

Lopez
STAFF COPY 2
Kennedy Hearings
Previous Statements
September 18, 1978

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DUE TO THE LARGE VOLUME OF MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BRIEFING BOOKS FOR THE KENNEDY SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1978, THE MATERIAL WILL BE PRESENTED IN TWO SECTIONS.

THIS BOOK CONTAINS A COMPILATION OF STATEMENTS MADE TO COMMITTEE PERSONNEL BY SEVERAL OF THE WITNESSES TO BE HEARD ON MONDAY DURING THE COURSE OF INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED EARLIER IN 1978.

Silvia Duran (remarried, now Tirado) was the secretary at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City in 1963.

Eusebio Azcue Lopez was a consular official who served at the Cuban Embassy during the period Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly visited the Embassy in Mexico City.

Alfredo Mirabal Diaz was a consular officer who also was on duty at the Cuban Embassy during the time in question.

(DURAN) TIRAL,
STATEMENTS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Silvia Tirado (Duran) Date June 6, 1978 Time _____
Address _____ Place _____

Interview:

Cornwell: Would you state your name?

Tirado: Silvia Tirado Bazan.

Cornwell: And where's your present home address?

Tirado: Avenida Universidad 1900 Edificio 12 Departamento 402
Colonia Numero De Terrenos

Cornwell: For the record, my name is Gary Cornwell, and
with me here is Ed Lopez, Harold Leap and Dan
Hardway. We represent the House Select Committee
on Assassinations of the Congress of the United
States. Also with us here today representing
the Mexican Government is Honorio Escondon, Dr.
Alfonso Orozco Contreras. Today is June 6, 1978
and the time is approximately 5:45 in the after-
noon.

Would you tell us what your date and place of
birth is?

Tirado: 22nd of November, 1937.

Cornwell: You speak English so if you like my questions

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature Gary Cornwell

Date transcribed br 6-19-78

translated we'll be happy to, and likewise, if you'd like to answer in English that would be fine, or if you'd rather answer in Spanish, we'll translate it.

Tirado: I try to speak in English.

Cornwell: All right. If you have any question about the way I phrase something or you don't understand it, simply ask and Mr. Lopez will translate it for you.

Your name in 1963 was what?

Tirado: Silvia Tirado de Duran.

Cornwell: And your husband at that time was who?

Tirado: Horacio Duran.

Cornwell: Are you presently employed?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Where's that?

Tirado: Social Security.

Cornwell: Prior to that, what jobs did you hold?

Tirado: A long while, Social Security. I used to write.

Cornwell: And any other jobs? Have you held any other jobs?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: At one time you worked for the Cuban Consulate.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Is that the only other job you ever held?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Well, let's say back, since about 1960, could you tell us what the history of your employment is? Have you had many jobs?

Tirado: I don't remember exactly, but uh, I used to work for the Olympic Games. I was a translator for two months. And uh, another three months I used to work for the, I don't know, it was an Exhibit of Hispanic Art that was, I don't know he went all over the World and I helped him to choose the pieces and as translator. I was married in 1960. I separate in '68, July '68 and I start working.

Cornwell: During 1963, did you hold any jobs during that year other than your employment at the Cuban Consulate?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: When did you first obtain the job at the Consulate and how did you obtain it.

Tirado: Well, because I was uh, coordinating the Cuban, the Mexican-Cuban Institute, the cultural Institute in '62, I think, and that's where I met some people. Yes.

Cornwell: That was a private organization, is that correct?

Tirado: It's not exactly private. I don't know because all the countries have--there is the American there is the Russian Institute, Institute, there is the French Institute. It's cultural relations between the countries.

Cornwell: Was that associated with the Mexican Government?

Tirado: I don't know exactly, but I think--you know that. (Asks Orozco)

(Translation) The objective is to present culturally the different of embassies and consulates that are here in Mexico.

Cornwell: What was your job with that organization?

Tirado: Coordinator.

Cornwell: And in connection with that, did you know any of the employees at the Cuban Consulate?

Tirado: Yes, at the Cultural Attache.

Cornwell: And what were the names of those persons?

Tirado: Teresa Proenza and Luis Alberu.

Cornwell: And who?

Tirado: Luis Alberu

Cornwell: Did you in any other way know any of the other employees at the Consulate?

Tirado: Yes, well I knew Azcue, Eusebio Azcue who was a consul, and uh, Maria Carman Olivari -- she's dead.

Cornwell: She, in the summer of 1963, was a secretary. Is that correct? (If you nod your head, the recorder will not make any record of what your answer is.)

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Would you then explain to us how it was that you obtained the job at the Consulate?

Tirado: Because my friend Maria Carman, she was dead-- she had an accident, and during the funeral I told Azcue that if he wants me to help him, for some people come from Cuba, just to help him. And of course he says yes. They need some people they can trust, and I'd been working in the Institute. So...

Cornwell: How was it that you knew Eusebio Azcue by this time?

Tirado: I don't remember, because he was uh, he was an Architect and he knew a lot of people, friends of ours, I mean my husband and I.

Cornwell: Had he lived in Mexico for a long period of time?

Tirado: Yes, yes.

Cornwell: And, because of his occupation, he would have known your husband. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yeah, more or less.

Cornwell: Your husband Horacio was also an architect at that time.

Tirado: Industrial designer. Yes, sir.

Cornwell: Approximately when was it that you first obtained the job?

Tirado: The end of July or August, early August. I don't

remember exactly.

Cornwell: And for how long did you continue to work there?

Tirado: Three or four months.

Cornwell: How long after the assassination of President Kennedy did you work there?

Tirado: Only two days.

Cornwell: During that period of time what were the hours of operation of the Consulate?

Tirado: It was about 9:30 or 10:00 to 2:00 and in the afternoon about 5:00 to 8:00 or something. If we have a lot of work, we stayed longer.

Cornwell: The hours were 10:00 to 2:00 and then 5:00 to 8:00. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes, that's true.

Cornwell: Was the Consulate open for visitors during both of those sets of hours?

Tirado: No, it was just in the morning.

Cornwell: Would you mind sketching for us what the physical layout of the Consulate looked like at that time?
(pause) You have drawn a rectangular shape. What formed the outside of it? Was it a solid wall around the outside? Was the outside of the premises a wall?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: All right. And we'll just mark it the way you

drew it. In the lower left-hand corner, there is a small box you drew. What is that?

Tirado: The consular.

Cornwell: That's the consulate's office?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: All right. We'll just put a one in that box, so we'll know that's the consulate's office. Then, the door was . . . where, on the corner? . . . you remember the name of the streets, still today?

Tirado: This is Tacubayo. This is Francisco Marquez.

You want me to write it down?

Cornwell: If you remember, yes.

Tirado: Here were the houses.

Cornwell: All right. You've labeled three sides of the building with street names and on the fourth side which on the top of the drawing, you said they are houses. Correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: What is in the long triangular shape on the drawing above the Consular office?

Tirado: It was the commercial office.

Cornwell: All right. We'll just put a two in there. That's. .

Tirado: And here was the cultural office.

Cornwell: And behind that, we'll mark it with a three, was the cultural office. In the center of the drawing

is what?

Tirado: The Embassy.

Cornwell: All right. We'll put a four in that. That's the Embassy. And what's the small box in the lower right-hand corner?

Tirado: I don't know how to say it in English.

Cornwell: An entryway?

Lopez: Housekeeper.

Cornwell: Oh, a housekeeper? Okay. We'll put a five in there.

What is all the rest of the space inside the premises?

Tirado: Garden, it was garden. And here was the entrance for the cars.

Cornwell: And where you indicated there was an entrance for cars, we'll mark that seven. And all the interior space which was garden, we'll mark with an eight.

Tirado: Down here there was a movie room.

Cornwell: Where, behind the... .?

Tirado: Behind the cultural room?

Cornwell: Want to draw that?

Tirado: No, because this is the first floor.

Cornwell: Oh, it was on the second floor.

Tirado: Yeah. On the first floor was a projection. . . movies.

Cornwell: Were the space which we marked one, two, three and also four, were they all two-story?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Okay. And above the space marked one, what was there?

Tirado: The Consulate.

Cornwell: So it was on two floors.

Tirado: No, there was another floor over here but it was belongs to the commercial. . . Only on the first floor was the Consulate.

Cornwell: I see. What would be behind the Consulate on the first floor? In this area marked two?

Tirado: I don't remember.

Cornwell: You don't remember. So, where we marked two, that was a second story in that area. Correct?

Tirado: Warehouse perhaps.

Cornwell: Just a storage area or something like that, perhaps, in the lower area marked two.

In the space marked number one, which was the Consular's Office, who all occupied that area?

Tirado: Well, Consul, the Vice Consul and the secretary.

Cornwell: Which was you.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: During the time that we're interested in.

The Consul's name of course was Eusebio Azcue.
The Vice Consul's name was what?

Tirado: I don't remember.

Cornwell: All right.

Tirado: This was Consulate.

Cornwell: All right. You have divided the area that we originally marked number one into two units. The smaller unit indicates where the Consul sat and you sat in a larger reception area in the front?

All right. And then, behind the Consul's office, was there another door? You marked that with a heavier area, and that would be where he could walk out into the courtyard. Is that correct? So if you wanted to get into the Consul's office, including the reception area from the courtyard, you needed to walk through the Consul's Office. Is that accurate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Now, what kind of a door was at the corner, the lower left-hand corner here, so that if one were to walk from your office to the street, what kind of door was that? Glass, wood, solid, could you see through it?

Tirado: No, it was solid. I don't remember exactly, but perhaps it was wood. But it was solid.

Cornwell: You don't remember being able to see out on the street?

Tirado: No, no.

Cornwell: Okay.

Lopez: You enter the Consulate right, in here?

Tirado: Uh huh.

Lopez: And your office would be right around here. Right?

Tirado: My desk was here.

Cornwell: You have drawn a small box now inside the larger half of the area we originally marked area number one, that's where your desk was?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: From where you sat to the entrance into the office where you were, where would the entrance into the office be? Not into the whole consulate, but just into your office?

Tirado: It was open.

Lopez: Okay, it was open.

Tirado: You would enter here. Here was the stairs for the second floor, No? -- and here I think there were chairs, or something like that. For the people who were waiting. And the desk was here.

Lopez: Okay. Where would the entrance to your office be?

Tirado: Here, or here.

Lopez: Just to your office, not to the Consul's office. Not the Consulate, but just to your office.

It would be at the same entrance?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: And from where you sat, you couldn't see outside at all?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: You couldn't see any area in the yard? There was no glass

Tirado: No. I can remember glass, a window, yeah. I can remember windows here, and perhaps here, but I don't remember.

Cornwell: Okay. There may have been windows for you to see out in the street?

Tirado: Yeah, but I couldn't see outside because perhaps they were very high.

Cornwell: While Mr. Lopez was asking you questions, he drew a diagonal line across your office space. Does that represent anything? That line should not have been drawn, is that correct?

Tirado: Yeah. (Laughs.)

Cornwell: Now, did you know a Teresa Proenza? Was she employed at the Consulate or the Embassy?

Tirado: The Embassy. She was the Cultural Attache.

Cornwell: She would have worked in the area marked number four? Is that correct?

Tirado: Well, yes. But this was, this construction was uh, afterwards. This was the Embassy and the Consulate and this building was under construction,

constructed. A building.

Cornwell: Constructed?

Tirado: Later. It was the old buildings.

Cornwell: Did she work there during the same period of time you did?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: At that period where did she work? What area?

Tirado: Here.

Cornwell: That's the area we marked number three on the diagram.

Did you know a Louisa Calderon?

Tirado: Louisa? Yes, she was in the commercial. . .

Cornwell: And where would that be on the diagram? In the area we marked number two?

Tirado: I think her office was exactly above mine.
She was a secretary. And I think it was above.

Cornwell: Either above the area we marked one, or the area marked two, but on the second level.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you know the names of any other employees who worked there at the time?

Tirado: No, I don't remember.

Cornwell: The man named Mirabal, he was to replace Eusebio Azcue, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And do you recall approximately when he arrived in Mexico City and began to learn the job so he could take it over from Eusebio Azcue?

Tirado: I didn't understand, what did you say please?

Cornwell: Do you remember approximately when he arrived? And began to learn the work from Azcue.

Tirado: No, some weeks earlier, I don't remember.

Cornwell: Would it be accurate to state that your best memory as you told us when we spoke to you informally before we turned the tape recorders on, that he was already there when you met the man you later identified as Oswald?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Now...

Tirado: But he wasn't there when I started working at the Embassy, at the Consulate.

Cornwell: Okay. So he must have arrived in late summer or perhaps September, or something like that.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Now, were there telephones in the office?

Tirado: Here.

Cornwell: You had one at your desk?

Tirado: This is the desk and here was a little table. I think it was the telephone. Here was the

safe box. And here was the Archivo.

Lopez: Archives.

Cornwell: So you've drawn two smaller boxes next to your desk. One of them was like a filing cabinet, or for storage of records?

Tirado: Yes. This one. The Files.

Cornwell: And the other one was a table.

Tirado: No, here was the safe box.

Cornwell: Oh, a safe. I see, a safe.
And there was a phone at the desk?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And did Azcue also have a telephone?

Tirado: Yes, it was the same but with an extension.

Cornwell: Extension.

Tirado: Here was the door.

Cornwell: All right. 1963, where were you living?
Did you have more than one residence?

Tirado: Yes. Constituyentes 143.

Cornwell: And during what part of 1963 was that?

Tirado: When I moved there?
Before I started working, at the Embassy. But
just a few weeks. . .

Cornwell: So sometime in the summer of 1963? Did you have

a telephone at your home?

Tirado: Not at the moment that Oswald came. Because we had just moved. I think we moved in July because we were separated in July, also, July '68 and it is when the contract finished. So perhaps. . .

Cornwell: I see. Your rent contract ran out in July of '68?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: About the same time that you and Horatio were divorced?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you, you say that because of your move, it took some time to get a telephone in your home?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And do you remember approximately when it was that you finally got that in?

Tirado: At the assassination we had, a, let me see, we didn't have telephone--days later.

Cornwell: It was sometime after the assassination that you first got a telephone in this residence.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And do you by any chance recall the telephone number at the Consulate?

Tirado: Oh, so many times I write it down. Perhaps it was 11-28-45, perhaps?

Cornwell: Could it have been 11 28 47?

Tirado: Perhaps.

Cornwell: When were you first advised that we wanted to speak to you?

Tirado: Last week.

Cornwell: And since that time, of course, last Wednesday, I believe it was, we spoke to you informally, and told you basically what we were interested in. And learned most of what you could remember about the events we were interested in. Correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Apart from that, have you had any other opportunities to read anything, or speak to anyone, in order to refresh your memory about the events?

Tirado: Yes. In October of '76 some journalist from the Washington Post came to interview me.

Cornwell: We are familiar with the story that appeared in the Washington Post at approximately that time. apart from that have you for instance read the Warren Commission Report?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: When did you last have an occasion to read that?

Tirado: Uh, when Horacio told me you were coming, I was writing, and I try to remember exactly and I'm starting saying that again, the nightmare came, and so o

and so on, and I wanted to check the dates.

Cornwell: So, last week sometime, you had a chance to read it over again?

Tirado: No, not everything just the one little thing.

Cornwell: Just the part that dealt with Mexico City and your testimony and that sort of thing. Correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Let me ask you, when you read that, was there any part of it that seemed to you to be inaccurate?

Tirado: Inaccurate?

Cornwell: Not correct.

Tirado: Not Correct? Yes, but with the Warren Commission, I get angry when I start reading it because they make some afirmacionnes (ph).

Lopez: Allegations or conclusions.

Tirado: Yes. I don't like it. So I tried to erase it.

Cornwell: Okay. What specifically about the report was it that makes you angry?

Tirado: That I was a -- let me see how to say it--, I don't remember exactly. but uh, I did more to Oswald when he was here than was my job, that it was extra.

Cornwell: You mean part of the report that suggests that you went beyond your duties at the Consulate, that you exceeded your authority, and you thought that you did not do so. Is that correct?

Tirado: Correct.

Cornwell: Is there anything else about the Warren Commission Report's resume of the facts that you felt was inaccurate, that made you mad?

Tirado: I cannot answer that because I only read at that time two pages. I didn't read the whole thing.

Cornwell: Okay. In addition to looking at that in order to refresh your memory, have you had a chance to speak to any one else?

Tirado: No, it was just for checking my writing.

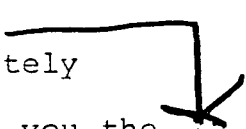
Cornwell: What writing was that?

Tirado: Well, I was trying to remember everything that happened in the interrogatory. It was not hard, I mean, what I felt, but uh, what the police had done to me, so it was my but I'm writing, I'm writing an autobiographia how do you say that, and this is a chapter.

Cornwell: I see.

Tirado: (Laughs.)

Cornwell: Directing your attention then to approximately late September of 1963, as we learned from you the other day, a man came to the Consulate, a man who you later associated with pictures in the newspaper and a name in the newspaper of the alleged assassin of the President. Is that correct?



Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you remember how many times he came to the Consulate?

Tirado: Three times.

Cornwell: Do you remember the date or dates upon which those three visits occurred?

Tirado: No, I saw the application.
you showed me the other day, and in the Warren Commission was September 27, but I didn't remember, of course, until I read it.

Cornwell: All right. Do you have a recollection whether it was all on one day or on separate days.

Tirado: The same day.

Cornwell: On the very first visit, would you describe to us what the man said and did, and what you said in response?

Tirado: Yes, he, well, he enter and he ask me if I speak English and I say yes, and then he start asking me about requirements to go to Cuba, to get a visa to go to Cuba, and I explain it.

Cornwell: What did you explain?

Tirado: Well, that he needed to, he said that a transit visa so that he needs a visa to the country that he was going, from; if it was a Socialist country, the visa was given, as soon

as he gets the other visa, and uh. . .

Cornwell: When he first asked about the requirements for a visa, did he tell you that his objective was to go to Cuba or to another country?

