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just the rough draft; not used in acting.

Biography

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Elena Garro de Paz was born of Spanish parents in Puebla, Mexico on December 11, 1917. Ms. Garro attended the National Autonomous University of Mexico and later did graduate work at Berkley in California and at the University of Paris. In 1963, Elena had long been married to Octavio Paz, a career diplomat who is also one of Mexico's finest poets and leading intellectuals. When Octavio was named Mexican Ambassador to India, the couple separated by mutual consent. Elena's daughter, also named Elena, has always resided with her mother.

Since Elena spent seventeen years of her early life in Europe she had a rather un-Mexican objectivity about her native land and had a reputation for being one if its more articulate detractors. At the same time, Elena was considered emotionally committed to many aspects of Mexican life and made an important contribution to its artistic development.

In the 1960's Elena became a significant writer. Hogar Solido, El Rey Mago, La Senora en su Balcon, Ventura Allende, Andaise por las Ramas, Parada Empresa, and El Viaje are plays that have had appreciative audiences in Europe, where they were translated into German, as well as in Mexico. Ms. Garro's short stories are collected in a volume called La Semana de Colores. The Literacy Supplement of the London Times has called her novel, Los Recuerdos de Porvenir, "a

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splendid success." Critics have said of her: "For Elena Garro, there is no frontier between reality and fantasy; in any case, the latter is a second reality-- perhaps more intense-- to which one may penetrate without passport or forewarning, thanks to the effectiveness of a literature fired with passion, flavor and life." Many people who knew Elena have asserted that the frontier between reality and fantasy is also difficult for her to distinguish in real life.

Ms. Garro, for many years, was an active worker in the Confederacion Nacional Campesina (CNC), the agrarian arm of the Partido Reformista (PRI). Because Ms. Garro was a tireless propagandist and agitator on behalf of the poorer Mexican peasants, she was on close personal terms with and enjoyed the respect of peasant leaders from all over the country.

Elena was considered a witty, urbane and opinionated woman with an unflagging sense of humor. Her forthright opinions and sharp wit tended on occasion to ruffle feathers in Mexico, but her important social, literacy, and political connections rendered her fairly immune from serious counter-attack until 1968. Then, Ms. Garro was forced to flee the country with her daughter, Elenita and her sister, Deba Guerrero de Galvan, in the midst of the student strikes.

Before her disappearance from Mexico, Elena was well disposed toward the United States and had been friendly with Embassy officers. Her broad range of significant personal friends, the views of many important to the American Embassy, made her a useful Embassy target. Throughout the early 1960's she was carried as a target in the Embassy's Youth Program.

American Embassy employees dealing with Elena believed that despite her access to the underground happenings in Mexico, including peasant unrest, since she had a tendency to romanticize developments in reporting on them made it difficult at times to determine what degree of credence to place on what might truly be useful and concrete information.

Elena's Story and American Government Agency Follow-up

Elena Garro de Paz' story first came to the American intelligence agencies' attention on October 5, 1964, eleven days after the publication of the Warren Commission Report. The source of The Blind Memo was a Central Intelligence Agency asset known as [LICOOKIE I] (WX7241, p. 94, Entry #430, CIA #721; Blind Memo dated 10/5/64, CIA #576). The memo reported that Elena Garro de Paz, her daughter and Deba Garro de Guerrero Galvan discussed meeting Oswald in Mexico in the fall of 1963. The discussion was, reportedly, sparked by the newspaper coverage given the Warren Report.

Elena and Deba are the first cousins of Horatio, Ruben and Lynn Duran. Elena, her daughter and Deba were invited to a "twist party" at the home of Ruben Duran. The party was in the middle of a week in the fall of 1963. Lee Harvey Oswald was at this party in the company of "two other beatnik looking boys." (IBID.) The Americans remained together the whole evening and did not dance. When Elena tried to talk with them, she was "shifted" to another room. 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 had brought them to the party.

The day after the party Elena and Deba saw the same three people on the Insurgentes, a main avenue in Mexico City.

The Garro's claimed that they had recognized Oswald's photograph when it was published after the assassination. The arrest of Silvia Duran "underlined their certainty" that the man had been Oswald. (IBID.)

Deba added that Lynn and one of the Duran brothers had made trips to Texas. She also said that, even though they were always poor before the assassination, they were both driving expensive new cars. A notation on the memo says that L/1 (LICOOKIE) never regained contact with Elena Garro de Paz. (IBID.)

