro?" Elena also told Thomas that she had later learned that Silvia Duran had been "Oswald's mistress while he was there." (A note by this entry in WX-7241 says, "How did Elena Garro know about Silvia being the mistress of Oswald?? This is 1965.") The Mexico City Station did not hear about the Oswald-Duran "affair" until July 1967 when a CIA Asset Liring/3 reported it. /After reviewing LIRING/3 /file at the CIA the House Select Committee on Assassinations has been unable to determine who LIRING/3 was associated with that had knowledge about Sylvia 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. (CIA #586-587, Wx7241, Entry No. 425, p. 91, CIA No. 718) That same day a friend, Manuel Calvillo, an official in the Gobernacion, took her and her daughter to a small hotel in the center of Mexico City. (Ibid.) They were kept

there for eight days under the pretext that they were in danger. (Ibid.) Elena claimed to have told Calvillo that she wanted to tell her story to the American Embassy. (Ibid.) Calvillo dissuaded her by telling her that the American Embassy was full of Communist spies. (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. /Ibid; The House Select Committee was unable to determine the veracity of Ms. Paz' allegation./ She said that Ruben Duran, reportedly "protected" by General Clark Flores, was very prosperous and was driving a big car. /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. (Ibid; the House Select Committee on Assassinations has not been able to determine whether Ruben actually spoke to Elena about the assassination. Ruben Duran claims he had no reason to./

Charles Thomas circulated a copy of the Charles Thomas memorandum 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. /The House Select Committee has determined that the Central Intelligence Agency received the copy of the Thomas

memorandum prior to December 25, 1965. See below.] The COS wrote a note on the memo: "What an imagination she has!?! Should we send to Headquarters?" The Officer replied, "Suggest sending. There have been stories around town about all this, and Thomas is not only person she has talked to...If memory serves me, didn't LICOOKIE refer to Oswald and the local leftists and Cubans in one of her squibs?" (CIA No. 588, note from SW to COS.)

The Mexico City Station called the information in Thomas' 12/10/65 memorandum of conversations to CIA Headquarters (Cable from Mexico City to the Director, Mexi 5621, date out 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." (Ibid.) Winston Scott wrote, next to the routing indications on the cable, "Please ask Charles Thomas if he'll 'follow up.' Get questions from Anne G. [Anne Goodpasture] Please let's discuss. Thanks." (Ibid.)

After the December 10 memorandum of conversations, Winston Scott (Chief/Station) and Nathan Ferris (Legal Attache) called Charles Thomas for a meeting. They asked him to get a more detailed replay of Ms. Garro's story. At this meeting Winston Scott made it clear that the FBI had full responsibility for any further investigation in the Oswald case. (State Dept: letter from Charles Thomas

mately two months after the assassination two "Communists" personally warned her never to reveal that she had been to a party with Oswald. (Ibid.) Deba, consequently, would not accompany Elena to the American Embassy to tell her story on November 24, 1964. (Ibid.)

Elena said that a few days after the assassination Emilio Carballido took the Durans to Jalapa, Varacruz and "kept them out of the way until the initial shock of the assassination wore off." (Ibid.) The House Select Committee has been unable to confirm Ms. Garro's allegation."

Elena also alleged that shortly after the assassination an American named June Cobb spent several days in her house. (Ibid.) She said that Ms. Cobb had been sent to Elena by a mutual friend, Eunice Odio. (Ibid.) Elena claims that while Ms. Cobb was at her house she expressed an interest in the Kennedy assassination. (Ibid.) Deba, visiting Elena one night, got drunk and told Ms. Cobb the entire story. (Ibid.) Ms. Cobb wanted them to go to the American authorities. (Ibid.) Claiming to be a CIA agent, Cobb suggested that Elena and Deba go to Texas to tell their story. (Ibid.) When her suggestion was rejected, Cobb said that she would arrange a meeting with the CIA Station Chief. The meeting did not occur because Ms. Cobb was asked to leave the Garro house; evidently because she kicked Elena's cat. (Ibid.) The House Select Committee on