Tirado: To the Soviet Union.

Cornwell: Did you ever suggest to him that there was any alternative means to acquire a visa other than the in-transit visa requirement which you just described?

Tirado: I don't remember, I mean I hardly remember. But what I used to say is if you want to go to Cuba, you need or you have to have friends in Cuba, so they may, what do you say, take responsibility, if you get the visa. That was one way, no? And the other way was in-transit.

Cornwell: Okay. If I understand then, you don't have a distinct recollection about exactly what you said to Oswald, but you assumed it was what you said to everyone who came in, which was that you explained both processes, that they either must have friends in Cuba or the in-transit visa could be granted if they got a visa from another country.

Tirado: No, if only they asked me. Because they usually go there and say, "I want to go to Cuba." But if they say I'm just in transit, then I explain }

Cornwell: Okay, then. Let me see if I can rephrase it and get what's in your mind as best we can.
Is it your best recollection that you did explain both alternatives to Oswald?

Tirado: I don't remember exactly, because I think he immediately says that he wants to go to Russia, and he was in transit to go to Cuba. I think he immediately says so.

Cornwell: Okay. So then your best recollection that you may have only explained the in-transit visa process. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: But, I gather from the way you have answered the question, there is still the possibility that you also discussed with him going to Cuba if he had friends, but you're not sure about that second one. Is that accurate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Now, after this first basic explanation, what if anything did he say or do?

Tirado: Well, I don't remember exactly. He show all the paper that he had, when he gave me the application when he came back,

Cornwell: Okay. Wait a minute. Just the first visit.
Is there anything else about the first visit? Or,

did he leave at that time and if he left, why did he leave?

Tirado: To have photographs of himself.

Cornwell: Okay. So your memory is that on the first occasion you also explained to him that he needed photographs and he left shortly thereafter to obtain them.

Tirado: Yes, and perhaps, but I'm not very sure, that, uh, he said that he was a friend of the Cuban Revolution, and when he showed me all the scrap paper that he has.

Cornwell: All right. You don't remember if that was on the first or the second occasion. Correct?

Tirado: Yeah, I don't remember.

Cornwell: Nevertheless, he did leave to go get photographs, and he did return?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did he return with the photographs?

Tirado: With four photographs.

Cornwell: Four of them.

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Were they all the same? To the best of your memory, was he wearing the same kind of clothes that he was wearing that day in the photographs?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: So, from all the circumstances, did it appear to you that he just went somewhere locally and had the pictures made?

Tirado: Yeah. I think that I already explained (to) him where he could take the photographs

Cornwell: You told him some locations in town where he could go? Were there some right in the neighborhood of the Consulate there?

Tirado: That I don't remember.

Cornwell: All right. But at any rate you knew of some place at the time, mentioned one or two places to him?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Correct?. . . Did you look at the photos when he brought them back, careful about to be sure that it was the same man who was standing in front of you?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And what did you do at that time?

Tirado: I filled out application.

Cornwell: You personally typed it, and did you type it in duplicate or triplicate or just one copy?

Tirado: Duplicate.

Cornwell: And was the second copy a carbon?

Tirado: Carbon?

Cornwell: Did you have it twice or did you type one and make two copies?

Tirado: Only one.

Cornwell: And made two?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And what did you do with the photographs?

Tirado: Stapled them.

Cornwell: Stapled them?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: On top of the application.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: The application has a place on it for a date, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you type in the date that was in fact that day?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Let's just talk hypothetically for a moment. Is there any chance that he was at the Consulate on more than one day?

Tirado: No. I read yesterday, an article in the Reader's Digest, and they say he was at the Consulate on three occasions. He was in Friday, Saturday, and Monday. . . That's not true, that's false.

Cornwell: All right. Let's try a different hypothetical. If the one in the Reader's Digest is definitely wrong, is it possible that he first came on like a Thursday, and then came back on a Friday?

Tirado: No, because I am positively sure about it. That he came in the same day.

Cornwell: Let me ask you then something about just the procedures for the Consulate at the time. Would it have been consistent with your normal procedures for you to have typed the application on his first visit, even though he didn't have a photograph to put on it?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: In other words, before you started the process of typing it, you were sure you had everything you needed to make it complete.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did he tell you where he was staying at the time?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did you recall any problem with him not knowing any address, where he was staying in Mexico City?

Tirado: No, because he say that he has no time to wait, he was in a hotel and uh, I didn't ask the address, in Mexico City because I mean didn't care.

Cornwell: You didn't have a need to know that?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you recall any problem coming up where he needed to know it? For any other reason?

Tirado: Me to know his address?

Cornwell: No, for him to know. Did he have any problem, did he have any need to know it himself? Do you remember anything along those lines? TIRADO: No.

Cornwell: Going back to the second visit, is it your memory that you typed the application in duplicate, you stapled the pictures at the top of each copy, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Then what did you do with the application?

Tirado: Well, I used to put it in a file, and uh, I used to keep one copy, another to send, the original, we used to send to Cuba. And I think I have another file

Cornwell: Was he required to sign the application?

Tirado: He signed it, yes.

Cornwell: Did he sign one or both of them?

Tirado: I think both, it has to be.

Cornwell: Was there any requirement in the Consulate that he do it in any particular person's presence? Anyone have to watch him while he signed it?

Tirado: I don't know, I mean I just don't remember.

Cornwell: As a hypothetical, did Azcue have to watch people sign the applications?

Tirado: No. He was in his office.

Cornwell: So you could handle that all by yourself.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did he sign it in your presence?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did anything else occur on the second visit, any other conversation, or any other event?

Tirado: No, but I told you, it's uh, he said that he was a friend of the Cuban Revolution. He show me letters to the Communist Party, the American Communist Party, his labor card, and uh, he's working in Russia, I don't remember exactly, but he said on his application, his license number. . .

Cornwell: Marriage license?

Tirado: (Spoke in Spanish.) Se dice serup los recortes del

Cornwell: Okay, we had to pause for a second to turn the ^{periodic} tapes over. As I recall, you were explaining the kinds of things he brought with him.

Tirado: Yes, it was his labor card, from Russia, his uh, marriage pact, yes, that he was married with a Russian, and uh, a clipping that he was with two policemen taking him by his arms, that he was in a meeting to support Cuba. And a card saying that he was a member of the Fair Play for Cuba in New

Orleans. And

Cornwell: Do you recall what was said or what occurred that caused him to produce all of these documents about his having a Russian wife and his Fair Play For Cuba activity?

Tirado: Just a minute. (Spanish--what means recall?)

Lopez: Recordar.

He showed me all of these papers to demonstrate that he was a friend of the revolution.

Cornwell: But did you say anything to him or did anyone else say anything to him that made him feel he needed to produce this kind of documentation.

Tirado: No, I don't think so. What I said is that when he said he was a member of the Party, of the Communist Party, the American, I said why don't they arrange, the Party, your Party with the Cuban Party, and he said that he didn't have time to do it.

Cornwell: Did you ask him why he didn't just have the Communist Party arrange his trip to Cuba?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: The Cuban Communist Party? He just said he didn't have time?

Tirado: Yes. Because there was a manner to do it. I mean, we get, for instance, the visa directly

from Cuba and saying give the visa to this people that's coming and somebody say oh, yes, you have your visa here.

Cornwell: Do you recall anything else happening on the second occasion? Or have you related all that's in your mind on that?

Tirado: No. It was strange. I mean because if you are a Communist and you're coming from a country where the Communist Party is not very well seen, and in Mexico City that the Communist Party was not legal at that moment -- crossing the border with all of his paper, it was not logical. I mean, if you're really Communist, you go with anything, I mean just nothing, just your passport, that's all. And that was something that I didn't like it but. . .

Cornwell: So, you were a little suspicious of the amount of documentation he brought?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Did you say anything to him about that?

Tirado: Perhaps I told him, what are you doing with all of this? And he said to prove I'm a friend of yours

Cornwell: Did you discuss your suspicions with anyone else?

Tirado: With the Consul.

Cornwell: With Azcue?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you remember when that discussion occurred?

Tirado: It was afterwards.

Cornwell: Was that after his second visit as you recall?

Tirado: It was during his third visit.

Cornwell: During his third visit. All right.

Let's back up again for just a moment.

What time of day as best as you recall did he come to the Consulate the first time?

Tirado: Perhaps it was eleven o'clock or something like that, ten thirty.

Cornwell: And the second time?

Tirado: About twelve, or eleven, no, about one o'clock.

Cornwell: Okay. The first one was roughly late morning, and the second one was early afternoon.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And then, why did he leave the second time?

Tirado: To get his Russian visa.

Cornwell: Would it have been the standard procedure in the Cuban Consulate, to take the application, have him sign it, and have it ready to go in the file if the request was an in-transit, for an in-transit visa, even though he did not have the visa from the third country. Or from another country?

Tirado: Uh, huh.

Cornwell: All right.

Tirado: Yes, I did send it to Cuba.

Cornwell: All right. Okay. So, then you sent him, in effect, to the Russian Embassy. And it was at that point after he left that you spoke to. . .

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: No, you didn't speak to the Consulate at all yet.

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Had there been any problem at all yet?

TIRADO:

No

Cornwell: So far, it's like any normal visa application.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Would it have been consistent with the procedures in the Consulate for you to have allowed him to take one or both of the applications typed up outside the Consulate?

Tirado: I don't remember very well if uh, there were only two copies. I mean, one original and one copy, but uh, it could have happened, but I don't remember

Cornwell: Okay. To the best of your memory then, the person who made the application was not permitted to have a copy.

Tirado: I don't know. I don't remember.

Cornwell: Okay. You're not sure. But your tentative memory is that would not have occurred.

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Would you have ever allowed a person to take all of the applications outside and attach the photos or sign them themselves?

Tirado: Yes, because you may come, ask for the application and you may keep it.

Cornwell: You, on occasion, would allow someone just to have a blank copy. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes. But he was different because he did not speak in Spanish so I have to fill it.

Cornwell: I see. If he would have spoken Spanish or professed to having someone with him who did speak Spanish, you might have allowed him to take the applications and fill them out.

Tirado: Perhaps.

Cornwell: At least on other occasions you have done that, with other people.

Tirado: That's something that I really don't remember.

Cornwell: There, at least, there was no requirement that you type it there in the office, as long as it got filled out.

Tirado: I think I have to type it. I have to type it because I have to make some observations, always.

Cornwell: Down at the bottom?

Tirado: Yes.

And I think that if you fill it in in hand-writing, I have to type it, for, to send it to Cuba.

Cornwell: So, at most, you would allow someone to fill it out and bring it in so you could type it?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: If that procedure was employed, allowing someone else to fill it out, would you still be required to check the photograph to be sure it was accurate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Would you still require the person to sign it in your presence?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Just so we can keep our documents straight, let's just mark as Exhibit Number 1 the diagram you drew earlier. And we will mark now on the back a photograph and we'll ask you some questions about it. We'll mark it as Exhibit Number 2. This is a photograph of what would appear to be a visa application. Does it appear to be basically the type of visa application that we have been speaking about?

Tirado: Yes. The numbers, I think they're mine.

Cornwell: The numbers in the upper right-hand corner which are hand-written?

Tirado: I think so.

Cornwell: Those appear to you to be in your handwriting.

Tirado: Yeah, because when I file I write in the number, the following number?

Cornwell: Okay. And on the very bottom of the application, where it says "para uso de la mision" that means it's filled in by someone associated with the Cuban Government. Is that correct. Or the Consulate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Who, according to the usual procedure, filled out that portion.

Tirado: Me.

Cornwell: The other day when we talked to you informally, you read through the words in that section. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.. I remember.

Cornwell: And your memory is that you in fact typed that section on this application.

Tirado: Yes. I used to do this with all the applications.

Cornwell: And under that, there is a signature.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Are you able to tell whose signature that is?

Tirado: No, I was thinking it was Mirabal, but no-- I couldn't sign any papers.

Cornwell: Okay. So it was definitely not your signature?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you know whether, according to normal procedure,

any particular person routinely placed his name at that location?

Tirado: No, only the Consulate. People in the Consulate.

Cornwell: What would be the purpose of a signature in the lower right-hand corner?

Tirado: I don't know, perhaps to check that it was right as it was written.

Cornwell: Did you ever see the Consulate or any other employee routinely sign the applications at the location?

Tirado: I don't remember, but what I used to do was put the originals in one packet and that was with a letter to the Minister, de Relaciones exterister (spanish), How do you say that? (Lopez - Minister of Foreign Relations), and I used to give to the Consul so he sign the papers and send it to Cuba.

Cornwell: Okay. One copy stayed in the Consulate and one was mailed to Cuba, to the Minister of Foreign Relations.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Is it possible then that the signature in the lower right-hand corner is someone in Cuba?

Tirado: Perhaps that one that get it.

Cornwell: That receives it in Cuba. All right. the stamp,

which appears slightly over the name, the handwritten name, Lee H. Oswald, when did that get placed on the application if you know?

Tirado: Perhaps in the moment that he sign?

Cornwell: Was that part of the normal procedure? Did you have a stamp as you recall to do that?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And was that a means of authenticating the signature, that you would stamp on top of it like that?

Tirado: I think so. Because let me see.

This was signed by Cuba, I think, because this was October 10. This was the answer, perhaps.

Cornwell: So there's a date you just pointed to, around the middle of the application reading 10-OCT. 1963 and you are assuming, I take it, that that was the date placed on the document in Cuba?

Tirado: Perhaps but I don't know.

I don't know the date of when we send the application.

Cornwell: Or it was placed on there when you mailed it?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you know which?

Tirado: I don't know.

Cornwell: You don't remember which? Could it have been the date upon which the application was received

in the Consulate here in Mexico City?

Tirado: In return.

Cornwell: In return? Back from Cuba? Is that what you mean?

Tirado: Perhaps. I don't know that.

Cornwell: Could it have been the date you received it from Oswald?

Tirado: No, because it was the same date.

Cornwell: Okay. The only date on here of receipt from Oswald was the one near the top, the second line, which reads: 27 Sep. 1963.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: So I guess the best we can do is say that you don't have a distinct recollection of how the 10th of October date would have gotten placed on here. Correct?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: How long normally would it have taken between the receipt of an application and the date that it would have been mailed to Cuba?

Tirado: Well, it depends on the flight. We had, I don't remember in that time, if we were three flights from Cuba to Mexico and from Mexico to Cuba and it depends on the work that we have to do, if we have a lot of work we wouldn't have sent it immediately or,--valise diplomatica, How do you say it?

Cornwell: Diplomatic pouch.

Cornwell: Would there have been some usual amount of time?
How much could it vary?

Tirado: The flights were Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
I think. And uh, well, we send a bunch if, I
think, I don't know, when what day in the week
was the 27th? Perhaps if it was Wednesday, we
would send next Friday, or next Monday. Or...

Cornwell: I have another photograph of just the upper left-
hand corner of the same document, which we'll
mark as Exhibit 3 on the back, and ask you if,
to the best of your recollection, that is a photo-
graph of the man whom you saw on or about the 27th
of September?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: I don't understand. A moment ago, did you say that
there was a normal time of the week that mailings
to Cuba occurred?

Tirado: Would you please repeat the question?

Cornwell: Was there a usual day, did the mailings to Cuba
usually occur on one given day of the week?

Tirado: Yes, I don't remember exactly, but I think it was
on Friday, perhaps, that we make, we send applica-
tions. Yeah, it was one day to send all the appli-
cations.

Cornwell: All right. So, if we were to tell you the 27th of

September was a Friday, then, the usual routine would have been either for you to have mailed this application on the very day that you received it, or to have to wait until at least the next Friday. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Now. You have told us that after the second visit, he went apparently to attempt to obtain a visa from the Soviet Embassy.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: When do you recall him returning?

Tirado: He came in the afternoon.

Cornwell: About what time?

Tirado: Five or six.

Cornwell: And that would have been, according to what you told us earlier, not normal visiting hours? Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: How were you able to speak to him on this occasion?

Tirado: Because when somebody came to the doorman and was speaking in another language that wasn't Spanish, he used to call me and say somebody's here that doesn't speak Spanish, someone sent me to you, so he takes the people to the Consulate.

Cornwell: And the doorman came and got you.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you go outside to the main gate?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: What happened?

Tirado: Somebody took them to the Consulate.

Cornwell: Okay. You said the main gate. Was that the area that, on Exhibit One, you marked as being the door to your office, or some other area?

Tirado: He was closed. In the afternoon he was closed. But perhaps he came. . .

Cornwell: The door on Area One was locked up. Okay?

Tirado: Yes. And then he was open.

Cornwell: Over near Number Seven, is that correct? Where they let the cars in?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: There was a door there too?

Tirado: Yes. It was the garage and another door.

Cornwell: And the doorman from that area brought him to your office?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: What occurred on that occasion?

Tirado: What?

Cornwell: What happened on that occasion?

Tirado: Well, he came in and he said that he already have his Russian visa and uh, he want to get his Cuban visa. And I said that that was not possible because he has to be first sent to Cuba and then

wait for the answer, no, it was necessary that he has to have first a Socialist visa, the Russian visa. And, uh, . . .

Cornwell: Did he show you his passport with a visa in it? From the Russian Embassy?

Tirado: No, No. I don't remember exactly but what I remember is he says that he already has his Russian visa and I said I don't see it and well, I don't remember exactly what we discussed in that moment. But, he was very stubborn. So, I say, well, I'm going to call to the Russian Consul, so I called the Russian Consul and I said hey, listen, here's a man that, he say that he already got his Russian visa. And he said, yes, I remember it. He came to us for visa but uh, the answer will be in three or four months, that was the usual time.

Cornwell: So as you recall, then, the person at the Russian Embassy said in effect, no, he doesn't have it yet, he's only applied for it. Is that right?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Okay. Go ahead.