The LICOOKIE memo was not in either the Elena Garro or Lee Harvey Oswald "P" files but in a project file. It was found in December, 1965. See WX 7241, p. 94, CIA #721.) A marginal notation on WX 7241 says, "Why was this not sent to Headquarters??" (p. 87, CIA #714.)

On 10/12/64 the Chief of Covert Action, FNU Flannery, wrote a memo for the record. (10/12/64 memo, CIA #596; WX-7241, p. 87, CIA #714.) This memo reported that Elena Garro de Paz had told her story to Eunice Odio who relayed it to "TICHBORN" on 10/9/64.

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

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

A note, attached to the memo, to the Chief of Station, Winston Scott, from Flannery reads, "Do you want me to send the gist of this to Headquarters?." Scott replied "Yes, but we should follow up first." Flannery then wrote: "Nothing further." 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.)

On 24 November 1964 a CIA informant reported some information he had learned from [redacted] (Memo from Win Scott to the Files, re: June Cobb, 11/25/64, CIA Nos. 592-593; WX-7241, p. 88, Entry #404, CIA #715.) June Cobb is an "American Communist" who rents a room from Elena Garro. Elena told [redacted] that she tried to talk to Robert Kennedy when he was in Mexico because she had met Oswald "and two friends (Cubans)" at Horacio Duran's house at a party. Elena also said that she had told her story to an American official, at the Embassy, who claimed to represent the Warren Commission. The COS noted that he had asked the informant to get [LICHANT/1] to pursue the story. (IBID.) There is no indication that [LICHANT/1] pursued the story.

On November 24, 1964 Elena and her daughter met with Mexico City representatives of the Legal Attache's office. 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 the FBI investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination had established that Lee Harvey Oswald had departed Mexico City by bus at 8:30 a.m. on October 2, 1963. 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. (IBID. p. 3)

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. Elena stated that in the course of the party her daughter met a young man named "Alejandro" at the party and danced with him. He was apparently quite smitten with the daughter and tried to call her on several occasions after the party. The daughter did not take the calls and as a result "Alejandro" wrote several letters to the daughter. Ms. Garro exhibited two of the letters, as well as a business card which identified the young man as Ario Alejandro

Lavagnini Stenius. (IBID)

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 probably the Communists have facilities for falsifying postcards. (IBID)

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

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

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.

Elena's story reported here is the same, but with more details, as that given in the [LICOOKIE] Memo. She said that General Clark Flores, Silvia Duran, Eusebio Azcue, Emilio Carballido, and a Latin American Negro man with red hair 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. Station heard from [LIRING/3] in July 67; see also WX-7241, Entry 613, p. 116, CIA No. 743.)

Elena told Thomas that she and her daughter had gone to the Cuban Embassy in November 1963. Once inside the gates they shouted "assasins" and other insults at the Embassy employees. Shortly after this incident a friend, Manuel Calvillo, an official in the Gobernacion, took her and her daughter to a small hotel in the center

of Mexico City. They were kept there for eight days under the pretext that they were in danger. Elena claimed to have told Calvillo that she wanted to tell her story to the American Embassy. Calvillo dissuaded her by telling her that the American Embassy was full of Communist spies. 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. She said that Ruben Duran, reportedly "protected" by General Clark Flores, was very prosperous and was driving a big car.

The COS wrote a note on the memo which says: "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 information in Thomas' 12/10/65 report was cabled to CIA Headquarters (Cable from Mexico City to the Director, Mexi 5621, date cut off my copy; CIA Nos. 584-585.) This cable reports that Elena is the wife of the "prominent Mexican poet Mexican Ambassador Delhi Octavio Paz Lozano." (IBID.) The cable informed Headquarters of the substance of Thomas' report including the fact that Elena claimed that Ruben Duran later told her that he was not really a Communist

and that killing Kennedy had been a mistake. (IBID; see also Thomas' 12/10 report.) The cable said that Elena's story would be checked with [LICHANT/1] against the production from the Cuban surveillance operation "and other sources." (IBID.) Scott wrote, next to the routing indications on the cable, "Please ask Charles Thomas if he'll "follow-up". Get questions from Anne G. Please let's discuss. Thanks."