Assassinations has determined that June Cobb Sharp was a CIA asset in 1964. (Supra p. 3)

Elena claimed that Ruben Duran visited her circa the end of January 1964. (CIA Nos. 580-583; Wx 7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #719) He was worried that Oswald's visit to his home might be discovered and that he might lose his Mexican citizenship. (Ibid.) Ruben told Elena that it had been Silvia who had gotten him involved with Oswald. (Ibid.) Ruben added that he was not really a Communist and had opposed the assassination. (Ibid.) (Ruben Duran denied the story. HSCA Interview of Ruben Duran, , p. , JFK Doc. #)

Elena said that she had told her story to Noe Palomares of the Gobernacion about six months after the assassination. (Ibid.) He advised against going to the American Embassy and told her that if she did anything at all she should merely write an anonymous letter. (Ibid.) The Committee spoke to Mr. Palomares who denied Ms. Garro's claim. (HSCA interview of Noe Palomares, JFK Doc.)

Elena stated that it was "common knowledge" that Silvia had been Oswald's mistress. (CIA Nos. 580-583; Wx7241, Entry #427, p. 92 CIA #719) When asked who could verify the allegation she could only remember one person who had told her this. (Ibid.) Elena claimed that person was Victor Rico Galan, a "pro-Castro journalist." (Ibid.) /Victor Rico Galan is dead. The Committee could not verify

Ms. Garro's allegation. Sylvia Duran denied the allegation. Nonetheless, LIRING 3, a CIA asset reported the same story in 1967./

During these conversations Elena also said that she "understood" that Oswald had been in Mexico more than once. (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 late September and not early September. /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. (FBI Report, 9/30/69, pp.3-4, JFK Doc. No.) However, Mr. Ferris explained to Thomas that someone who had been at the party had stated that there were no Americans there. (Ibid.) Mr. Ferris did not tell Mr. Thomas that Ario Alejandro Lavagnini Stenius Ferris had provided this information in 1964. (Supra p.) Mr. Ferris 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. /FBI Report, 9/30/69, pp. 3-4, JFK Doc. No. /

The State Department forwarded (the same day) a copy of the Charles Thomas memorandum to the Central Intelligence

Agency's Mexico City Station to aid in their investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination. On the first page of the memorandum of conversation Winston Scott wrote "Shouldn't we sent to Headquarters?" Someone responded, "Of course." /CIA Nos. 580-583; Wx 7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #710/

December 27, 1965 Legal Attache Memo to the United States Ambassador re Elena Garro

On December 27, 1965 the Legal Attache had written a memo to the Ambassador reporting that Elena and her daughter were interviewed on 17 and 24 November 1964. /Memo to the Ambassador from the Legal Attache, 12/27/65, CIA #578; WX-7241, Entry #429, p. 94, CIA #721./ The memo said that Elena and her daughter furnished information similar to that in Thomas' 12/10/65 memo. (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." (Ibid.)

The Legal Attache forwarded a copy of the memorandum to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station. (The House Select Committee has determined that the copy was forwarded prior to 12/29/78. See 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 #578, WX-7241 Entry #429, p. 94, CIA #721) The cable Winston Scott wanted dismissed was Mexi 5621 (Supra. p.)

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. (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 to develop. (Ibid.)

LICOOKIE's 10/5/64 memo is attached to this cable. WX-7241 explained this in a marginal comment, "This document by LICOOKIE was not in (Oswald's file), but was copied from (a project file) and attached to Mexi 5741, 29 Dec 65." (Ibid.)

A note superimposed to this cable by Allen White 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." 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." Win Scott wrote,

"She is also 'nuts.'" (Ibid. CIA #574)

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 with an attached note asking them to check whether Elena was "seen creating such a disturbance as they claimed in front of the Cuban Embassy." (Note from Anne Goodpasture to "Cubans," 2/3/66, CIA No. 579; WX-7241, Entry 428, p. 94, CIA #721.)