Tirado: And uh, and I told him what the Russian Consulate says and then, he was angry. He get angry. And he insisted that he was a friend of the Cuban Re-

volution, that he has already been in jail for the Cuban Revolution, that uh, oh, that he wanted that visa and that he couldn't wait for so long time because uh, his Mexican visa was finished in three days. So he was insistent and uh, I didn't have time and well, I couldn't make him understand that. So, I went to the Consul's office and I explained to him, and would you please come and talk with him? Azcue came, Mirabal I think he didn't speak English, so Azcue came and told him those things, all the requirements that he needs to fly to Cuba, and he was really angry. He was red and he was almost crying and uh, he was insisting and insisting so Azcue told him to go away because if he didn't go away at that moment he was going to kick him, or something like that. So, Azcue went to the door, he opened the door and told Oswald to go away.

Cornwell: Okay. So he went to the door which was in the area we marked 'one,' which was the Consulate Office?

Tirado: Yes...Remember, I was feeling pity for him because he looked desperate.

Cornwell: He looked desperate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: So, you felt kind of sorry for him?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: At any time during these three contacts, did he indicate to you that he could speak or understand Spanish?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: During this period was your normal work week, did it include Saturdays?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Is it possible that, in addition to his visits on Friday, he also came back the following day on Saturday morning?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: How can you be sure of that?

Tirado: Because, uh, I told you before, that it was easy to remember, because not all the Americans that came there were married with a Russian woman, they have live(d) in Russian and uh, we didn't used to fight with those people because, if you, they came for going to Cuba, so apparently they were friends, no? So we were nice to them with this man we fight, I mean we had a hard discussion so we didn't want to have anything to do with him.

Cornwell: Okay. I understand that but I don't understand how that really answers the question. In other

words, the question is, what is it about the events that makes you sure that he did not come back on Saturday, and have another conversation with you?

Tirado: Because I remember the fight. So if he (come) back, I would have remembered.]

Cornwell: Did Azcue work on Saturdays?

Tirado: Yes, we used to work in the office, but not for the public.

Cornwell: Was there a guard, was there a guard out here at the corner near number seven on your diagram on Saturdays?

Tirado: Excuse me?

Cornwell: Was there a doorman out near the area that you marked as number seven, on the diagram?

Tirado: Yes, but on Saturday he never let people. . .

Cornwell: Never let people in.

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Not even if they came up to the doorman and didn't speak Spanish? And were very insistent?

Tirado: No, because they could answer or something. They could ask me for instance, no? by the inter-phone.

Cornwell: They could do that on a Friday, though.

Tirado: But what I remember is that Oswald has my telephone number and my name and perhaps he show to the doorman (Spanish).

Cornwell: When did you give him the telephone number and name?

Tirado: In the second visit, perhaps.

Cornwell: Okay.

Tirado: I used to do that to all the people, so they don't have to come and to bother me. So I used to give the telephone number and my name and say "give me a call next week to see if your visa arrived."

Cornwell: Well. Are you saying that based on your memory the guard was allowed to bring people in during the five till eight o'clock at night uh, sessions during the week but not on Saturdays?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you have a distinct recollection with respect to telephone calls to the Russian Consulate, was it just one call or was it more than one call?

Tirado: Only one.

Cornwell: Just one.

The . . . I believe I asked you this, but just to be sure, although the application was typed with

a carbon to make two copies with one typing, did he have to sign both independently? Or did you allow them to use a carbon to sign the paper?

Tirado: No, no. It was the original.

Cornwell: Two original signatures. All right.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Was anything said that you recall at this time which looking back on it indicated the possibility, even on that date, Oswald had on his mind some intension of killing the President of the United States?

Tirado: No, I don't think so.

Cornwell: Let me read something to you, and ask you if it at all refreshes your memory or if you have a memory of a conversation similar to this?

I don't believe I read this to you before, when we talked the other day, or did I? Did I read an excerpt from Daniel Schorr's book to you?

Tirado: No, you told me.

Cornwell: Okay. I'll read it to you then at this time. It's an excerpt from a book called Clearing the Air, written by Daniel Schorr, published in the United States in 1977. And page 177 reads as follows:

"In an interview in July 1967 with a British journalist, Comer Clark, Castro

(meaning Fidel Castro) said that Oswald had come to the Cuban Consulate twice, each time for about fifteen minutes. The first time, I was told, he wanted to work for us. He was asked to explain but he wouldn't, he wouldn't go into details. The second time he said he wanted to free Cuba from American imperialism. Then he said something like 'Someone ought to shoot that President Kennedy.' Then Oswald said, and this is exactly how it was reported to me, maybe I'll try to do it."

Do you recall any conversation like that in either what was said to you by Oswald or that was said by Oswald to Azcue or anyone else that you might have overheard?

Tirado: No, I don't remember.

Cornwell: Did any part of that conversation occur?

Tirado: No, because I don't remember that he says he was to go to work in Cuba because he only ^{said} that he wanted to go in-transit. That's what I remember.

Cornwell: What do you think, well, first let me ask you, do you think that conversation could have occurred and you just forgot it? In other words, is that the kind of conversation which, if it occurred, you would definitely remember it?

Tirado: Yes. Because in the fight with Azcue there was shouting and crying and things like that. I could miss something, but not, because even if would say so, I mean, I could have heard, no, I mean

if you kill President you're not going to change the whole system.

You see, that's why I give you answer, even Azcue. I mean that's not the, I don't think so, that he had that conversation with anyone. He was arguing. . .

Cornwell: Do you remember any part of the conversation indicating that Oswald blaming^{ed} the United States or President Kennedy for his inability to get to Cuba?

Tirado: I don't remember but that could be possible.

Cornwell: In other words, if he's frustrated and he comes to the Cuban Consulate, he might feel animosity or anger towards various people. He might be angry at you, or Azcue, or at the Cuban Government or at the Russian Government or perhaps the United States Government, depending on how the conversation went. What do you recall about that? Who was he angry at when told he couldn't go to Cuba.

Tirado: He was angry at us. That's why I called Azcue. Because he was not a strong man but anyway, I didn't like to fight with him. He was very angry and he was blaming me and Azcue because he thought it was in our hands to give the visa immediately, and he couldn't understand that the visa has to

come from Cuba.

Cornwell: You mentioned earlier that you had discussed with Azcue on this, as I understood this, during the third visit with Oswald, the suspicion that you had about the documents. Is that accurate or did I misunderstand?

Tirado: No, it was the third time when I told Azcue that there was a man that bother me, that when I told him about this man, I mean because it was normal, I used to, that was my job, to attend people who come in so I didn't have to bother the Consul for every man who came, because there was a lot crazy men from the United States that they wanted to go to Cuba.

Cornwell: Okay. So, from what I understand then, when you went in to Azcue to bother him, since you normally didn't do that sort of thing, you gave him a sort of background resume of your dealings with Oswald. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And was it at that point that you told him of your suspicion about the documents?

Tirado: I think so.

Cornwell: What was his reaction? Azcue's?

Tirado: He was worrying. When he went to my office,

he was very tranquil, he was very polite, he was explaining things, very polite. And uh, he was starting to get angry when he saw that he was a stubborn man, that he didn't want to understand, and he said uh, I remember now, he said 'you're not a friend of the Cuban Revolution, because if you are a friend, you have to understand that we have to take care, to be very careful with the people that are going to Cuba, and if you don't understand this, you are not friend of the Cuban Revolution.' And he was shouting and, I don't remember how long was this conversation, but uh, they got really angry, both.

Leap: May I call you Silvia?

Tirado: Yes.

Leap: At any time during your conversation with the Consul, did you discuss the possibility that Oswald was a penetration agent? Intelligence agent for a foreign power? Did you discuss that possibility?

Tirado: No. I don't think so because we didn't have time. Because this man was in my office and I was in Azcue's office so I couldn't leave him many times alone.

Leap: Did you ever have conversations with Azcue outside of Oswald's presence relative to the issue?

Tirado: Repeat the question please.

Lopez: Did you ever have a conversation with Azcue when Oswald was not in the office about the possibility that he was an intelligence agent for some country?

Tirado: No, no. I don't think so. We only thought that he was
/a crazy man, an adventurer, or something like that.

Leap: Did it ever enter your mind that he was a penetration agent?

Tirado: Perhaps. Perhaps, because it happened, it happened sometimes that somebody came and say this is a policeman or something like that.

Leap: That's all the questions that I have.

Tirado: The only thing that I can say, it was that it was strange, travelling with all of his documents just to prove one thing.

Lopez: Do you think now, looking back on what happened then, that he may have been an intelligence agent?

Tirado: Perhaps.

Cornwell: Did anything else ever come to your attention? That caused that suspicion? Other than just his presentation of the documentation? Anything else ever happen?

Tirado: With him? No, no. The only thing that was strange is that if you belong to the Communist Party,

any party. Your French, but French could get Cuban Visa but Mexico, for instance, if you're Mexican and you're a member of the party, of the Communist Party, you don't have to go and ask for application visa because the party writes to the Cuban Communist Party, and they arrange everything. That was the strange thing. There's no need. At first, he said that he was a Communist. That was strange. Because it would be really easy for him to get the visa through the Communist Party.

Cornwell: At any point in the conversations that you have told us about, did Oswald say anything indicating that he really wanted to stay in Cuba?

Tirado: No. He just wanted to go and visit and saw what was the Revolution.

Cornwell: Okay. That's sort of what I meant. In other words, he did indicate that he didn't just want to pass through, that he wanted to spend some time there. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: What do you recall about that part of the conversations?

Tirado: I told him that he get to Cuba, for instance, at two o'clock, and there was a plane going to

Russia at five o'clock, he has to stay in the airport, in the Cuban airport. That he couldn't go out.

Cornwell: Why didn't you tell him that?

Tirado: Because he was saying that he wanted to go to Cuba to visit and to see what the revolution had made.

Cornwell: Did you ever see him again, after the argument with Azcue?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did you ever talk to him again?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Not in person nor by telephone.


Tirado: No, he never call.

He could have called when I wasn't there, but I used to get the message, if somebody answer, I used to get a message.

Cornwell: Did anyone else overhear any of the conversations you have described? Other than the one time in which Azcue was involved?

Tirado: Yes. Could be that people from the Commercial Office, could be Mirabal.

Cornwell: Was there anyone else physically present in the Consulate's Office during those conversations as you can recall?

Tirado: I can't remember. The only thing that I remember is that it was only Mirabal. 

Cornwell: And did Mirabal come out in the reception area during the conversations as you recall?

Tirado: No, I think he stay in his office.

Cornwell: But he could have overheard it at the time.

Tirado: Yes, everybody who was passing through, even in the streets, they were shouting, really!

Cornwell: Were the windows up as I guess they might have been at that time of year?

Tirado: (Didn't understand.)

Cornwell: The windows would have been up? The windows to the Consulate Office would have been open?

Tirado: What? I. . .

Cornwell: In other words, you're saying people on the street might have overheard it?

Tirado: Yes, yes. If you were here and there was always a police here, they could have heard the shouting, the crying.

(Lots of noise in background, unintelligible.)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

TAPE 2

Name Silvia Tirado (Duran)Date June 6, 1978 Time _____

Address _____

Place _____

Interview:

Cornwell: You told us previously when we discussed informally with you that you were sympathetic towards the Cuban Revolution during the early 1960's--

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you ever overhear any conversation either in the Consulate or among any of the people you may have associated with concerning the possibility of killing the President?

Tirado: No, because I think the people I used to know during that time, they think like me, and I think the death of a man doesn't make anything good, I mean, you have to change the structures, I mean, it's just like a building, no? The President is like, I mean, for instance, a roof--not the top, but if you take the top, the building still stands. You have to destroy the whole building, not one man. If you kill the man, you make a hero. So, is no good.

Cornwell: What were your own feelings towards President Kennedy?

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature Gary CornwellDate transcribed 6-26-78By: br Form #4-A

Tirado: Well, I like him. I mean, he was very nice, he was very intelligent. And I think of the relations with Mexico, as I remember now, they were very good in the commercial area, the cultural area. He came to Mexico and he was very acclamation. They loved him. They liked him very much.

Cornwell: And, what you're saying is, you're describing what you understood to be the basic reaction of the Mexican people? Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Was that feeling the same even among the part of the Mexican people who were sympathetic towards the Cuban Revolution?

Tirado: Uh, translate, please, Ed. I want to be sure of the question.

Lopez: Would you repeat the question, please?

Cornwell: Was the feeling that you just described as being that of the Mexican people?

Lopez: (Translated question.)

Tirado: In general.

Cornwell: The same with respect to that part of the Mexican people like yourself who were sympathetic to the Cuban Revolution?

Lopez: (Translated.)

Tirado: Well, yes, more or less. Because I mean, if you're uh, how can I explain this, uh, if you're a President

of a country that is against uh, against Latin America, undeveloped countries, you don't love them, of course, but you may see that is different, that he has been a good President, that he was, I think he was ingenious with his Alliance for Progress, that he tried to have more friends, not like Dulles who said we don't have friends, we have interests, things like that. Do you know that phrase?

Cornwell: One more time.

Lopez: (Speaks to Tirado in Spanish.) Dulles.

Tirado: He said once the United States has no friends, they have interests. (Speaks in Spanish.) And Kennedy tried to destroy that phrase, saying we want to have friends. And he was changing the politics of Latin America, Kennedy.

Cornwell: So, you're saying that because of President Kennedy's policies towards Latin America, that even the part of the Mexican people who were sympathetic to the Cuban Revolution, they also very much liked President Kennedy?

Tirado: I think so. Now, I'm not sure, I mean I--

Cornwell: At least--

Tirado: Yeah, but you make difference with one President and another.

Cornwell: I understood your answer to my question a moment ago but let me ask it one more time, nevertheless.

I asked you if at any time during the early 1960's you had overheard any conversations among people who were in favor of the Cuban Revolution to the effect that they would consider killing the President, and you answered with a statement on the logic of the situation, that you don't change the system by changing the President. Nevertheless, let me ask you again, more pointedly. Did you, nevertheless, ever overhear any such conversations?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did you ever overhear them within the Cuban Consulate or outside it?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: I'm sorry, go ahead.

Tirado: No, but I'm Mexican and I was in Mexico and I was working there and you have to see that uh, even though the Cuban people know I was a friend, they would not say things like that in front of me, of course, no?

Cornwell: When the news came over the television and in the newspapers that President Kennedy had been killed, and then you heard the name Lee Harvey Oswald, and saw the picture, I guess you immediately reflected back on your contact, correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: At that time, did anything come into your mind

in connection with those contacts that you could have read as foreknowledge, in other words, did it totally surprise you that that was the alleged assassin, or was there anything about your contact with him which ^{made} ~~him~~ it understandable?

Tirado: No. No, even now I don't think that he would have done it.

Cornwell: You still don't think that he killed him?

Tirado: No, because I think that he was a weak man. I saw that he could get angry, but uh, for me, he was not a man that could kill the President, because even when I saw him on television and he said all the time, "I'm innocent" and if I kill someone very important, I would be proud. I mean, because even if I'm with police I know that I'm going to be killed or die or something like that, I'd say, "Yes, I killed the President" and I don't think so.

Cornwell: So based on all of your contacts with him, you do not think that he killed the President?

Tirado: I don't think so.

Cornwell: Let me ask you just some miscellaneous questions about the nature of your contact with him. Was there ever any conversations or indications about money problems that he had? Was that ever the sub-

ject of a conversation?

Tirado: No. The thing that I remember only that he was very in a hurry because his visa was finished and I think he said, he mentioned that he only had three days to stay here in Mexico City.

Cornwell: Did he ever indicate that he hoped the Cuban Government would finance his trip?

Tirado: I don't think so.

Cornwell: Had you ever done that before? Had the Consulate ever done that sort of thing?

Tirado: No, no. We used to do that but they were visitors and we had instructions from Cuba, from the Cuban Government.

Cornwell: Only visitors from Cuba, is that what you mean?

Tirado: No, no. For instance, your--the Cuban Revolutionary Anniversary, they invite people, they do have everything paid.

Cornwell: In other words, it was persons that had been invited to go to Cuba by the Cuban Government?

Tirado: Yes, yes.

Cornwell: Well, even though, then you would not, or the Cuban Government would not have financed this trip, did he ask for such assistance?

Tirado: At the time that I was working there, it never happens.

Cornwell: Specifically Oswald.

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did he ask for monetary assistance?

Tirado: I don't remember. I don't think so. But I don't remember.

Cornwell: Did he ever say anything or did you ever observe anything to indicate that he had travelling companions in Mexico City?

Tirado: No, he didn't mention it.

Cornwell: Did he ever say anything or do anything that indicated that he knew other people in Mexico City?

Tirado: I don't know. I don't remember.

Cornwell: To the best of your knowledge he knew no one, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you know when he left Mexico City?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: By what form of transportation?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did anyone ever call or come by the Consulate on his behalf?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did they ever deliver anything to the Consulate for him?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: There have, let me ask you this--Has any allegation ever been brought to your attention that you met

with Oswald outside of the Consulate?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: On--let me show you two books, one of which is labeled photo ident book and has roughly three inch by five inch pictures in it and the other one which is labeled JFK Document 7549 and has smaller pictures in it, and I'll turn the recorder off for a second and give you a few minutes to look through them and ask us, and I will ask you if you recognize any of the people in these photos.

Recorder turned off.

Cornwell: Okay. We've turned the tape recorder back on and you've had five minutes, maybe ten, I don't know, to look through the two books. In the first book, you only picked out photograph--

Tirado: This looks like Fidel. But not exactly.

Cornwell: Which one: Number 12?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Who does that look like?

Tirado: Fidel but not exactly.

Cornwell: All right. Just a little.

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Okay. And you also I believe pointed to Number 57 when you went through the book.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And who do you think that is?

Tirado: Oswald.

Cornwell: Lee Harvey Oswald. Now, many of the pictures in the book are not that clear, of course. When you saw him the first time in the book, you indicated that that looked like him except that as you recalled him, he had either blue or green eyes and blond hair. Correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: When you say blond hair, what color is that? Is it very light?

Tirado: Light.

Cornwell: Let's see if we can find an example. Looking in the second book--that's all you found in the first book, correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: All right. Looking in the second book, uh, take as an example, Number 266 04 268., would that be basically what you recall to be the color of his hair, blond?