After the December 10 memorandum/conversations Winston Scott (Chief/Station) and Nathan Ferris (Legal Attache) called C. 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 to William P. Rogers, July 25, 1969, JFK Doc. #)

Thomas met with Elena again on December 25, 1965. The same date he wrote a memorandum of conversation which provided a much more detailed and accurate restatement of Ms. Garro's alleged encounter with Lee Harvey Oswald and subsequent developments. (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)." She said that she did not tell them the whole story because "the Embassy officers did not give much credence

to anything she and Elenita said" (Ibid.)

She stated that the party had been at Ruben Duran's home. She was unclear about the date of the party. It was a few days before the Soviet Astronaut, Gagarin, visited Mexico; she thought that this would put the party around September 2 or 3, 1963. She believed that the party was on a Monday or Tuesday because it was an odd night for a party. The memo noted that September 1 and 2 were indeed a Monday and Tuesday. Elena could not check her calender to refresh her memory at the time of the interview because the calender was in a desk that had been stored away.

During the conversation Elena described Oswald and his companions. The man who she thought was Oswald wore a black sweater. She said he was quiet "and stared a lot at the floor." One of his companions "was very tall and slender and had long blond hair which hung across his forehead. He had a gaunt face and a rather long protruding chin." The other companion was also tall, with short, light brown hair and no really distinguishing characteristics. The three Americans did not dance or mix with the other guests. Elena saw the same three men on the street the next day. (IBID.)

Elena was certain that Eusebio Azcue, Horacio Duran, Silvia Duran, Lydia Duran, Deba Guerrero, General Clark 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. She said that Ricardo Guerra, whom she claims converted Horatio Duran to Communism, and his wife, Rosario Castellanos, were supposed to be at the party but did not show up. (IBID.)

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. "They came to the conclusion that the only solution was to kill him." (IBID.) Elena was not clear on whether this party was before or after the party where she met Oswald.

Elena said that Carballido "is a known Castro agent in Mexico." After the assassination he spent a year in Cuba. He then got a job teaching at Rutgers University through Dr. Jose Vasquez Amaral.

The incident at the Cuban Embassy, where Elena and her daughter shouted "assassins", etc., at the Embassy employees, occured on November 23rd at or about 3:00 p.m. Elena and Elenita were driven to the Cuban Embassy by Elena's brother who was embarrassed by their behavior. This occured before they had seen photographs of Oswald.

Later that day they 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. Elena said she trusted and believed Calvillo because he was a known undercover agent for the Gobernacion. He was also a friend of Noe Palomares and Gustavo Diaz Ordaz. Calivillo also told Elena and her daughter that Silvia Duran had been arrested. Duran's arrest was not public information at the time.

Elena could not remember the name of the hotel so she took Thomas to the section of Mexico City where she thought it was. They found the hotel. It was the Vermont Hotel, Calle Vermont 29. Elena said that she assumed that Calvillo had registered them as relatives or friends. They stayed at the hotel until the following Friday, Nov. 30, 1963 hardly leaving their rooms.

While they were at the hotel they saw the photos of Oswald and realized that he had been the man at Ruben Duran's party. When Calvillo visited them at the hotel Elena told him that she wanted to report it to the American Embassy. Calvillo dissuaded her by stating that the American Embassy was full of Communists. When Elena returned to her home, guards were posted outside.

After she returned home Elena saw her sister, Deba Guerrera. Deba had also come to the same conclusion independently of Elena. Deba was "terrified." Approximately

two months after the assassination two "communists" had visited Deba and threatened her never to reveal that she had been to a party with Oswald. Deba, consequently, would not accompany Elena to the American Embassy to tell her story.

Elena said that a few days after the assassination Emilio Carballido took the Duran's to Jalapa, Veracruz and "kept them out of the way until the initial shock of the assassination wore off."

Elena also said that shortly after the assassination an American named [redacted] spent several days in her house. [redacted] had been sent to Elena by a mutual friend, Eunice Odio. Eunice Odio was a Costa Rican who had been Vasquez Amaral's mistress when Amaral was with the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1965 [redacted] and Ms. Odio were roommates. While [redacted] was at Elena's house she expressed an interest in the Kennedy assassination. Deba got drunk one night and told [redacted] the entire story. [redacted] wanted them to go to the American authorities. Claiming to be a CIA agent, [redacted] advised against going to the American Embassy. She suggested that Elena and Deba go to Texas to tell their story. When her suggestion was rejected, [redacted] said that she would arrange a meeting with the CIA Station Chief. The meeting did not occur because [redacted] was asked to

leave the Garro house; evidently because she kicked Elena's cat.