One Cuban section officer responded, "No bells ring with me." Another one wrote "Me neither." The third officer wrote, "No pictures either." (Ibid.) /There is no indication that the penetration agents in the Cuban Embassy were queried about Elena's allegation. Ibid., that there are no pictures is reasonable 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; 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. (Classified Summary of Staff Review of CIA Documents, undated, p. 3, CIA #763.)/

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. /Memo from Legat to Ambassador, 2/23/66, CIA #571; WX-7241 Entry #455, p. 95, CIA #722/ The memo reitereated that no further action was being taken by the FBI because Elena's allegations had not been substantiated. (Ibid.) The Legal Attache fowarded a copy 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 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." (Ibid; referenced to Thomas' 12/25/65 memo.)

Charles Thomas 7/13/66 Memorandum of Conversation re Elena Garro

On 7/13/66 Charles Thomas wrote a memorandum of conversation reporting that Elena had told him that she had received an invitiation to visit Cuba from Ambassador Juoquin Hernandez Armas. (Memorandum of Conversation by

Charles Thomas, 7/13/66, CIA #565; WX-7241, Entry 460, p. 96, CIA #723) Elena gave Thomas two letters to support her claim. (Ibid.) She said the ltters had been delivered to her home by a driver from the Cuban Embassy. (Ibid.) The envelope gave her address as Vermont 38. (Ibid.) Because of her stay at the Hotel Vermont she saw the letters as a threat and was frightened. (Ibid.) (The HSCA has determined that the Cuban Government invited Elena Garro to visit Cuba due to her literary talents; See Biography.)

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 CIA/COS reporting that a reliable confidential informant had reported that the records of the Hotel Vermont disclosed that "Elena Paz, housewife from San Luis Potosi" had registered at the Hotel Vermont on November 23, 1963. She left on November 30, 1963. (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 that "the above individual may or may not be identical with Elena Garro de Paz." (Ibid.)

Charles Thomas' 12/25/65 memo states, "She (Elena) and her daughter did not personally register at the 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." (WX-7241, Entry #466, p. 98, CIA #725)

Charles Thomas' September 30, 1969 Letter to State Department and Legal Attaches Response

No further report on Elena's story was generated until 1969 when Charles Thomas was "selected out." ("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). Then, 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." (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. (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 Bomstra (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./ (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 accurate account, Boonstra stated that the date was wrong and dismissed the entire affair. (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 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. (FBI Report, 9/30/69, pp. 3-4, JFK Doc. No.) In their 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. (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. (State Department: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, Julye 25, 1969). Thomas noted that Ferris explained that someone wh chad been at the party had stated that there had not been any Americans. (Ibid.) 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. (Ibid.) Thomas alleged that Ferris 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. (Ibid.)

The Legat Office replied that Mr. Ferris had not told Thomas that someone who was at the party had stated that there had not been any Americans present. (FBI Report, 9/39/69, p. 4, JFK Doc. No.) The report asserted that Thomas had been told that it would not be necessary for him to pursue the m ater any further since Elena's story had been investigated previously without being substantiated. (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.)

House Select Committee on Assassinations' 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, when 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 LICOOKIE I, LICHANT I, LIRING 3, LIHUFF I and TICHBORN files. Once again, not one of the files included a mention of Elena Garro's allegations. The House Select Committee on Assassinations learned that LICOOKIE I was [redacted] who first reported Elena's allegation. (Supra, p. 4) The Committee also learned that LICHANT I

[redacted] who had hidden Elena Garro and her daughter in a hotel the day following the assassination. (Supra, p. 13) He also told Elena that Sylvia Duran had been arrested before this fact had become public knowledge. (Ibid.)