Tirado: Yes. Here it looks very, very light, not that light.

Cornwell: Okay. That would be what you describe as blond but your memory is that it was close but not quite as

light as that?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Okay, but the tape recorder was back away from us so just to make sure we got that answer, you picked out in the first book photograph #57. You stated that it looked like the way you recalled the man who came to the Consulate except that he had blue or green eyes and blond hair. And then we were trying to determine what shade you recall the blond hair being, and I asked you--all these are black and white--if it would be similar to photos #266 and #268 in the book 7549? And you said in those pictures that it looks very light and that it would not have been that light, quite that light to your memory. Is that right?

Tirado: Yes.

(Long break.)

Cornwell: I don't know how, working with black and white photos, we can do much better than that? But--

Tirado: A little lighter than your eyebrows.

Cornwell: A little lighter than my eyebrows? There's another photo. . . In the second book, number 26 or 27. You also pointed to those photos when you went through the book. Would the color of that hair approximate the way you remember it?

Cornwell: Okay. And you also I believe pointed to Number 57 when you went through the book.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And who do you think that is?

Tirado: Oswald.

Cornwell: Lee Harvey Oswald. Now, many of the pictures in the book are not that clear, of course. When you saw him the first time in the book, you indicated that that looked like him except that as you recalled him, he had either blue or green eyes and blond hair. Correct?

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Cornwell: Okay. That would be what you describe as blond but your memory is that it was close but not quite as

light as that?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Okay, but the tape recorder was back away from us so just to make sure we got that answer, you picked out in the first book photograph #57. You stated that it looked like the way you recalled the man who came to the Consulate except that he had blue or green eyes and blond hair. And then we were trying to determine what shade you recall the blond hair being, and I asked you--all these are black and white--if it would be similar to photos #266 and #268 in the book 7549? And you said in those pictures that it looks very light and that it would not have been that light, quite that light to your memory. Is that right?

Tirado: Yes.

(Long break.)

Cornwell: I don't know how, working with black and white photos, we can do much better than that? But--

Tirado: A little lighter than your eyebrows.

Cornwell: A little lighter than my eyebrows? There's another photo. . . In the second book, number 26 or 27. You also pointed to those photos when you went through the book. Would the color of that hair approximate the way you remember it?

Tirado: No, because he had very light, almost white. . .

Cornwell: Okay, again, it would be not as light as that?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: All right. Then going to the second book, you pointed to photograph #4, when you looked at the book the first time. What is your memory about that?

Tirado: He reminds me of Mirabal, he reminds me but not exactly.

Cornwell: All right. He looks a little like Mirabal?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: If I skip a photograph you remember looking at, let me know, but I jotted down some notes as you came to 'em when you looked at the book. You next pointed to number 26 and 27. Does that appear to you to be the same man?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And who was that?

Tirado: Ernesto Lefel. He used to work with my husband.

Cornwell: Ernesto Lefel. And what's the nature of the association between he and your husband?

Tirado: He was working with him.

Cornwell: In the architectural business?

Tirado: Yes, yes. He's a designer.

Cornwell: He's a designer?

Tirado: He started working with us. He learned some--

Cornwell: Is he a social acquaintance of yours in addition?

Tirado: Is what?

Cornwell: Do you know him on a social basis in addition to his being a business associate of your husband?

Tirado: No business associate. He was working for him, for Horacio.

Cornwell: Okay. That's what I meant. He was an assistant.

Tirado: Assistant.

Cornwell: All right.

Tirado: No social. Sometimes he came to our house to dinner, or something like that.

Cornwell: Next, you I believe pointed to Number 57. Is that correct? Fifty-seven?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Who does that look like?

Tirado: He looks like Gavino Fernandez.

Cornwell: What's the first name?

Tirado: Gavino.

Cornwell: Gavino? And who is he?

Tirado: Well, he's uh, dignitary, and he used to go to the Cuban Institute.

Cornwell: He was a dignitary of what?

Tirado: He was working for the Social Security and he was working, not in this Government period, in the last

one, and he was working even with the President.

Cornwell: I see, so he was a dignitary of the Mexican Government.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Okay.

Tirado: But when he was going to the Cuban Institute, no, he didn't?

Cornwell: You also knew him from the Cuban Institute?

Tirado: He's an economist.

Cornwell: He's a what?

Tirado: Economist.

Cornwell: Economist. You then pointed to Number 65.

Tirado: Perhaps.

Cornwell: And that's a face that you're not sure you recognize?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: But looks a little bit like who?

Tirado: Solchi Vargas.

Cornwell: Solchi Vargas?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Okay. And who was she?

Tirado: She's Mexican lady who was married with a journalist, he used to work for the Cuban press, and she used to live in Cuba. And now she's at the Cuban Institute.

Cornwell: I believe you next pointed to Number 111--

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And that's a, sort of a three-quarter shot from behind.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Of a man you think you might recognize, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: I'm sort of trying to recall the way you stated it when you first looked at the photographs, so if I misstated it, just correct me.

Who do you think that man may be?

Tirado: The attache, the Cuban Cultural Attache at that time, Luis Alberu.

Cornwell: Alberu?

Tirado: Alberu.

Cornwell: And then I believe you next indicated that you may recognize Photograph 115?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And who is that?

Tirado: Luis Alberu.

Cornwell: That of course is a front and you can clearly recognize him from that photograph, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Then, you next pointed to Photograph 133. Do you recognize that man?

Tiardo: Yes.

Cornwell: Who is he?

Tirado: The doorman. Now I don't remember the name.

Cornwell: But he's the doorman who left Lee Harvey Oswald
into the Consulate on his third visit?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: That's accurate?

Tirado: Uh? . . . I said yes.

Cornwell: Okay. And then I believe you pointed to photograph
158?

Tirado: Numbers 157 and 158.

Cornwell: 157 and 158. Who was that?

Tirado: I think that he was working at the Consulate in
Vera Cruz?

Cornwell: And do you know what his position was at the Con-
sulate?

Tirado: I think he was Vice Consul but I'm not really sure.

Cornwell: And which Consulate is that?

Tirado: In Vera Cruz, Cuban, the Cuban Consulate.

Cornwell: The Cuban Consulate in Vera Cruz.

And I believe finally you recognized possibly the
center man in the group photograph labeled 275.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And who do you think he is?

Tirado: An American.

Cornwell: Do you remember anything more about him?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you remember where you saw him?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you think you recognized the photo from a personal contact or from a picture?

Tirado: From a picture I think. I think he was an American Ambassador.

Cornwell: American Ambassador?

Tirado: Or something like that.

Cornwell: All right. And you don't have any memory what his name might be?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Okay. Uh. . .

Tirado: But tell me, who is it? (Laughter.) For a change.

Cornwell: Do you recognize the man in photo 266? Yes, that's the one I want. 266?

Tirado: No. He looks like Russian.

Cornwell: Do you recognize the man in 265?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you recognize the man in 213?

Tirado: No. You're not going to tell me who's that man?

Cornwell: Not right now. (Laughter.) But maybe later.

When the assassination occurred, do you remember where you were, when you first heard the news reports?

Tirado: At the Consulate.

Cornwell: And do you know what you did at that time?

Tirado: No, it was almost noon, I mean the lunch hour, about two o'clock, or near two o'clock, and somebody came and said Kennedy was killed, and all was confusion and, uh, well, we were really sorry. Everybody came in and went out and there was confusion. All over. And then I went home to have lunch.

Cornwell: Did you speak to Horatio or anyone else prior to going home?

Tirado: I don't remember, really.

Cornwell: When you went home was he at home?

Tirado: We used to have lunch.

Cornwell: And? As you recall he was there on that day?

Tirado: It was my birthday so he has to be there. (Laughter.)

Cornwell: What if any conversation do you recall having with him at that time about the assassination?

Tirado: No, I don't remember. I only remember at night.

Cornwell: All right. You had a birthday party planned that night. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: During the day, prior to the birthday party, had you received or heard as part of the news broadcast the name Lee Harvey Oswald?

Tirado: No, only in the afternoon.

Cornwell: In the afternoon, after lunch?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: After you returned to the Consulate, is that correct?

Tirado: Perhaps.

Cornwell: And at that time, did you think you remembered the name?

Tirado: It was, I think, at night, because, it was in the afternoon, perhaps when they start saying about Oswald. Right? And, it was at night and uh, I don't know if I call my husband or we were in the kitchen mixing some drinks or food, I don't know, but we were in the kitchen and I told him, I think this man went to the Embassy to ask for a visa.

Cornwell: And at that time, had you heard his name?

Tirado: His name?

Cornwell: His name, seen his picture, or both?

Tirado: No, no. The picture was in the newspapers the next day.

Cornwell: Okay. So you only thought that you might have recalled the name. Is that correct?

Tirado: No, not the name, but when they say Lee Harvey Oswald, married to the Russian woman and he live in Russia, and things like that.

Cornwell: Okay. Did you have any other discussion that you can recall with him about it? Based on that news

report? About your contact?

Tirado: With my husband?

Cornwell: Yes.

Tirado: I only told him, I think this man came to the Embassy.

Cornwell: Then, the next morning you saw a newspaper.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Were you sure at that time that that was the man?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you remember who was at the birthday party that night? Do you remember whether or not you discussed these events with any one else at the party?

Tirado: Yes, we were talking about it.

Cornwell: Whoever was at the party.

Tirado: The whole night, yes.

Cornwell: What was the tone of the party?

Tirado: Sorrow. And speculation, what's going on? Because with Kennedy we knew what was going on, but now, what will happen?

Cornwell: The next morning what did you do?

Tirado: I show the paper to Horatio and told him this is the man that went to the Embassy and I went to the Consulate and I look in the Archivos and I saw the application, I saw that it was the man and I went to the Embassy and I talked to the Ambassador and I told him that this

Cornwell: What was the nature of your conversation with the Ambassador? Just to tell him that that was the man?

Tirado: Yes, I think so.

Cornwell: What was his name?

Tirado: Fernandez Armes (or Hernandez).

Cornwell: And, did you do anything else? Did you pull the file on him or make any other attempts to put the facts together?

Tirado: I think I leave the file with him.

Cornwell: Pulled the file and left it with the Ambassador?

Tirado: Yeah, the whole bunch.

Cornwell: What would have been in the file besides the application, if anything?

Tirado: Another applications.

Cornwell: I see, you pulled the whole file which included his application?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did anything else happen that morning at work?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Then, did you go home for lunch again?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And what occurred at that time?

Tirado: Uh, my brothers-in-law, servant, maid came and when she saw me, she cried, she started crying, and she said "You're alive?" And I say "why?," "because some man

came to the house and says that uh, you had an accident and you were dead and they take away Senor Ruben to identify you." Then we went to Ruben's house and it was full of men and they catch me.

Cornwell: They caught you. Okay. And the men were representatives of the Mexican police, is that correct?

Tirado: Yeah, but they never told me.

Cornwell: What happened when you walked into the house, to Ruben's house?

Tirado: I saw my brothers-in-law, wife, and the same thing. She cries, and says "Silvia, you're okay?" "Yes, I'm okay." She was between two men and she couldn't get near to me, but I was walking and I saw in the bedroom, it was Ruben, and full of photographs on the bed and he said the same thing--"Silvia, you're okay, you're all right?" and I say "Yes" and "What happened?" Then I saw the telephone and I try to get the telephone and a man hold my hand and he says you can't call because you are under arrest, and they say, I don't remember, but they say, ah, this is the accomplice of Kennedy. I thought that's what they told but I say I don't remember. They told me, "You're under arrest." I sat down on the bed and I said "You have to show me an order signed by a judge that I am under arrest." Then they hold

me, my hands, and I try to defend myself, and
they kicked somebody and they took me--

Cornwell: You were trying to kick them and keep them from taking you with them, right?

Tirado: Yes, yes.

Cornwell: Who were you going to call on the telephone?

Tirado: The police.

(Laughter.)

Tirado: The police, the lawyer, I don't know. And when they took me out of the house and I was crying, "Call the police, call the police!" and they, he covered my mouth, and they took me to stationwagon that was parked at the corner. There was a man there but I didn't know him and I was quiet, and they say, "Don't cry. Scandalous woman." "Scandalous old woman, shut up. Because where we are going we will see what's going to happen to you." So, in that moment, I said quit.

Cornwell: So you were taken to the police station?

Tiardo: No. It's not the police station. The office where the security, that was where the intelligence agencies were in. But I didn't know that because that building belongs to the State Social Security. Not the one I work for.

Cornwell: Then?

Tirado: For government employees.

Cornwell: And who else was taken down there besides you?

Tirado: The whole--my brother-in-law, his wife, my sister-in-law, a friend of hers, another woman that was there, and me, but they were taken in another car.

Cornwell: And, at the police station, what inquiries were made of you? What did they ask?

Tirado: Everything. Everything. They asked me my name, where was I born, my jobs, when I married, my status, everything. They have my finger-prints, photographs of myself, everything. And uh, well, they ask me where I was working, if I had been in Cuba, some people that I saw in Cuba, and what I was doing at the Consulate, that there was a tunnel, that makes me laugh, it was a tunnel from the Cuban Embassy to the Russian Embassy, and uh, well, a lot of foolish questions.

Cornwell: Specifically, what did they allege that you had done?

Tirado: What?

Cornwell: Specifically, what did they allege you had done? What did they accuse you of doing?

Tirado: Nothing. They never said--

Cornwell: During the questioning on all the subject matters that you had mentioned, did they make a verbatim transcript? Did they record the conversation, or transcribe it?

Tirado: They used a little machine. They say it is a stenograph or something like that.

Cornwell: They made a stenograph record.

Tirado: Yeah, and a man was writing.

Cornwell: All the questions and all the answers?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did any of the procedures that we have asked you about cause you to say anything to the police that was not the truth?

Tirado: No, I don't think so. I don't have nothing to hide.
So. . .

Cornwell: Everything that you told them was the truth?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: At any time during the questioning did they ever allege that you had met with Oswald outside the Consulate?

Tirado: Yes. A lot of times.

Cornwell: Did they ever ask you any questions about a Negro?

Tirado: I don't remember.

Cornwell: You don't remember anything about that?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did you ever know, during this same period of time, any Negroes?

Tirado: Yes. At the Commercial Attache was a Negro.

Cornwell: Anyone else?

Tirado: The doorman.

Cornwell: Anyone else?

Tirado: The wife of the Commercial Attache. And the children.

Cornwell: Is that all? Did they ask any specific questions about them?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: What was his name?

Tirado: I don't remember. I even don't remember if he was there when Kennedy was shot.

Cornwell: Were they from Cuba?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you know any other Negroes from Cuba outside the Consulate?

Tirado: I don't think so. Well, this man, the boy at Consulado at Vera Cruz. He was a Negro, not completely, but--

Cornwell: The one you showed us in the photograph?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you know any Negroes who had red hair?

None of the ones you described did?

Tirado: No, we used to call "Red" to a boy who was working there but he was like Spanish; I mean he was white and--

Cornwell: Not even very dark skinned?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Remember his name?

Tirado: Rogelio, Rogelio Rodriguez, I think, something like that.

Cornwell: After the questioning, first, how did that terminate? When did they finally release you?

Tirado: About one o'clock.

Cornwell: Did you meet again with your family, your husband?

Tirado: Yes. Well, they were waiting for me and. . .
we went to have lunch, something to eat because we
haven't had. And well, we talk about it.

Cornwell: Remember where you went?

Tirado: No. Horacio told me we went to Sanborn's.
I don't remember. I even don't remember when I got
home and what happened. Next day everyone know.

Cornwell: Did the officers from the Seguridad Department
ever suggest to you during the questioning that they
had information that you and Oswald had been lovers?

Tirado: Yes, and also that we were Communists and that we
were planning the Revolution and uh, a lot of false
things.

Cornwell: What happened the next day?

Tirado: Well, we stayed home and at night a friend of ours
came and we didn't say anything.

Cornwell: Why was that?

Tirado: Why?

Cornwell: Why did you not say anything?

Tirado: Because these people told me to keep quiet.

Cornwell: The police?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Or the officers?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you then go back over to the Consulate either
Sunday or Monday?

Tirado: On Monday.

Cornwell: Okay. What happened then?

Tirado: When I got there everybody ask me what happened?
And I say "Why?" And in the newspaper was the
this part of the question that I told you about,
Azcue telling Oswald to go away.

Cornwell: It was in the newspapers?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: How did the newspapers get that story?

Tirado: I don't know.

Cornwell: You never had any idea?

Tirado: Well, of course. The police gave it to Excelsior.
It was the first government newspaper.

Cornwell: So you just always thought they got it from the
police?

Cornwell: But the people at the Consulate said they had read
the newspaper and asked you what had happened, right?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you discuss that with anybody that you can remem-
ber specifically?

Tirado: With the Ambassador.

Cornwell: And what was the nature of that conversation?

Tirado: I tried to repeat all the questions.

Cornwell: Okay. Uh. . . would that have been a violation of
what the police asked you to do? To talk to the

Ambassador about that?

Tirado: Huh?

Cornwell: Was that a violation of what the police asked you to do? Was that. . . .

Tirado: Well, of course. They told me to keep quiet. I never says anything about what happened on Saturday. Never. But when I saw in the papers I couldn't say "Well, nothing happened." It was all in the paper and it was exactly what I said to the police.

Cornwell: What did the Ambassador say to you?

Tirado: That he was going to write a report and he sent it in the plane.

Cornwell: What if anything did you consider doing at the time?

Tirado: What?

Cornwell: Did you consider taking any course of action at the time?

Tirado: Oh. I was going to make a protest to the Mexican Government. We went to, a friend of mine was a daughter of the Chief of Tinetra^(Ch) and we could reach the President and we were going to ask to explain what happened and you know, there was an illegal (tape stops). . . .

Cornwell: Did, in addition to your considering filing formal protest with the Mexican Government, did you also consider taking a trip out of the country?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did you consider going to Cuba?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: What happened after that?