Ruben Duran visited Elena around the end of January, 1964. He was worried that Oswald's visit to his home might be discovered and that he might lose his Mexican citizenship. Ruben told Elena that it had been Silvia who had gotten him involved with Oswald. Rubén added that he was not really a communist and had opposed the assassination.

Elena said that she had told her story to Noe Palomares of the Gobernacion about six months after the assassination. 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.

Elena stated that it was "common knowledge" that Silvia had been Oswald's mistress. When asked who could verify the allegation she could only remember one person who had told her this. That person was Victor Rico Galan, a "pro-Castro journalist."

During these conversations Elena also said that she "understood" that Oswald had been in Mexico more than once. (IBID.)

On the first page of Thomas' December 25 1965 memorandum of conversation Winston Scott wrote "Shouldn't we send to Headquarters?" Someone responded "Of course." (IBID.)

Charles Thomas wrote July 25, 1969 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). Thomas wrote that Deputy Chief of Mission, Clarence Boonstra (State Dept.) who was in charge of Affairs at the time of the John F. Kennedy assassination and subsequent Oswald investigation told him that Oswald had not been in Mexico on the date given for the party. Boonstra also stated that the informant had changed her story. Thomas further wrote that even when he reiterated that Elena had not changed her story but that rather she had now given a more accurate account, Boonstra stated that the date was wrong and dismissed the whole affair. (IBID. p. 2) The Legat's Office in Mexico City replied 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. 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 them. (FBI Report, 9/30/69, pp. 3-4, JFK Document No.)

Subsequent to December 25, 1965, Thomas wrote in the Dec. 25, 1965 memo that Elena had found her calendar and had reconstructed the date of the party as late September not early September. 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. However, Mr. Ferris explained that someone who had been at the party had stated that there were no Americans there. Mr. Ferris did not reveal that Ario Alejandro Lavagnini Stenius Ferris had provided this information. 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. (IBID.)

The Legal Attache, Mr. Ferris wrote in his September 30 memorandum--that he did not tell Mr. Thomas that someone else who was at the party had stated that there were no Americans there. (FBI Report, 9/30/69, p. 4 JFK No.) Mr. Ferris also wrote that he had told Thomas that it would not be necessary for him to pursue the matter any further since Elena's story had been heard before and investigated without being substantiated. He wrote that he told Thomas that Elena's story was considered a closed issue not that the Oswald case was closed. (IBID.)

That there had been no Americans at the party puzzled

Thomas. He had assumed that Elena could have clearly been mistaken about the identity of the Americans she saw there, but never doubted that she had seen some Americans. Thomas wrote that he had never discussed the Oswald case with Ms. Guerrero de Galvan but that her grown son had told him that he was convinced that his mother had seen Lee Harvey Oswald. (State Department: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969).

On December 27, 1965 the Legal Attache wrote a memo to the Ambassador regarding Elena. (Memo to the Ambassador from the Legal Attache, 12/27/65, CIA #578; WX-7241 Entry #429, p. 94, CIA #721.) This is one of the memos the Legal Attache refers to in the Sept. 30, 1969 memo. It reported that Elena and her daughter were interviewed on 17 and 24 November 1964. The memo said that they furnished information similar to that in Thomas' 12/10/65 memo. The Legat memo goes on to say "Inquiries conducted at that time, (November '64) 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.)

Win Scott wrote a note to Anne Goodpasture on this

memo. The note says, "Can we send in a report to Headquarters 'dismissing' our cable?" Goodpasture responded, "done." (IBID.)

The cable being dismissed is Mexi 5621 (see above). The next entry in Oswald's Mexican file is a cable written by Ann Goodpasture. (Memo from Mexico City to the Director, 12/29/65, Mexi 5741, CIA #575; WX-7241 Entry #430, p. 94, CIA #721.) The cable reports the Legat interview and the failure to substantiate Elena's story. The cable promises to keep Headquarters advised if any further information is developed. (IBID.)