Since a file review was inconclusive, the Committee decided to arrange interviews in Mexico with Sylvia Duran, Elena Garro, Elenita Garro, Horacio Duran, Ruben Duran, Lynn Duran, Emilio Carbillido and Betty Serratos. 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. The officials stated that Elena and her daughter might be in Spain. (See Mexico City Procedural Write-up Trip 1.) The Mexican government reported that Emilio Garballido could not be found. (Ibid.) The others were interviewed between June 1 and June 6, 1978. (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. (See: HSCA Interview of Betty Serratos, 6/6/78, p. 6, JFK Document No. ; HSCA Staff Interview of Lydia Duran, 6/5/78, p. 6, JFK Document No. ; HSCA Staff Interview of Ruben Duran Navarro, 6/6/78, p. 16, JFK Document No. ; HSCA Staff Interview of Horatio Duran Navarro, 6/5/78, p. 25, JFK Document No.). When

Sylvia 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 when the Garros returned to Mexico from France. (HSCA Staff Interview of Sylvia 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. (String cites.)

The Committee next asked the Central Intelligence Agency to arrange staff interviews with LICHANT/1 [redacted], LICOOKIE/1 [redacted], along with a list of other assets who may have had information related to Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City. (
The Central Intelligence Agency declined to aid the Committee in this aspect of the investigation.

The Committee returned to Mexico City and attempted to locate June Cobb Sharp and Manuel Calvillo. (See Procedural Write-up Trip 2 Mexico City) The results of the Committee's work were as follows: 1) 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 Laredo. 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 dis-

appeared in 1954 and never returned to Mexico. (See Procedural Writeup Trip 2 Mexico City.) The Committee believes that 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. (CIA Report, 1965, June Cobb file, 201-) Elena also stated that Ms. Cobb resided at her home in 1964. (Supra p.) 2) The Mexican government told the Committee that Manuel Calvillo did not live at Cuohtemoc 877-5 as the Committee had stated. Their agent-in-charge had spoken to the superintendant at the apartments for the past twenty-five years who 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. (See Procedural Write Mexico City Trip 2.) The Committee is quite certain that Mr. Calvillo lives at this address since it acquired the address from a recent CIA document. (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 to refrain from aiding the Committee with this aspect of its work. (See Procedural Write-up Trip 2 Mexico City.)

The Committee made every attempt possible to locate Elena. On July 7, 1978 a Committee staffer telephoned her publisher Mortiz in Mexico City and asked about her whereabouts. (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. (Ibid.) The Committee staffer telephoned the Hotel in Spain and spoke to the manager who told him that Ms. Garro had moved out. (Ibid.) (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 7/7/78, JFK Document No.) On July 14, 1978 a Committee staffer called her publisher again and was told to contact the Mexican Embassy in Madrid, Spain. The publisher stated that all Elena's checks were sent there because she did not even trust her publisher with her address. (Ibid.) (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 7/14/78, JFK Document No. 9950)

The Committee staffer called the Mexican Embassy in Madrid, Spain and spoke to Adolfo Padilla, an employee who stated that when Elena visited the Embassy a couple of weeks before to pick up a check she looked financially poor. (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. (Ibid.) The staffer left the Committee's number and a message asking Elena to telephone the Committee collect. (Ibid.)

On September 5, 1978, Elena Garro called the Committee staffer. When the staffer explained that the Committee wished to talk to her in person and would pay both her daughter's and her travel from Spain, Ms. Garro asked why she should believe the staffer was who he claimed. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/5/78, JFK Document No.) The staffer asked Ms. Garro to call back collect in the next few days when he could explain to her when and where she could receive a Committee letter delineating why the Committee wished to interview her. (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. (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. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/7/78, JFK Document No.) The Committee staffer explained that the letter could be gotten on Monday, September 11, 1978 from George Phelan, the Counsellor for Consular Affairs at the American Embassy. (Ibid.) Ms. Garro stated that she would get the letter on September 11, 1978 and follow our suggestions. (Ibid.)

Ms. Garro never went to the American Embassy in Spain to get the Committee's letter. (HSCA Staff Contact

Report, 9/15/78, JFK Document No.) The Committee, hoping she would receive the letter before her flight date, proceeded to purchase tickets for both Elena and her daughter. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/12/78, JFK Document No.) Elena never got the tickets at the airport. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/15/78, JFK Document No.) The Committee never regained contact with her.

The Committee also investigated whether 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. (HSCA Staff interview of Cynthia Thomas, , p. , JFK Document No.)