Tirado: Well, I told to the Ambassador all that happened during the questioning and I told him also about the protest that we wanted to make and I asked him, "Don't do anything because we are trying to do something here, against these police." And after that, uh, Tuesday, I went to work and Wednesday morning when I was going to have breakfast the police came again, two agents, and they asked me, very polite, if I want to go with them, just to answer some questions. They wanted to know something. And, uh, it was unnecessary to take my car because they were going to take me and bring me back. So I called uh, the Consulate. That's why I remember I already had the telephone and I said I'm coming in late because I'm going to the police station. Okay, don't worry, we wait for you. And they keep me two days and a half.

Cornwell: And why did they tell you that they kept you this time?

Tirado: Uh, to protect me.

Cornwell: Did they tell you anything in any more detail?
Was there a specific threat?

Tirado: No. They were very rough this time. They were very angry with me, the man that I told you, that I kicked him in his balls. He was very angry, and they repeat the same questions but they were more, how you say, how do you say anticipito?

Lopez: They anticipated her.

Tirado: And they were, wanted to know exactly what I have done in Cuba, the people that I met there, everything. They were asking me questions about all the people that were working in the Embassy and uh, this time I wanted to go to the bathroom and they wouldn't take me and it was longer, because it was about 10:00 from 10:00, I think almost 6:00, they questioned me.

Cornwell: Were you afraid during the two periods they held you?

Tirado: Yes. I don't know exactly what happened but I was uh, I was innocent. So I said, what am I doing here, no? And uh, the only thing that I have, I had the feeling that I was going to die and I said okay, if I'm going to die, I'm going to die, how you say it, with pride, my child will not be shamed. I remember I do anything that--I was very dramatic in those moments. So, sometimes I lost my temper. I never say no bad words or nothing. I cry sometimes, I shout and things like that but then I sat down again.

Cornwell: As I understand it, they tried to scare you, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes. The first time.

Cornwell: The first time. Because of that was there anything that you knew that you simply refused to tell them?

Tirado: That's what they thought. Because all the time they tell me that I was a Communist and I said I'm not a Communist, but do you believe in Socialism? Yes, I believe in Socialism but I'm not a Communist; and they insisted that I was a very important people for the government, the Cuban Government, and that I was the link for the International Communists--the Cuban Communists, the Mexican Communists and the American Communists, and that we were going to kill Kennedy, and I was the link. For them I was very important. Of course, it was not true.

Cornwell: Okay. Even though you were innocent of those charges, you had not conspired to kill the President and were not in the Communist Party.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Because that was what they were interested in, because that was the nature of the allegation, did you withhold any part of your story? Were you afraid that something you had done, although innocent, they might have misconstrued, misunderstood, so did you withhold any information from them because of the very severe accusations they were making?

Tirado: No. I tried to answer it, what they asked me I tried to answer. All the time.

Cornwell: You understand though, the kind of question I'm asking you?

(Tirado spoke to Lopez in Spanish, who asked Cornwell to repeat the question.)

Cornwell: Okay, let me just ask you a hypothetical. Sometimes, a person has done something completely innocent but then they are confronted with a very severe accusation. They may think that their innocent act will be misunderstood by their accusers so they might withhold the innocent act simply to be sure that they don't get into more trouble--

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Simply to be sure they don't get into more trouble than they apparently are already in.

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: There was no thing that you had done or seen or knew about that you withheld because of that?

Tirado: No. No, I explain everything that they wanted to know and uh, I think sometimes they were fools.

Cornwell: They were what?

Lopez: Fools.

Cornwell: Fools.

Tirado: Tonto. Fools.

Cornwell: After they finally released you, they held you for another two, two and a half days. Did you make any

trips out of the country then?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: How long did you continue to be married to Horatio after that?

Tirado: Five years.

Cornwell: Why were you finally divorced?

Tirado: We separate and we divorce perhaps four years after.

Cornwell: Why was that?

Tirado: Why? Why we divorce four years after?

Because we don't like.

Cornwell: Go ahead.

Tirado: Because he did not want to get legal problems and he said that it was a lot of problems to get divorced. He was married once so he said that it was nonsense.

Cornwell: Why were you separated?

Tirado: Because I used to believe in the romantic love, and even we have a very, how you say that, uh, we loved each other very much but it was not the passionate love that I used to believe in, so I thought it better to divorce, get divorced. It is very difficult to explain.

(Tirado speaks to Lopez in Spanish.)

Lopez: They were incompatible, had incompatible characters.

Cornwell: You have not spoken to anybody in the news media or any official investigating body since 1963 about these events, is that correct, except for the

Washington Post and that was approximately a year or so ago, a year and a half ago?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: You indicate that you read some part of the Warren Commission Report recently. Do you recall anything about that that was inaccurate other than what you have already related? The part that you read.

Tirado: What?

Cornwell: Was there any part of that which was inaccurate that you can recall?

Tirado: What I said. That I was exceeding my duties.

Cornwell: Had you either done anything or offered to do anything for Oswald other than what you have already described to us?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: And was that all within the scope of your responsibility?

Tirado: It was. . . .?

Cornwell: Was it all within the scope of your authority?

Tirado: Scope?

(Lopez translates.)

Tirado: Yes.

(Tirado speaks to Lopez in Spanish.)

Cornwell: Did you ever have any of the people at the Cuban Consulate attend parties in your home? Was there

a social relationship with any of them?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Which ones?

Tirado: Azcue, Maria Carmen, I think Luisa, she went once.

Cornwell: Who is that? Luisa?

Tirado: Luisa Caldaron, the one you ask me.

Cornwell: Okay. Azcue, Luisa, and the secretary who was killed,
is that correct?

Tirado: Before, before this, before I used to work at the
Embassy, uh, and before we move to Constituyentes
we make some parties, for instance, when Armando Hart
(Ph.) was here, he was the Minister of Education, and
with the Ambassador he was in that time and Organa,
who was Director of the Movies Institute. Some people
who came from Cuba. We used to invite.

Cornwell: Okay. How about Theresa Proenza?

Tirado: Perhaps she came.

Cornwell: Did you ever receive any indication from them that
any of them had ever had a contact with Oswald?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did Elena or Elinita Garro de Paz ever come to those
parties? In your home?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Or in the home of Ruben?

Tirado: Once, but it was, I think it was before that I was
in the Cuban Embassy.

Cornwell: Would it have been approximately around '63?

Tirado: I don't know because when they came from France. . .

Cornwell: Approximately 1963?

Tirado: I only, perhaps, I don't know.

Hardway: Did you say that it was when they came from France?

Tirado: Yes.

Hardway: It was after they returned from France that they
came to one of the parties?

Tirado: Yeah, to Ruben's house.

Hardway: At Ruben's house.

Tirado: Yeah. That was the whole family there.

I only saw Elena a few times. One was the day that
I got married and another time was somewhere else,
I think three times I only saw her.

Cornwell: Did you know General Clark Flores?

Tirado: Yeah, but not very well.

Cornwell: Was he ever at those parties?

Tirado: I don't remember. Perhaps once, at Ruben's house
but not at my house.

Cornwell: Did you know Emilio Carbillido ?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did he ever attend those parties?

Tirado: I don't remember.

Cornwell: Did Devaci?

Tirado: Devaci. Elena's sister.

Cornwell: Did she attend those parties?

Tirado: No, she went, I think I saw her sometimes at the Embassy.

Cornwell: How about Eunice Odio?

Tirado: No. I know her, I mean I met her sometime. But, no. She was not a close friend.

Cornwell: Over the years, have any of those people ever indicated to you that they had any knowledge of Oswald's trip to Mexico City?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Have they ever professed to have either seen him or heard any stories about any one who did see or meet with him?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Has anyone else ever come to you since 1963 and professed to have knowledge of Oswald's trip to Mexico City?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Would you have any reason to believe that if we spoke to any of those people they could have information of help to us?

Tirado: I don't know.

Cornwell: Have you ever had any association with any intelligence agency of any country, including our own?

Tirado: Once I met a Russian when I was working at the Press Agency but he was from the Russian Press, and they say that he was from the police, the Russian Police but I don't know.

Cornwell: But you just met him one time?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: I don't have any additional questions.

Lopez: I have a few questions of Ms. Duran. As normal procedure, when a person came to the Cuban Consulate, do you explain to them that there are different types of visas?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: So they would normally come to you and ask you for a special type of visa, and then you would get that kind of application?

Tirado: Uh, huh.

Lopez: Okay.

Tirado: The application was the same.

Lopez: Same application. But they were different visas.

Tirado: There were only two visas. Transit visa and normal visa.

Lopez: You didn't normally explain to people whether there were two different types of visas when they came to you until after--

Tirado: Perhaps.

Lopez: Okay. I just wanted to read to you a couple of sections of what was recorded in the Warren Commission Report. What happened was, there was a report given by the Mexican authorities to the Warren Commission and it was published in the report and let me read you one sentence, okay?

The declarant complied with her duties, took down all 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 Russian visa to Lee Harvey Oswald.

Is that statement accurate?

Tirado: It's that one and I don't like it. The other one?

Lopez: That part about admittedly exceeding her responsibilities?

Tirado: Uh huh.

Cornwell: That's the part you had reference to earlier when you told us that you had read something--

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: It says here that you telephoned the Russian Consulate.

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: Did he ever telephone you back?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: Okay. And it says here with the intention of doing what she could to facilitate issuance of the Russian visa. Did you ever do anything else to facilitate the issuance of the visa?

Tirado: No, nothing. I couldn't do anything.

Lopez: Did you ever explain to him that in order to get a visa he could have a recommendation letter from a fellow Communist or a fellow Cuban citizen, and then if he had that letter, he could get a visa?

Tirado: Yeah, that was one of the requirements.

Lopez: And then, did you ever send him to anyone, give him the name of anybody?

Tirado: No, never. I mean I never did that.

Lopez: I see. Okay. Then there's another section here that says:

However, they told her (this is the Russian Consulate) that there would be a delay of about four months in processing the case.

Was that the first time that you explained to Lee Harvey Oswald that it would take him about four months to get a visa?

Tirado: Yes, I didn't know it.

Lopez: Was that when he became angry?

Tirado: More or less.

Lopez: More or less. And that would have been on his third visit?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: Okay. Then there's one other section here. It says:

The Consulate who came out and began a heated discussion in English with Oswald, that concluded by Azcue telling him that if it were up to him he would not give him the visa and a person of this type was harming

the Cuban Revolution rather than helping it. It being understood that in the conversation they were talking about the Russian Socialist Revolution and not the Cuban.

Is that correct?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: What is your understanding of that?

Tirado: The conversation that he had with Azcue, was exclusively with the Cuban Revolution.

Lopez: Exclusively with the Cuban Revolution.

I wanted to ask you, in this report here, they don't say how many times Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate. Did you ever tell the Mexican officials how many times he had visited?

Tirado: I think so.

Lopez: And it was probably taken down by a stenographer.

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: Do you consider this report which is about a page long to be completely fair and accurate and complete?

Tirado: No, because about exceeding my duties and about Azcue speaking about the Russian Revolution, that's not true.

Lopez: But, my question is, they interrogated you from about four in the afternoon until about twelve at night, and in that process you spoke to them for eight whole hours and yet the whole conversation, interrogation, has been reduced to one page. Do you consi-

der this accurate? Is it complete?

Tirado: No, of course not. Because they ask me a lot of questions that has not been in the Warren--about my trip to Cuba, about my job at the Institute, the Cuban Institute, about why I have been Communist, as they say, and I say I'm not a Communist, and it takes hours to explain them. And as you explain you are not a Communist, if you are a member of the Communist Party, things like that, and where did you take your beliefs, no? I say at the University, oh, at the University, and then there's a discussion and uh, the classes I take at the University, and things like that.

Lopez: Okay. You do remember telling the Mexican officials when they questioned you how many times Oswald visited the Consulate?

Tirado: I think so. And I, they asked me I don't know how many times, the way that I used to give my name and telephone number and they made me write and they take the paper out and then again, they ask me, how do you do this, and I write it down, and I give the paper. I think I did it five or six times.

Lopez: And did they ever ask you to describe Oswald?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: Would you do me a favor and describe him for me now?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: For example, let's start at the beginning. Was he tall, short?

Tirado: Short.

Lopez: Short. Could you stand up for a minute, Gary?

(Laughter.)

Would you say he was as tall as Gary?

Tirado: Yeah, more or less.

Lopez: Would you say he was taller than Gary?

Tirado: No, I think just the same. He was about my size.

Lopez: About your height?

Tirado: Yeah.

Lopez: Okay. And what's your height?

Tirado: 160. I think 160 or 162.

Lopez: Was he skinny?

Tirado: Yes. Skinny.

Lopez: Could you estimate how much he weighed?

Tirado: About your weight, more or less.

Lopez: About my weight. We already went over. . .

Tirado: He has stronger shoulders, perhaps, than yours.

Lopez: Just for the record, my weight is 119 pounds. You told us before he had a suit on.

Tirado: That I don't remember very well. I think he was wearing a jacket but what I can remember is that he was not wearing nice clothes, expensive clothing.

He was cheap, perhaps.

Lopez: Do you remember what his nose looked like? Was it skinny? Fat?

Tirado: No. He was normal. There was nothing that you may remember. The eyes were small.

Lopez: Small eyes.

Tirado: Smaller than yours.

Lopez: Smaller than mine, for the record. I can't do that.

Tirado: If you describe, you say small eyes.

Cornwell: Okay. In sum, you identified a picture in the book as being as best as you can remember his face and hair. Was there anything about that which in your memory was different from the picture other than the fact that you do remember his eyes being blue or green and his hair being very light colored or blond but not as light as some of the other pictures look.

Tirado: And he has not very much. He was, has few, poco pelo.

Lopez: He didn't have very much hair.

Cornwell: Is there anything else about that picture in the book which does not look like your memory of him?

Tirado: No, but because even when I saw the television when he was shot, I used to remember him. I mean it was the same that I remember.

Lopez: I understand. If you bear with me just a few more minutes--his hair line, was it receding?

Tirado: Yeah, yeah. Quite a bit.

Lopez: Okay. And his cheeks, were they high cheek bones or low cheek bones? Do you remember that?

Tirado: Well, I remember that he was a little, I don't know what you call it (spoke with Lopez in Spanish.)

Lopez: An elongated face.

Tirado: Uh huh.

Lopez: Did he have a long chin?

Tirado: No.

Lopez (To Cornwell): Do you have any more questions about his description?

Lopez (To Duran): Just wanted to ask you a few other questions. Did Luis Aparicio ever attend any of those twist parties that you had, or that Ruben had?

Tirado: No, Ruben never, Ruben never have parties for the people at the Embassy.

Lopez: Did he ever attend?

Tirado: Aparico, he was, I don't remember, where he was, I think he works in the Commercial Office. I don't remember.

Lopez: You don't remember if he went to any parties?

Tirado: No. But he was at the Cuban Embassy.

Lopez: Okay. Do you know a person named Eunice Odio?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: What was your relationship to Eunice Odio?

Tirado: It was not close. I know her because she's a poetess and uh, well, I know a lot of painters, things like that, but just hello and. . perhaps if I meet her now I don't know if I could recognize or even she recognize me.

Lopez: I see. And did she ever attend any of those parties?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: Do you know a person named Ricardo Guerra?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: And what was your relationship to him?

Tirado: Very close.

Lopez: Very close. Could you elaborate?

Tirado: Well, when I was unmarried I had a lot of friends and his sisters were friends of mine, that's when I met him, before I got married. And when I married, we continued our friendship and uh, he got married with a writer, but I admire her very much, and he was a very close friend of mine, and we continue the relation all the time that we were married. Both. And uh, he was professor at the philosophy faculty, he was my teacher also. I mean he was a close friend.

Lopez: I see. He was a professor, you said.

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: Did you ever attend any seminars at the University of Mexico where he was lecturing?

Tirado: No, we used to have in our house.

Lopez: What were those seminars about?

Tirado: Marxism seminar.

Lopez: You never, though, attended any seminars at the
University of Mexico?

Tirado: No, he was a teacher and I used to take lessons with
him. Existentialism, you know? (Spoke in Spanish.)
Only two courses.

Lopez: Do you know if he ever held seminars at the Univer-
sity of Mexico?

Tirado: He had to.

Lopez: By any chance do you remember if he would ever hold
seminars on Saturdays?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: No, he did not or no, you do not remember?

Tirado: I don't know, I don't know.

Hardway: I've just got a few questions that if you'll bear
with me. . . .

During the three times that you met Oswald, did you
ever hear him speak any language other than English?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: In general, in the Consulate's Office, was it com-
mon for any other language other than Spanish to be
spoken?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Was Russian ever commonly spoken at the Consulate's Office?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Do you remember anyone having spoken Russian in that office?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: At any time?

Tirado: No, I don't think. The only language they speak, it was English, and not everybody, just a few of them.

Hardway: When Oswald came back the third time, did he tell you that he had a Russian visa or that the Russians had told him that there wouldn't be any problem?

Tirado: That he was going to get the Russian visa, that there was no problem.

Hardway: Did he tell you that he was going to get it, or that he already had it?

Tirado: He said I already got it.

Hardway: And he told you that he already had it as opposed to telling you that they had assured him that there was no problem?

Tirado: Yes.

Hardway: Could you tell me what Eusebio Azcue thought about John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President Kennedy?

Tirado: What he thought? About the assassination?

Hardway: No, about President Kennedy.

Tirado: I don't know, I don't remember.

Hardway: Did you ever discuss President Kennedy with
Consul Azcue?

Tirado: No, he was not here when Kennedy was killed.

Hardway: I'm asking not about the assassination but about
Kennedy and his policies and things like that.

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Did you ever hear Azcue discuss it with anyone
else?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Did--

Lopez: Have you seen Azcue since 1963?

Tirado: I don't remember if he came. His son came, and
I don't remember if he came once to Mexico and he
told me about the conversation that he had with
Fidel Castro but I told you the other day what
Fidel says and all of that and the way they write
a protest to Mexico, to the Mexican Government,
but I'm not really sure if he was his son, or if he
was Azcue.