In the file LICOOKIE's 10/5/64 memo is attached to this cable. WX-7241 explains this by saying, 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 attached to this cable by Allen White stated "I don't know what FBI did in Nov 64, but the Garro's have been talking about this for a long time and she is said to be extremely bright." Ann Goodpasture wrote that the FBI had found Elena's allegations unsubstantiated but that "we will try to confirm or refute Mrs. Garro de Paz's information and follow up." Win Scott wrote, "She is also 'nuts'." (IBID; CIA #574)

On 1/9/66 Charles Thomas wrote another memo about a conversation with Elena. (Memo of Conversation, 1/9/66,

CIA #573; WX-7241, Entry #451, p. 95, CIA #722.) This memo reported that Elena said that Victor Rico Galan had told her that Eusebio Azcue was "one of the most powerful men in Cuba." Elena said that Azcue was a Spanish Cuban who had fought in the Spanish Civil War and, by his own admission, had served at that time as a French intelligence agent.

The above mentioned memo is attached to a State Department Memo (Memo #A-727 to Department of State from Amembassy, Mexico, 1/22/66, CIA No. 572; WX-7241 Entry #451, p. 95, CIA #722/) This memo reports that Victor Rico Galan is a Spanish born Mexican journalist who has been one "of the most prolific and ardent apologists for Castro's Cuba in Mexico."

On February 3, 1966 Anne Goodpasture sent Thomas' 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 Ann 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 this. (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" occured 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.)

On 2/23/66 the Legal Attache wrote a memo to the Ambassador regarding the Garros allegations. (Memo from Legat to Ambassador, 2/23/66, CIA #571; WX-7241 Entry #455, p. 95, CIA #722.) This memo reports 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. The memo repeated that no further action was being taken by the FBI because her allegations had not been substantiated. (IBID.) A marginal comment by this entry in WX-7241 says, "How can it be ascertained that Oswald did <u>not</u> travel to Mexico prior to early Sept. 63? There must be some basis for Elena's reporting." (IBID; referenced to Thomas' 12/25/65 memo.)

On 7/13/66 Charles Thomas wrote another memo. (Memorandum of Conversation by Charles Thomas, 7/13/66, CIA #565; WX-7241, Entry 460, p. 96, CIA #723.)

Elena had received an invitation to visit Cuba from Ambassador Joaquin Hernandez Armas. She gave Thomas two letters to support the claim. She said the letters had been delivered to her home by a driver from the Cuban Embassy. The envelopes gave her address as Vermont 38. Because of her stay at the Hotel Vermont she saw the letters as a threat and was frightened.

Thomas also reported that Elena had recently run into Lydia Duran. Elena said that Lydia was now very poor and had a job with the Difusion Cultural at the Anthropological Museum. (IBID.)

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. The memo said that "the above individual may or may not be identical with Elena Garro de Paz." (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.)

Charles Thomas' 12/25/65 memo said, "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.)

On 2/7/67 Charles Thomas wrote another memo. (Memorandum of Conversation, 2/7/67, CIA #563.) Elena told Thomas that Horatio Duran presently worked for Joaquin Cisneros, the private Secretary of Mexican President Diaz Ordaz. Elena says that Horatio Duran recently interviewed with Cisneros to order the Gobernacion to grant an entry visa for the son of Eusebio Azcue. (IBID.)

No further reports on Elena's story were 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 letter and memorandum to the Secretary of State saying, "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 Dept.: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969. In the letter, Mr. Thomas also writes, "whereas the FBI has discounted Elena Garro's allegations, the CIA is still considerably disturbed by them." (IBID.) The Legat's office in response wrote that [Alan White] from the CIA had indicated that he was aware of Elena's unreliability. (FBI report, 9/30/69, p. 7, JFK Document No.) The Legat's office further wrote that the concept that every person who passes on to another government agency information relating to matters within the jurisdiction of that agency has the responsibility and authority to review and evaluate the action taken by that agency is, of course, untenable. (IBID.)

House Select Committee on Assassination

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 Files, when they existed, on Elena Garro de Paz, Elenita Garro de Paz, Manuel Calvillo, Noe W. Palomares, [redacted] 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 was Manuel Calvillo who hid 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 it was public knowledge.

Since a file review lead nowhere, 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 us that Elena and Elenita Garro had disappeared in 1968 during the student uprisings and had never returned to Mexico. The officials stated that Elena and her daughter might be in Spain. (See Mexico City Procedural Write-up Trip 1.) Emilio Carballido could not be found. The others were interviewed between June 1 and June 6, 1978.

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 Staff 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 stated that she recalled Elena attending one twist party at Ruben's home in 1963 when she returned to Mexico from France. (HSCA Staff Interview of Sylvia Triado 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.