Lopez: Would you have seen Azcue at any time during the last
two years?

Tirado: No, I think that I never saw him again.

His son, he came, I saw him, but, Azcue, I don't remember.

Lopez: Do you know if Eusebio Azcue is still in Cuba?

Tirado: I think so. I don't know.

Hardway: Did you ever discuss with Consul Azcue the policies of United States towards Cuba? Or other Latin American countries?

Tirado: Perhaps we did, but I don't remember.

Hardway: Do you remember by chance what Azcue's views would have been on that? Did you ever discuss Azcue's views on changing that policy?

Tirado: What I remember is that during the Blockade (spoke to Lopez in Spanish.)

Lopez: The Student Economic Bloc of 1968.

The strike, I'm sorry. The economic blockade.

Tirado: What I remember but I don't remember exactly if it was Azcue, the Commercial Attache, the Ambassador, but what I remember, it was all the people, they have expectations and they were how you say, trusting, that with Kennedy, the policy of the American Government was changing. They were hoping. . .

Hardway: Did you or anyone else at the Consulate ever offer Lee Harvey Oswald any aid of any kind?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Did you ever know a person by the name of Guillermo Ruiz?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Just for the record, when you were arrested on that Saturday afternoon, what time that arrest was, approximately?

Tirado: About three o'clock.

Hardway: Was the interrogation that was conducted at that time transcribed or taped?

Tirado: It was written and when I sign I read it.

Hardway: Was it written out in a summary form or was it written out as you said it?

Tirado: They change, because once it was a man with a little machine, and another moment it was a man writing, typing.

Hardway: But most of it was taken down literally, as you said it?

Tirado: And with the typewriter.

Hardway: Did you sign that which was taken down as you said it? Or did you sign a summary of that?

(Lopez translated.)

Tirado: No, no, no. They were typing, all the time. They were typing all the time, even once, I don't know how many times, they told me, slow, because he was writing. But they didn't write exactly what I said sometimes because when I read all of that bunch of papers they say, come on, it's one o'clock, here, sign this. I said, no, I'm not going to sign this if I not read it. And sometimes I said this, I didn't say that. For instance, no? For instance, I'd remember, they say she was very, very glad when Kennedy came. And I say no. I said I like it but I didn't say that I was

very, very glad. Things like that, no?

But almost, it was what I said. But they didn't want to change anything.

Hardway: Okay. Did you ever discuss the allegation that they made that you had been Lee Harvey Oswald's lover with your husband?

Tirado: Well, I told him almost all what happened. He told me what they did to him and I told him what they did to me.

Hardway: Do you remember specifically talking about that specific allegation with your husband?

Tirado: No, it was not important.

Hardway: Going back to when you recognized Oswald, the man whose picture you had seen in the paper as the man who had been at the Embassy three times. Were you certain that the man in the papers was the same man, before you checked your records at the Archives?

Tirado: Yes. Immediately I saw the paper, I told him. This was the man that I want to check.

Hardway: To your knowledge, was Horatio ever a member of the Communist Party?

Tirado: I think that he was, I don't know if he was exactly member, but he was sympathizer and we had a lot of friends that they were members of the Communist Party.

Hardway: Uh, to your knowledge, was Horatio ever a member of any intelligence organization?

Tirado: I don't remember exactly. I think he was working for the, how you say that? I think he was in a campaign. Against the drugs.

Hardway: Do you know when that would have been?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Do you know when he would have been a sympathizer for, with the Communist Party?

Tirado: I think it was before we got married.

Tirado: Well, I'm completely sure. Being Communist, being policeman. All of that, it was after I meet him.

Hardway: Do you know why--

Tirado: I mean before I meet him.

Hardway: Do you know why they asked you to keep quiet after the first interrogation?

Tirado: No, I don't.

Hardway: Did you ever attend a party where Lee Harvey Oswald was present?

Tirado: The party where Lee; no, I don't know that he attends some parties.

Hardway: The question was, did you ever attend a party where he was present?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: That's all I've got.

Cornwell: Just two brief matters and I promise we will end this very long questioning session.

The questions which were just asked you about which languages he spoke, by Mr. Hardway, when the call was made to the Russian Embassy, what language was spoken there?

Tirado: Spanish.

Cornwell: Did the Russians speak Spanish too?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did at any point in that conversation Russian-speaking people get involved? Did anyone at the Russian Embassy speak Russian to you?

Tirado: I don't speak Russian.

Cornwell: Well. I understand that. Did you at any point put Oswald on the phone and let him talk?

Tirado: No, no.

Cornwell: The reason I'm asking of course is to try to jog your memory. Did he at any point in that transaction speak Russian? Did Oswald speak Russian that you recall?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: The second question, just to be sure that we've got your memory as accurate as we can on it, have you not spoken to Azcue at all since 1963?

Tirado: That's something that I don't exactly remember.
If he came once or if he was with his son, but I
knew all about Fidel's and Azcue's conversations.

Cornwell: So you do remember either talking to Azcue or his
son about the Oswald trip?

Tirado: Not the Oswald trip, the Fidel, what he says. Be-
cause Azcue was called by Fidel Castro in that day
when the Cuban Ambassador sent my report. That's
what I told you the other day. In the same day
they speak to Azcue, Fidel, they spoke, they have a
conversation, and then on the second day, that Sun-
day present, they protest to Mexican Ambassador.

Cornwell: You described to us earlier how the Ambassador filed
a report. Did you ever see the report?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you know what was in it by any other means? To
the best of your knowledge, it would at least have

(Tape ends.)

Sylvia Tirado (Duran)
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Cornwell: Okay. The first part of your memory is that, as I understand it, the Ambassador filed a report within three days or so after the assassination and your arrest, right?

Then you mentioned something about Fidel talking to Azcue is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: How did you learn that?

Tirado: That's what I don't remember.

Cornwell: Okay. At any rate, what can you remember about the nature of that contact? Between Azcue and Fidel?

Tirado: Fidel asked him what happened exactly that day in the Consulate and Azcue tried to remember everything and he said what he knew, that Fidel was afraid of uh, if I was going to say something false to, because I was threatened by the police, and uh, Azcue says that no, that I was honest and I was not going to do anything false. That that was not the right thing, the truth, . . .

Cornwell: Okay. In other words, Fidel was worried about the possibility that you would say something against the Cuban Government?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And that's because you were a Mexican citizen, is that correct?

Tirado: And I was, . . . (asked Lopez how to translate) threatened.

Cornwell: Okay. So he was afraid that the Mexican authorities might threaten you and that you might say something against the Cuban Government?

Tirado: Yeah. Because the police many times told me, you have to say the truth. Remember that you have a little child. And. . . remember, you have a daughter. And remember you have a daughter. All the time they were telling me this.

Cornwell: Okay. Did you possess any information that might have incriminated the Cuban Government?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: And you can't remember how it is that you learned about this questioning of Azcue by Fidel, is that right?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Then, several years later, you had another conversation with either Azcue or his son, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you think it might have been Azcue?

Tirado: Could be.

Cornwell: Is that when you learned about his conversations with Fidel?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: During that period of time, when you spoke to Azcue two or three years later, what if anything did he have to say about the assassination?

Tirado: What did he say?

Cornwell: Yes.

Tirado: I don't know.

Cornwell: When you believed you may have talked to him. Did he have any theories or speculation?

Tirado: I don't remember. I only remember the part that they were talking about me.

Cornwell: Did he believe as strongly as you apparently do that the person who was on television and in the newspapers was the same man who went into the Consulate?

Tirado: Yes. I don't know about television because he was not here.

Cornwell: He was not on television here?

Tirado: No, no. Azcue was not here.

Cornwell: I know, but I mean when you talked to him two or three years later. Did he say anything about that?

Tirado: No. I don't remember.

Cornwell: Do you think for sure that the man who was on television was the man who came to the Consulate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: The man who was killed by Jack Ruby?

Tirado: Yes.

Sylvia Tirado
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Cornwell: Did you see him being killed by Ruby on television?

Tirado: Yes, yes.

Cornwell: Was there anything about him that looked different to you?

Tirado: No. It was black and white. So I couldn't see the color. But he looks like the one that I met.

Cornwell: Guess that's all the questions and thank you again for being so patient with us and answering all of our endless questions.

Lopez: It is 9:15 p.m.

br 7-6-78

COMMITTEE SENSITIVE

OUTSIDE CONTACT REPORT

007130

DATE April 1, 1978 TIME 3:00

I. Identifying Information:

Name Eusebio Azcue Telephone _____Address CubaType of Contact: Telephone
x Person

II. Summary of Contact:

On April 1, 1978 the following Congressmen and staff personnel
interviewed Senor Eusebio Azcue: Louis Stokes, Richardson
Prever, Christopher Dodd, G. Robert Blakey, Garv Cornwell
and Edwin Juan Lopez.

III. Recommended Follow-up (if any):

Copies need not be made for they have already been given
to those interested parties.

Signature: Edwin Juan Lopez

COMMITTEE SENSITIVE

BLAKEY: I wonder if you would state your name for the record.

AZCUE: Mr. Azcue - Eusebio Azcue.

BLAKEY: How old are you?

AZCUE: 66 years old.

BLAKEY: Are you now employed?

AZCUE: I am now retired.

BLAKEY: Where were you formerly employed?

AZCUE: I was formerly employed in construction. I was an architect and I was working until I got heartsick.

BLAKEY: Were you employed in 1963?

AZCUE: Yes. I was the Cuban consul.

BLAKEY: Where?

AZCUE: Mexico City.

BLAKEY: In that connection, do you recall meeting Lee Harvey Oswald?

AZCUE: Yes. He came to us in order to apply for a visa to go to Cuba.

BLAKEY: Could I show you a document then which is marked "Request for a Visa No. 779"? May I ask you if that is the copy of the visa filled out by Lee Harvey Oswald?

AZCUE: Yes. This is his signature. And this is his picture. The date is correct - September 27th. This visa was issued in the Cuban consulate in Mexico City.

BLAKEY: Was this signature signed in your presence?

AZCUE: Yes, of course.

BLAKEY: Would you tell us in your own words all the facts and circumstances that you recall about the application?

AZCUE: Yes, of course. I recall it quite well for I had to remember this meeting on several different occasions when many were trying to involve us in this assassination. He visited the embassy on that date, September 27th, or a previous date to solicit a visa.

BLAKEY: Would you remember the date of the first request?

AZCUE: It would be one or two days before the date on the application.

BLAKEY: And do you remember the date of the second visit?

AZCUE: Exactly the date on the application - September 27th.

BLAKEY: Would you tell us exactly what happened the first time he was with you?

AZCUE: He applied for a visa and brought a paper accrediting him as a member of the Communist Party of the American nations. He also brought documents accrediting him as a member of the Fair Play For Cuba, which was an association aiding Cuba at the time. He said he was going to the Soviet Union but he wanted an intransit visa to visit Cuba for one or two weeks.

BLAKEY: Do you recall what time of day it was when he came?

AZCUE: He came in the morning between 10:00 and 12:00 or 10:00 and 1:00.

BLAKEY: Is there anything in your mind that fixes it at this precise hour?

AZCUE: Yes. The consulate opened at 10:00 a.m. in the morning to the public and it closed at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon.

BLAKEY: So it had to be between 10:00 and 2:00?

AZCUE: Yes - 10:00 and 2:00 sometime. I think it was around 1:00 o'clock. Then we asked him for photos to attach to the application. Then he came the following day and brought with him his photos -- probably that same date listed on the application, the 27th of September.

BLAKEY: How long was he there the first time?

AZCUE: His first visit was quite short. He was interested in the visa and then we told him that he had to bring photos and as a result we could not do anything more for him at that time.

BLAKEY: Was there any conversation had that did not relate to the visa?

AZCUE: First day - first time he visited us - no; the second time - yes - when he brought the photos.

BLAKEY: Was he with anyone the first day?

AZCUE: No. He always came alone.

BLAKEY: Did you see someone outside that he may have gone out to meet?

AZCUE: That I was not able to see, for my office did not have a window looking to the exterior of the building. I could really not see outside.

BLAKEY: Was there anything that he said that would lead you to believe that he may have been with someone else?

AZCUE: No.

BLAKEY: Was there anything that he might have said that would lead you to believe that he was alone?

AZCUE: No. He had no reason to relate any of that information to me.

BLAKEY: Could you tell us about what time he came the second time?

AZCUE: He came at approximately the same time that he came on his first visit - to bring the photos and also to fill out his application.

BLAKEY: Did he tell you where he got the photograph?

AZCUE: No, he did not.

BLAKEY: Did he indicate to you why he did not bring them with him the first time?

AZCUE: Nobody brings them the first time. He brought papers that belonged to his wife that stated that she was a citizen of the Soviet Union and he also brought papers that accredited him as a citizen of the Soviet Union which I myself did not understand. But later I will explain how I found out.

BLAKEY: Could you state what was said and done on the second occasion?

AZCUE: On that occasion he asked me how long it would take for the visa application to get authorized.

BLAKEY: And what did you tell him?

AZCUE: I told him that if he had friends in Cuba that would recommend him, the process would become expedited - would be expedited; but if not, the Cuban government would have to begin an investigation and I do not know exactly how long it would take.

BLAKEY: What was his response?

AZCUE: He began to get irritated. He also brought a book of Lenin with him just for show, which I did not like. A communist does not need a book to show that he's a communist. He was somewhat upset already. He thought that we were going to give him the visa immediately.

BLAKEY: What else did he say?

AZCUE: See, I told him that if he had a visa to go to the Soviet Union I could give him an intransit visa to Cuba. He then left to go to the Soviet embassy. I don't really remember whether he went to the Soviet embassy that same day or the following day, but on that same day or the following day the Soviet embassy phoned me. The Soviet consul called me to relate to me that the papers and documents that Oswald presented were legitimate. His marriage certificate stating that he was married to a Soviet resident and his documents that showed that he had been to the Soviet Union were apparently in order. At that time I asked the Soviet consul whether they were going to give him a visa. He said: "No." He said he had to consult Moscow. At that time I said: "Well, then, I have to consult Cuba."

BLAKEY: Did Oswald ever make any phone calls between the Cuban and the Soviet embassy?

AZCUE: Not from the consulate. He visited the Soviet embassy in person.

BLAKEY: Did he ever call the Cuban embassy from the Soviet embassy?

AZCUE: It was the Soviet consul that called me.

BLAKEY: Could it be possible that he spoke to someone else in your embassy besides yourself?

AZCUE: Yes, with my secretary.

BLAKEY: And who is she?

AZCUE: She is a Mexican lady, but someone that the Cuban government fully trusts and also trusted by the consul that was going to replace me -- for I was getting ready to return to Cuba. It appears to me that Oswald came back to surprise me. He came back and told me that he had already been at the Soviet embassy and that all his papers had been considered legitimate. He thought that when he stated that to me I would give him a visa. Then I told him: "No, I have to consult Cuba." He then got very upset and called us bureaucrats. He stated that that was bureaucracy, and at that point I also got angry and asked him to leave. Then he left.

BLAKEY: Did he say anything else?

AZCUE: Well, you know, he left mumbling to himself.

BLAKEY: Might you be able to remember anything else that he might have said?

AZCUE: No, he just got very upset when he did not get the visa.

BLAKEY: Did he ever give you any indication of why he wanted to go to the Soviet Union?

AZCUE: Yes. He said he wanted to go to the Soviet Union because he had already been there and that was his place of residence. He also stated that his wife was a Soviet citizen -- and because he was a member of the Communist Party.

BLAKEY: Did he ever give you any indication of why he wanted to go to the Soviet Union through Cuba?

AZCUE: Yes, of course. He said that he wanted to see our revolution. He said he wanted to visit Cuba.

BLAKEY: How long did he indicate that he wanted to stay in Cuba?

AZCUE: He said one or two weeks.

BLAKEY: Doesn't the visa application state how long he wanted to be there?

AZCUE: A week or 15 days, or something to that effect. Here's the visa. It says two weeks and, if possible, more time.

BLAKEY: Could you tell us the name of your secretary?

AZCUE: Yes, of course, Sylvia Duran. Now she is no longer Sylvia Duran for she's now divorced and Duran was her husband's name. She is very well known for she had very serious problems

with the Mexican authorities on account of this visit. In fact, she was arrested.

BLAKEY: Did you ever have any conversations with her about her contact with Lee Harvey Oswald?

AZCUE: I don't think she had had any contact with him. She was just there. Mrs. Duran found it very strange that I had not given Oswald the visa considering that his wife was a resident of the Soviet Union and that he, Oswald himself, had been a resident of the Soviet Union and that he had papers showing that he was a member of the Communist Party. But I don't think she had any contacts with him.

STOKES: Who also would have been present in your office, Mr. Azcue, on Oswald's first visit?

AZCUE: The secretary was there and also consul Mirabal had become familiar with the papers and documents at the office, for he was getting ready to replace me.

STOKES: What is the name of the secretary?

AZCUE: Sylvia Duran.

STOKES: Could we have the full name of the consul that was going to replace you?

AZCUE: At present, I do not remember his first name, but his last name was Mirabal.

STOKES: But at any rate, it was he who replaced you as consul?

AZCUE: Yes, at the end of November -- really, in the middle of November when I returned to Cuba.

STOKES: And where is Mr. Mirabal now?

AZCUE: Here in Cuba.

STOKES: You mentioned that Oswald brought some papers with him when he first came to the embassy. Did they have anything to do with his membership in the Communist Party, you said?

AZCUE: Yes, I think so. Actually, though, I did not analyze them very carefully.

STOKES: ~~was~~ those documents have been made a part of the application?

AZCUE: No, no. They were just like introduction letters -- that kind of thing.

STOKES: So then there would be no other papers in connection with his application other than this application here?

AZCUE: That was the only one.

STOKES: Would there be any recording of the conversation between you and Lee Harvey Oswald?

AZCUE: We did not use recorders at that time.

STOKES: Could you tell us the name of the Soviet consul whom you spoke to?

AZCUE: No. The consul was a very good friend of mine - Pablo Yazco - but I don't think he was in charge of that at the time. The man I spoke to was another whose name I really do not remember now. I just don't recall the name of the consul that replaced Pablo Yazco. So many names that just get lost in your memory. But in subsequent conversations with the Soviet embassy, I was able to learn they thought that Oswald's papers were legitimate.

-- his papers and his wife's papers. He lived in the States.

STOKES: And then Oswald's second visit to your embassy -- who would have been present?

AZCUE: The secretary - always the secretary - because she would be the one who would receive visitors and then call me.

STOKES: How about the consul that replaced you -- would he have been present?

AZCUE: I don't think he was there. I do remember that Sylvia was there, though. He was only learning. He understood no English and was not very active at that time.

STOKES: Did you at some time come into contact with Marina Oswald?

AZCUE: Marina? You mean the wife? No, no, never.

STOKES: During the time that Oswald was at your embassy and was angry, do you recall his saying anything at all about President Kennedy?

AZCUE: No, not in the least.

DODD: Just a couple of questions. (1) In looking at this photograph -- if you will take a look at it -- I realize that we are going back a long time -- Do you recall if Lee Harvey Oswald was dressed in a tie and sweater like that?

AZCUE: No, he was not. He had a suit on. I even remember the color of the suit. It was a very light blue Prince of Wales suit.

DODD: Was he wearing a tie?

AZCUE: Yes, he did. In Mexico everybody wears a tie due to the weather.

DODD: Would wearing a sweater in Mexico be a common thing?

AZCUE: It might be common, but most people normally use a suit. But I remember that he had a suit on.

DODD: Then you're saying that he would not have been dressed the way that he's dressed in the picture.

AZCUE: No, that's right.

BLAKEY: Are there any places near your consul that he could have had this photograph taken?

AZCUE: Yes, there's a place called Tocavaya four or five blocks from the embassy where he could have taken the picture. Also, maybe the secretary could have pointed out to him a place where he could have gotten the picture. But he didn't come back the same day; he came the following day.

DODD: Do you require a certain size of photograph for your documents?

AZCUE: Yes, approximately the size of this one in the photo in the application. We weren't very precise about these applications for they weren't, you know, extremely legal documents.

DODD: And that photo looks like the man that came to your office?

AZCUE: Yes. But as time goes by and you have an idea of a face, you know, and then...See the impression I got was that in person he was thinner, his nose was more angular, angled, or aquiline. His eyebrows were very straight. He had a very cold look. It was a penetrating, cunning way of looking at you.

BLAKEY: Could you give us an estimate of his height?

AZCUE: That's very hard. He was about this big.

BLAKEY: How tall are you?

AZCUE: I'm over six feet tall. The man was probably around five feet six, five feet seven.

BLAKEY: How much would he have weighed?

AZCUE: I don't know. He was thin - very thin, with a very aquiline nose.

BLAKEY: Maso menos

AZCUE: You know, in an amusement park they touch you and they can guess exactly how much you weigh, but I don't have that talent.

DODD: Approximately how old was he?

AZCUE: Oh, around 35 years old.

DODD: He looked like he was 35?

AZCUE: You know, he looked like he was a 35-year-old man but a 35-year-old man who had been run through the mill. he had a sort of wasted face, you know, he had a gangster looking face, a hard face.

DODD: Is it a common experience to have Americans show up at your consul?

AZCUE: Yes, there were many.

DODD: That wanted to go to the Soviet Union?

AZCUE: No, no, no, to visit Cuba only. Many, many came trying to visit Cuba.

DODD: So the Oswald case was a rather rare occurrence?

AZCUE: Yes, it was very rare.

DODD: Did you make any special notations due to special circumstances?

AZCUE: No, because we just refused to give the visa. I would have taken detailed notes if I had given him the visa. I would have listed the reasons why I had given him the visa. But not having given him the visa, I had nothing to write about. This was only another one of those many requests that I knew would not be granted. For without contacts in Cuba, we could not grant him a visa.

DODD: Did he leave any kind of forwarding address at all in case the visa came through?

AZCUE: He normally would have left an address if he had left my office amiably, but since he didn't...

DODD: But was the visa application in process? I mean, in other words, once he had filled out this - once he had stopped at the Soviet embassy, then the request was in. Then was there any further action that you two or three weeks later...

AZCUE: We transmitted the applications to Cuba. And then the person who was interested in the visa would call us periodically -- this was routinely done in every consulate -- asking for a reply. We constantly received telephone calls from people

that had applied for a visa. See, they're the ones who have to call for they're the ones that are interested.

DODD: But he never did?

AZCUE: Right

DODD: Bureaucratically, once you've submitted an application, you would presume that the process would continue whether you receive the call or not?

AZCUE: Of course. Like I said before, everything was forwarded to Cuba. The Cuban government received the many copies of the applications with the picture and the signature. Our government received this application for a visa but they never sent us an answer.

DODD: What do you mean by it was never answered?

AZCUE: We did not receive a reply for his visa from the Cuban government.

DODD: Going back to the physical appearance of Lee Harvey Oswald, apart from having a receding hairline, was there any gray in Lee Harvey Oswald's hair?

AZCUE: You know, he had blond hair. It's all very interesting. You see, this picture I really did not study carefully. The picture was taken by the secretary and she stapled it to the application, and we would send the whole thing to Cuba.

BLAKEY: But it is your memory that this picture portrays the person that you saw.

AZCUE: The truth of the matter is that I remember him differently. I remember him thinner, but it is possible that it was the same person because pictures are never perfect. The impression that I have is that he was a very thin man with a very hard face -- a tough expression.

PREYER: The first time that he came to your embassy did he ask for an intransit visa or just a visa to Cuba?

AZCUE: He did not ask for an intransit visa because people are not normally familiar with this process. But he did say that he wanted it to go on to Russia.

PREYER: On his next visit when he brought the photos, I understand that he asked how long it would take for the Cuban visa at that time and you told him that if he knew someone in Cuba it would be quicker. So then did you give him any dates as to how long it would take if he did not know anyone in Cuba?

AZCUE: No, because I could not make any commitments.

PREYER: Then he left to go to the USSR embassy. How far apart are the two embassies in distance?

AZCUE: Three or four blocks.

PREYER: Then presumably he could have walked there?

AZCUE: Yes, of course, it was the only way.

PREYER: Then did you receive a call shortly after that from the Soviet embassy?

AZCUE: No, no, you see, it is likely that the interview of the Soviet consul took some time. In fact, I believe that it was the following day that he came back to see me. He may possibly have gone to the Soviet embassy on the same day, but it was only after the phone call from the Soviet embassy that Oswald visited the Cuban embassy again. It is known that he went to the Soviet embassy and that the Soviet embassy called me, but I think that this all happened the following day.

PREYER: And the Soviet embassy told you that they would have to call Moscow?

AZCUE: Yes. They said that they could not grant him a visa without consulting Moscow first.

PREYER: And then you told Oswald that?

AZCUE: When Oswald came to the Cuban embassy then, I also told him that I could not give him a visa and that if the Soviet embassy had to consult Moscow, I had to consult Cuba.

PREYER: Did he ask how long it would take?

AZCUE: Yes. He asked that quite often, usually to Mrs. Duran. You know, everybody asks that. And our answer is always the same -- depending on your relations and friends and contacts in Cuba because they can expedite the process.

PREYER: Did you or the Soviet embassy ever give him an approximate time that it would take for him to get the visa -- that it would be a long time, or that it would be three weeks?

AZCUE: No, no.

PREYER: I ask you this because should it be a relatively short period of time that he would wait there for the visa. But then you say you do not recall any specific...

AZCUE: I think that I saw a deliberate purpose in him to get the visa from us. What he was interested in was getting the visa from the Cuban government immediately.

DODD: You would not have made any copies of the documentation that he showed you of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee or his membership in the United States Communist Party?

AZCUE: I can never take away these papers from people. They are only for them to show us as examples. But it's the same at the Soviet embassy. They take data on the passport just like we took data here from his passport. I would take notes from documents like a passport and then return the passport to him -- never even retain them for a while.

BLAKEY: Did you examine the passport?

AZCUE: It is very likely - yes.

BLAKEY: Would you have looked at the photograph on the passport?

AZCUE: Yes, sure, you always look at them, but it is just a quick glance.

BLAKEY: Would you have noticed that the person you saw before yourself was different from the person's photograph on the passport?

AZCUE: Well, I'll tell you. The person that I found different was the person that came to the embassy and told me he was Oswald and the person that I later saw on TV when he was assassinated at that Dallas police station. At that point, it looked like two different people.

BLAKEY: When you saw the passport, did you see any difference between the picture in the passport and the person standing in front of you ?

AZCUE: No, no. Normally I'm not a very analytical person. You see, it's usually the secretary that deals with all these matters. But the difference that I noted was between the man who came to the consulate and the one that was assassinated.

BLAKEY: Mr. Azcue, let me show you a book of photographs which is the JFK exhibit of photographs. The book will contain a number of photographs. Would you look in each page slowly and study each face and determine whether you can recognize any of the persons there. Please take your time. Do not look for any one particular person. Just tell us if you recognize any of the photos.

AT THIS POINT, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT ASKED FOR A FIVE-MINUTE RECESS SO THAT MR. AZCUE COULD LOOK AT THE PHOTOS CAREFULLY. FOR THE RECORD, WHEN THE SESSION WAS RESUMED, THE SAME PEOPLE WERE PRESENT. APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES PASSED AS A RECESS IN WHICH MR. AZCUE HAS LOOKED THROUGH THE PHOTOGRAPHS.

BLAKEY: Would you tell us which, if any, of the photographs are familiar to you?

AZCUE: No. 57 represents Oswald, but the Oswald assassinated. But frankly, the idea that's in my mind of Oswald - the one that I saw at the consulate - is not so similar to this photo. I recognize him because I remember the television clips shown on of him when he was killed. If I had not seen those clips on television, I would not have recognized him as the Lee Harvey Oswald for the memories that I have of Oswald are similar to what appear on these photographs. Pictures resemble the man but I insist that his nose is more aquiline, that his eyelashes were straighter, his look was more cold, and his cheeks seemed older - that of an older man. His cheeks were sunken like that of an older man; also much older than this photo. This man in the photo would be at the most 30 years old and the man I saw in the consulate was 35, 36, 37; you know, this man in the picture is much younger. You see, it was many years ago, so - but I remember, I saw the photo, the Oswald that had been assassinated. I did not recognize him as the same man that visited me at the embassy - so different features - even a short time - had only been a few months, from September to December.

BLAKEY: Can you remember the first time that you saw Oswald after the assassination? Was it on TV?

AZCUE: Yes, it was on TV.

BLAKEY: Did you also see his photograph in the newspapers?

AZCUE: Yes, in some magazines.

BLAKEY: You said that you did not recognize the man when you saw him in the photos and on TV?

AZCUE: That is correct. I noticed some differences. I said: "Damn, this is not the man. This does not look like the man who went to my office."

BLAKEY: Did you bring that difference to the attention of anyone else?

AZCUE: Yes, I did - with comrades, you know, from the ministry.

BLAKEY: Did you write any memoranda?

AZCUE: No, because such citings are usually very subjective. And they were just quick glances and could be inaccurate, especially those that I saw on TV.

BLAKEY: What about those in the newspaper?

AZCUE: Those were not very clear. A clearer one was the film clip on TV when Oswald was killed at the Dallas police station. He makes a gesture of pain where he's got gleaming eyes, where he seemed to be younger and fatter than the man that had come to see me. I made it known to my superiors, but it was a very subjective thing, you know. The man that I saw on TV did not resemble the man that I had seen in my office.

BLAKEY: And what conclusion, if any, did you draw from that?

AZCUE: It was something that I saw and then said - problem is that you cannot really rely on my fast glance or a fast glance of a picture when a person is being killed. I immediately recognized that that was not the man that I had seen in the embassy. If it is true or not, I cannot really say for certain, but it seemed to me it was not the same man.

BLAKEY: Do you think that if you saw a photo of the man who was in your consulate that you would recognize it now?

AZCUE: I think yes - yes, yes, yes. Yes, I think so. I think it's only a matter of, you know, angles; so I was seeing the man face to face. And he was furious. But I also was furious. Thus the face I saw was one that was bothered and hard - tough - not the same face that I saw on this man here in the photograph. This man has a soft face, even to his death. Even in his death he has a passive look. It's a subjective opinion. Let me tell you. Months later, or maybe years later, I heard the mayor of New Orleans...

BLAKEY: You mean the prosecutor in New Orleans, Garrison.

AZCUE: Yes, that's right, Garrison. He began an investigation and he said there were two Oswalds. Then my theory was, you know, reaffirmed. That gave credence to my theory that the man that was assassinated and the man that visited me were different persons. These are just subjective appraisals. I've got them.

BLAKEY: President Castro, then Premier Castro made a speech a couple of days after the assassination in which he indicated that he had had a contact with the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. Do you recall that contact?

AZCUE: Yes, I do because he had had contact with me and only with me. The contact that I'm talking about is Oswald's contact only with me.

LOPEZ: Professor Blakey is referring to contact of Fidel with the Cuban Embassy. .

AZCUE: Oh, I understand, at that time I made some declarations just like I am making them now. The exception of the dual Oswald theory because of not seeing the photographs on television.

BLAKEY: Did you speak directly with the President?

AZCUE: No, I spoke to the man in charge of the Ministry. It was the guy in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Foreign Affairs.

BLAKEY: By what medium did you talk to him?

AZCUE: I spoke to him in person.

BLAKEY: Did you go from Mexico to Havana?

AZCUE: No, no, I had already come to Havana. I was in Havana. See, I came to Havana from Mexico on November 18th and on the 22nd was Kennedy's death. So immediately, as soon as I saw the name I remembered. So at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs I said: "This man requested a visa from me." So then I had to make declarations, very exhaustive declarations, where I stated the same thing that I said now.

BLAKEY: Was that report or declaration reduced to writing at that time?

AZCUE: I think so. There was no stenographer there, but it may have been taped.

BLAKEY (then referring himself to the Cuban officials): Would it be possible for you to furnish us with a copy of that declaration if that is available?

VILLA: We have no recordings or written declarations about that declaration that - written reports about the declaration that Mr. Azcue made. It is possible that it exists, but we have not located it as of yet.

BLAKEY (to Mr. Azcue): Can you recall the person to whom the declaration was made?

AZCUE: Yes. It was the person in charge of the ministry of, you know, the interior - foreign relations, foreign affairs.

LOPEZ: What was his name?

AZCUE: Yes, it was Manuel Piniero, Comrade Manuel Piniero.

BLAKEY: (Quote) In an interview, July 1967, with a British journalist, Homer Clark, Castro said that Oswald came to the Cuban consulate twice, each time for approximately 15 minutes. "The first time I was told he wanted to work for us." He was asked to explain, but he wouldn't. He would not go into details. The second time he said that he wanted to free Cuba from Imperialism. Then he said something like: "Someone ought to shoot that

President Kennedy." Then Oswald said (and this is exactly how it was reported to me): "Maybe I will try to do it." Would you comment on this statement?

Code: A-Azcue
B-Blakey
C-Cornwell
L-Lopez

S-Chairman Stokes
P-Congressman Preyer
D-Congressman Dodd

- A: I do not believe the commander could have said such a thing. I mean there was no motive to say that, because this all occurred before the assassination of Kennedy. It was a routine application, and Oswald only had to deal with me, nobody else.
- B: Perhaps I mis-conveyed the information. The journalist is not indicating that Premier Castro, himself, overheard this. The journalist is indicating that these words are attributed to Mr. Oswald were heard by whomever dealt with Oswald in Mexico.
- A: Oh! I'm sorry. Well, I don't think Oswald said that. That's ridiculous. A person who has the mission to assassinate the President would not publicize it. That is ridiculous.
- B: Then you did not overhear him say this?
- A: No. Never.
- B: Then the words that are reported here were not overheard by you?
- A: He never presented himself as having anything to offer.
- B: Did the person who appeared at the Embassy say anything like this?
- A: Never. That I would remember quite well. For that would have been of importance if he wanted to work with us. I would have sent the information to Cuba. And, as you know, that does not appear in the information I sent them. I would have registered that, that he wanted to work for us. That all happened in September. I would have listed it on the application, "This person wants to work for us".

B: Do you speak Russian?

A: No.

B: Did anybody in the office at that time speak Russian?

A: No.

B: Then no member of the Cuban Consulate in 1963 spoke Russian?

A: That is correct. Nowadays probably many Cubans speak Russian.

B: Did you have any telephones at the Embassy that could be used by the public?

A: No. The only telephones that could be used were those in our offices.

B: Could you describe to us the route that Oswald would have had to have taken to get into your office?

A: If you want I will draw a schematic plan for you.

B: Do it right here.

(By right here, Professor Blakey means on one of the back pages of the questionnaire that was presented to the Cuban government, in copy number 4.)

B: For the record, we will stop for about two minutes, while Mr. Azcue makes the drawing. We are back on the record. Mr. Azcue has prepared a drawing. Will you explain it to us, please, Mr. Azcue?

A: This is the entrance.

B: He is pointing to the right hand side of the drawing.

A: These are the streets.

B: Could you tell us some names of the streets, please?

A: The one on the right is Francisco Marcos Street. The other one I cannot recall right now.

B: Mr. Azcue, may I ask that when you refer to the drawing, that you may recall that you are being recorded, that you speak in such a way that someone who is hearing the recording may be able to follow what you are saying.

A: Fine. The entrance is in a corner between two streets. It is a large broad entrance, and we have a hall immediately following the entrance, which is the waiting room for visitors. The second part would be the consulate where the secretary would be sitting. There is a wall there made of wood and glass, the lower section made of wood, and the top section made of glass. That's the wall that the secretary would be looking into the waiting room and outside into the street, from where she sat. The secretary would be sitting at this point in the middle. Now around her would be furniture and desks. The secretary can see the entrance. She is in the proper position and that whole wall is made of glass, and everyone who comes, you know, she can see whether they are coming in alone or whether they are coming in accompanied. She receives the company at this spot here. The person would normally come in and say that they have come to apply for a visa, and then she brings the person in to this spot. If there is any problem, she would call me, and I would come out of my office.