The Committee next asked the Central Intelligence Agency to provide for interviews LICHANT/1 (Manuel Calvillo), LICOOKIE/1 [redacted] along with a list of other assets that might help clear the Lee Harvey Oswald trip to Mexico City.(

The Agency declined to aid the Committee. (

The Committee decided to return to Mexico and attempt to locate the individuals. The Mexican government told the Committee that [redacted] 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. She disappeared in 1954 and never returned to Mexico. (See Procedural Writeup Trip 2 Mexico City) The Committee knows the information is incorrect. Ms. [redacted] was also in Mexico from 1961 through 1966. (CIA

Report, 1965, [redacted] File, 201 No.)

The Mexican government told the Committee that Manuel Calvillo did not live at Cuahtemoc 877-5 as the Committee had stated. Their agent in charge had spoken to the superintendent 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. (

The Committee believes that there is a possibility that the Mexican government received orders from the Central Intelligence Agency to not aid it. (See: Procedural Write-Up Mexico City Trip 2). The Committee did interview Noc W. Palomares who told the Committee that "Elena was so brilliant that anything she imaged became real." (See HSCA Staff Interview of Noe W. Palomares, 8/10/78, p. 1, JFK Document No.

The Committee made every attempt possible to locate Elena. On July 7, 1978 a Committee staffer telephoned her published Mortiz in Mexico City and asked about her whereabouts. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 7/7/78, JFK Docu-

ment No. 10016) The publisher stated that Ms. Garro was living in the Hotel S.A.C.E. in Madrid, Spain. The Committee staffer telephoned the Hotel in Spain and spoke to the manager who told him that Ms. Garro had moved out. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 7/7/78, JFK Document No. On July 14, 1978 a Committee staffer recalled her publisher who told him that he should call the Mexican Embassy in Madrid, Spain. He stated that all her checks were sent there because she was so paranoid that she did not even trust her publisher with her address. (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. 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. The staffer left the Committee's number and a message asking Elena to telephone the Committee collect. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 8/31/78, JFK Document No.)

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. The staffer asked Ms. Garro to call back collect in the next few days when he could explain to her when and to whom she could go in the American Embassy to pick up a letter from the Committee explaining when and why we wanted to see her. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/5/78, JFK Document No.) The letter was written and arrangements were made with the American Embassy in Spain so that Elena could pick up the letter. (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. The Committee staffer explained that the letter should be picked up on Monday, September 11, 1978 from George Phelan, the Counsellor for Consular Affairs at the American Embassy. Ms. Garro stated that she would pick up the letter and follow our suggestions. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9.7/78, JFK Document No.

Ms. Garro never picked up the letter. (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 tickets for both Elena and her daughter. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/12/78, JFK Document No.) Elena never picked

up the tickets at the airport. (HSCA Staff Contact Report, 9/15/78, JFK Document No.) the Committee never regained contact with her.

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

A note, attached to the memo, to the Chief of Station, Winston Scott, from Flannery reads, "Do you want me to send the gist of this to Headquarters?." Scott replied "Yes, but we should follow up first." Flannery then wrote: "Nothing further." 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.)

On 24 November 1964 a CIA informant reported some information he had learned from "LICHANT/1." (Memo from Win Scott to the Files, re: [redacted] 11/25/64, CIA Nos. 592-593; WX-7241, p. 88, Entry #404, CIA #715.) [redacted] is an "American Communist" who rents a room from Elena Garro. Elena told LICHANT/1 that she tried to talk to Robert Kennedy when he was in Mexico because she had met Oswald "and two friends (Cubans)" at Horacio Duran's house at a party. Elena also said that she had told her story to an American official, at the Embassy, who claimed to represent the Warren Commission. The COS noted that he had asked the informant to get LICHANT/1 to pursue the story. (IBID.) There is no indication that LICHANT/1 pursued the story.

House Select Committee on Assassination

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 Files, when they existed, on Elena Garro de Paz, Elenita Garro de Paz, Manuel Calvillo, Noe W. Palomares, [redacted] 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 was Manuel Calvillo who hid Elena Garro and her daughter in a hotel the day]

ever attended twist parties at the Duran homes, she stated that she recalled Elena attending one twist party at Ruben's home in 1963 when she returned to Mexico from France. (HSCA Staff Interview of Sylvia Triado 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.

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