B: Would she call you personally, or would she call you on the phone?

A: No, no. She would call me personally. We are very close. She would probably get up and call me, however, if it is a matter that is not routine, something that is different from the

ordinary. You see in this case it was not a routine matter, for he wanted to expedite the process.

B: After you had a conversation with Oswald, or when you had the conversation, would you point on the drawing to where you were standing?

A: Certainly. I would be here and he would be there.

B: Would you tell me where the phones are in each office?

A: Certainly. There was a telephone in this office, the secretary's office, at this spot and also a telephone in my office at this spot. I also had an intercom, but I did not normally use the intercom. I came out through this door and I asked him to get out at this point, while we were standing here. I told him to get out now.

B: Would it have been possible for him to have used your telephone?

A: No. You see normally if somebody asks whether they can use our phone, we say sure, go ahead. But I remember that he did not ask me whether he could use our phone.

B: To your knowledge, did anyone else in your office, Mrs. Duran, (permit) Oswald to make a phone call from your Consulate?

A: It could have happened, yes. But there was no reason. If she wanted to authorize a phone call she could do it, but there was no reason to.

B: Did you ever have any conversations with her, in which she indicated that she could have done it?

A: No. Never. I met her again two years after the assassination, in November of 1963, and she was a very good friend of mine.

B: Did you discuss this?

A: Yes, of course. She told me about all her problems with the Mexican authorities. They had arrested her, they had put her picture on the front pages of the newspapers, that there was a tremendous scandal, you know, involving her.

B: Did she discuss with you the confrontation that she had with Oswald?

A: Of course. The same thing that happened to me. It had only been two years and we remembered perfectly well. You see, the Mexican authorities wanted to implicate her, for you see, since she was Mexican, even though she was Mexican she had no diplomatic privileges, and you see, they arrested her and they wanted to implicate her and they even treated her very badly. She defended herself though. She bit people and she kicked people and it was a very, very public thing, you know. A public scandal in the newspapers. They tried to coerce her.

B: In those discussions that you had with her then, did she say anything about her memory in reference to the person who was there, as opposed to the person that she saw on TV?

A: I really do not remember if we discussed that. It's very likely that I spoke about that. I really do not remember it, because more than anything our conversation consisted of Mrs. Duran telling me about her problems with the Mexican authorities.

C: Were all of the man's visits, whoever he was, during the normal working hours? You know, from 10 to 2?

A: Yes, yes. We always closed at 2 in the afternoon and always opened at 10 A.M.

C: Without exceptions?

A: Yes, that's true. Possibly though somebody could contact us by phone.

C: Would that routine also cover Saturdays and Sundays?

A: Saturdays, yes. Sundays, no.

C: Trying to be as careful as possible about the dates, would it have been consistent or inconsistent in the operating procedures of your Embassy for the secretary to fill out the visa applications for Mr. Oswald on a first visit there, even though he did not bring the picture?

A: It is not likely. It could be, but it's just not likely. For on the first day the person is informed that he has got to have a passport, photos, and etcetera.

C: The day on which you finally told the man to leave, do you remember if that transpired on the day that he filled out the visa, one day after he had filled out the visa, or two days after he had filled out the visa?

A: It was probably a day after he filled out the visa application, or maybe two days after he filled out the application. You see, Mr. Oswald had to go to the Soviet Embassy and I do not feel that it is very easy to go to the Soviet Embassy and resolve the problem quickly, then return to the Cuban Embassy. He probably came to our Embassy on the 27th of September and on the 28th he probably went to the Soviet Embassy, and he probably returned to the Cuban Embassy on the 29th. And it is on the 28th that the Soviet Embassy probably called me. That is probably the

most logical (thing), but it didn't necessarily have to occur that way. It is though the most logical.

C: This document was presented to us by the Cuban government yesterday. It is a letter dated October the 15th, 1963, and it appears on page 12 of the book that the Cuban government handed over to the Committee. Do you recall the letter?

A: Yes, this is a routine letter. And the Cubans received the applications, that is, when they receive a request from a North American citizen, he has to call us by telephone, prepaid, as often as possible to check whether his visa has been accepted, his visa application has been accepted. He should call us though only when he has the visa from the Soviet Union.

C: Were you still in Mexico on this date?

A: Yes, of course. Ah, now that I look at the letter I remember the full name of the consul that was going to take my place. His name was Alfredo Mirabal.

C: Could you tell us the address to Mr. Mirabal?

A: I was already handing the whole office to him. I was teaching him all the procedures.

C: But you were, at any rate, still there when this letter came in?

A: Yes, of course. But this is a routine letter. I did not even need this letter. I mean, whenever the Soviet Embassy notified us that the Soviet government had authorized a visa, then I also; the Cuban government could authorize a visa.

C: Do you know whether or not any action was taken upon receipt of this letter?

A: We just filed it, that's it. This is only a notice, this letter. It has no implications whatsoever.

C: Would you have had a forwarding address for Mr. Oswald on October 15th, and if so, would you have forwarded this letter to him?

A: No, I did not have a forwarding address, but even if I had had one I would not have forwarded the letter for, first he would have needed the Soviet visa, and then we could have acted.

C: If you would once again look at the visa application, Document #779, will you estimate how old you think that man in the picture is?

A: Well, I would say he's about 28 to 30. But the man I remember as having visited the Embassy was over thirty-five years old. It is also interesting I haven't seen this picture, you know, in all these years. It's the first time that I see this picture, in a long, long time, but yet the memory I have of that man that went to the Consulate differs from this photo.

S: Could I ask you again how long Mr. Oswald remained in your office on his first visit there?

A: I would say ten or fifteen minutes at the most. That first visit is always very quick. We let them know exactly what they need - a passport, a photograph, and then they ask us how long will it take to process the matter, and etcetera. The first visit always consists of only an interchange of ideas, an interchange of information.

S: On the second time, was he there longer?

A: Yes, because he had to wait for the visa application to be

filled out. He had to wait for the application to be typed.

S: So how long would he have been there on the second occasion?

A: Oh, approximately fifteen minutes. He had no reason to remain there any longer. You see, he doesn't spend a lot of time with me. It is one of those routine, you know, matters that a secretary usually handles. You see he spent a very short time with me on that second visit because he came back with the impression that after his conversation at the Soviet Embassy everything would be expeditiously handled. But then I had to explain to him that that was not so. You see, even though, I had to tell him that even though his papers were legitimate papers, that if the Soviet Union had to consult Moscow, then I ought to explain to him that he had to wait. And then at that point he got angry, then I threw him out.

S: So then how long would that argument between the two of you have taken?

A: I cannot calculate it for you. But it's one of those conversations that transpires quickly. Well, he would have spent at most ten minutes with me and possibly another five minutes with the secretary before she called me into the office. See, what I had to explain to him could be done very quickly, and you see, he got offensive and I threw him out.

S: Mr. Azcue, on the application which is signed, in which everyone purports that it is Lee Harvey Oswald's signature, it's also a signature lower than Mr. Oswald's signature and is done in green ink. Would you recognize that signature?

A: I think that this signature may have been put on the application once it arrived in Havana, for I do not recognize it as one of

the signatures from our Cuban Embassy in Mexico City.

Can anybody here make out what that signature says?

Cuban officials: No, we've already concluded that it's illegible.

A: Does anybody recognize it as Mrs. Duran's signature?

Cuban officials: No. We think it is illegible.

A: It is not my signature. My signature is very clear. You can make out my name.

B: Will you write your signature here for us, Mr. Azcue?

A: Of course. Here's my signature. You can read my name here.

Azcue, A-Z-C-U-E. I've written it on the same page that I drew the schematic of the Cuban Embassy before.

S: Mr. Azcue, on this visa application, there is a section entitled "observations". Will you read that section so that I may ask you a question about it?

A: Of course. This is exactly what I was talking about before.

It says that he exhibited those certain documents. It says that he showed us papers stating that he was a member of the Communist Part of America, and Secretary of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, New Orleans. He was in the Soviet Union from October 1959 until June 9, 1962, that there he got married with a Soviet citizen... social documents that accredit him as a member of the two organizations previously mentioned, and also a wedding certificate. He presented himself in front of the Soviet Embassy, asking that his visa be sent to the Cuban Embassy. This is very interesting, because you see here it seems like we're going to give him the visa. It seems like whoever wrote this thought that we were going to give him the visa. There's also a small

difference here, for we called the Soviet Embassy, it says here, and what we understand, what I understand that occurred was that we called the Soviet Embassy and in fact they called us. Maybe a secretary called the Soviet Embassy and then the Soviet Embassy called me, that's possible. I recall that when they called us they told us that they would first have to get authorization. What I do not recall is that they said it would take about four months, and it states so here in the observations section of the application.

S: With reference to this application, when the secretary typed this up, who would have made this observation, who would have been in her presence, who would have dictated it to her?

A: If you will allow me, the secretary would only type the information above the observation section in front of the applicant. The other material, thus the secretary probably did it after Mr. Oswald left.

S: So that none of the information that appears on this application was taken directly by you?

A: That is correct. It is not my job. It is not the Consul's job; it is the secretary's job. This is a routine matter that has no importance, for the Consul to be the one to do it.

This information is sent to Cuba and then it is studied there.

S: Was there more than, was Mrs. Duran the only secretary in the office, or was there more than one secretary there?

A: No. Mrs. Duran was the only one.

S: So then in the total office, there was just yourself, Mrs. Duran and the Consul who was going to replace you, Mirabal. That's correct?

A: Yes, that's correct.

S: Doesn't it also appear in the application that he wishes to leave for Cuba on September 30th?

A: Um, I, oh, yes, here it is. It says "wishing to depart for Cuba on September 30th". That is correct.

S: If the section "observations" there, someone states that we called the Soviet Embassy, but yet your best recollection is that the Soviet Embassy called you, is that correct?

A: Both things might be true. It could happen that the secretary called the Soviet Embassy, and then the Soviet Embassy called me back. What I recall is that the Embassy called me back.

S: After the assassination of President Kennedy, the name Lee Harvey Oswald became very important. And as a result of that you brought all of the facts that you knew to the Cuban government.

A: Well, it, of course, is very important to the Cuban government.

S: Now, after you talked to the man from the Ministry about this, what transpired? Was it followed up?

A: Let me explain this to you. I contacted the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Foreign Affairs, which was my ministry and there I spoke with Nilo Otero, and Raul Roa stepped in for a minute and then they said "Wait a minute. Let us call the Ministry of Interior." Then they saw the importance of the matter and they took care of it.

S: Was there a stenographer there at that time?

A: No, there was not. The interview was a personal interview between myself and the Commandante, and I do not recall that there was a stenographer present.

S: Have you recalled now, later on, that there might have been a stenographer present?

A: No, never. What I said there, because of the importance it had, Mr. Pinero, you know, who raised about eighty questions, many more than what you've asked me so far today.

S: Do you recall signing a statement after you had given them a declaration?

A: No. No. It was a very informal thing. We drank coffee three or four times.

C: One final question, what is the date stamped in the middle of the page, in blue? October 10, 1953?

A: It is probably ours, but it seems very late because from September 27th until October 10th, thirteen days transpired, and I remember that my office was always up to date and, you see, the applications always left on the next mail delivery, mail schedule which would never take more than three or four days, so I think that the date stamped on this visa was the date that it was received here in Cuba. I will tell you, it never took so long to get an application out. We would do that immediately, do it immediately. It was just a routine matter. I had already seen that date before and it seemed very rare to me. It would never take me thirteen days. Three or four days, maybe, but never thirteen.

B: I have only a couple of more questions. Would it be normal procedure for the person who fills out the observation section to sign their name in the lower right hand corner.

A: Yes, but the problem is that that signature does not correspond to any of the people that worked at the office there.

It could have been signed by the secretary, but the signature does not correspond. It could have been signed by Mirabal or myself. Once again the signature does not correspond. But the signature would not be necessary for the Consulate stamp is already on it.

B: Earlier you indicated that there came a time , you heard of an investigation in New Orleans, Jim Garrison. At that time, you recalled that you had the same theory that the person might not be the same. Did you talk with anyone about that, at that time?

A: Yes. I did, but not officially to anybody. I spoke with Nilo, who was the director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and I also remembered that I spoke to Lechuga.

B: Could you give us their full names?

A: Yes. Nilo Otero.

B: Do you know if he took any measures after that conversation?

A: Mr. Otero told me that he would report it to those people that could do something about it.

B: To your knowledge, do you know if he did so?

A: As far as I know, I think so. But you know, what I was saying was so subjective, because I could not guarantee that I was right. You see, since it was such a subjective statement, you know, they probably took it with a grain of salt.

B: Let me direct your attention back in time to the period when the Warren Commission was operating in the United States. Did anyone speak to you at that time about any of these matters?

This would have been from December of '63 through September of '64.

- A: Yes, I'm sure they did, but not officially. I mean, Fidel's speech was just the definitive thing...expressed to the world very clearly the whole situation that, you know, had occurred to us, insuring, you know, our position and even included the fight that I had with Oswald. Fidel said all this, you know, in his speech. There was nothing more to say.
- B: I cannot at this time think of anything more to ask you. I'm sure that I will as soon as we say goodbye. I hope that you will permit me, if I have second thoughts, to forward them to you through your government.
- A: It will be my pleasure.
- D: One last question. After we said that we're finished, now I have another question. I'm sorry. You told us when you started to speak to us that you had gone over the story many times. You tell us that you told the story to Mr. Piniero. Who else have you reported this story to?
- A: Officially, under the direction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also with Mr. Piniero. That is officially. Premier Fidel got all the details that I could remember and by that time everything that I knew, the Cuban government knew. At that time I could remember everything that had transpired.
- D: Have you been spoken to by any reporters, you know, American reporters, or anything like that?
- A: No, never. I never would have authorized any interview with me.
- D: But, I presume that the reason you have talked about this several times, is because of your private conversations?
- A: Yes, sir. The topic of conversation arose whenever we talked about people trying to involve us or implicate us in the

assassination.

B: Did you have a chance to review earlier, before you talked to us today, the report that you had made to the government in 1963?

A: No, never. There was an interview, I was interviewed by our Consul in Washington, Mr. Escartin, two months ago. I said the same thing that I am telling you now. It is all I know. That's all I remember. There may be different words used by me, but same story.

B: Let me direct your attention to photo number 60, in the book, in the photograph book. Do you know that individual?

A: No.

B: Is the face familiar at all?

A: No. It's not.

S: Mr. Azcue, on behalf of our Committee, I want to express our thanks for having appeared here this afternoon, having subjected yourself to our questions. You have been most patient with us. You have indeed been helpful to us in our investigation and we certainly appreciate your taking the time to be here.

A: Many thanks. But I also feel that you can be very beneficial to us, for you can clarify once and for all, for you can clarify the facts of the assassination, surrounding the assassination once and for all.

S: That's exactly why we are here and why we asked you to be our witness. Thank you.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Eusebio Azcue LopezDate August 25, '78 Time 3:20

Address _____

Place _____

Interview:

Blakey: First, let me thank you for allowing us to visit with you again Senor Azcue.

Azcue: You are welcome.

Blakey: For the record let me note the date is August 25 and the time is approximately 3:20 and we are in Hotel Rivera and present are: from the American Delegation, Congressman Richard Preyer, G. Robert Blakey, Edward Lopez. Could I ask if the Cuban Delegation would identify themselves?

Interpreter: from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Captain _____, from the Minister of Interior, and from Foreign Relations, and Mr. _____ Azcue.

Blakey: Mr. Azcue do you object if we tape this conversation?

Azcue: No.

Blakey: Would you state for the record your full name please.

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature G. Robert Blakey, Edwin Lopez

Date transcribed August 30, 19

By: CS Form #4-

Azcue: Eusebio Azcue Lopez.

Blakey: And your date and place of birth.

Azcue: August 15, 1911

Blakey: I'm sure you recall Mr. Azcue that we previously interviewed you on April 1, 1978. What we would like to do this time is ask you a few additional questions and we have brought from the United States some pictures with the hope that you might be able to identify some people. But before going to the pictures, I wonder if I could ask you some general questions about the procedures that were followed in the Cuban Consulate in the processing of Visa applications.

Azcue: Um huh.

Blakey: Who normally handled the visa applications?

Azcue: The secretary--Silvia Durante--the secretary.

Blakey: On what occasions would you handle one person?

Azcue: When the applicant made a request to meet me personally because of any particular problem.

Blakey: Would there be any occasion in which a security officer associated with the Consulate would become involved in the visa application?

Azcue: Never. That never happens.

Blakey: I take it then it was the custom so before either the Cuban Consulate or the secretary of the Consulate to handle the visa applications?

Azcue: That is the common practice.

Blakey: You testified or indicated to us in your last conversation that you were recalled to Cuba in the latter part of November.

Azcue: Yes.

Blakey: After the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22, did an occasion arise where you had conversations with any of the people who had been stationed in Mexico City?

Azcue: No, they Mexico.

Blakey: Did you ever have a conversation with Ms. Duran after the assassination?

Azcue: No. She ? She lived in Mexico.

Blakey: Did you ever meet her after November of '63?

Azcue: Two years later.

Blakey: And at that occasion did you have an opportunity to discuss the assassination?

Azcue: No, I did not. She told me about her problems in Mexico with the Mexican police. But I was going to Canada , I was in Mexico on a transit so I didn't have much time to speak with her.

Blakey: Did you discuss with her at that time your feeling that you relate to us on our last visit?

Azcue: I don't remember but I don't think so, because we had a very short talk and I think it was mostly about the problems she had had with the Mexican police.

Blakey: Did you ever--have you seen her since that time?

Azcue: No.

Blakey: Have you been in correspondence with her?

Azcue: No.

Blakey: Have you had any telephone conversations with her?

Azcue: No.

Blakey: The Warren Commission Report indicates that Ms. Duran told the Mexican police that she called the Russian Consulate to inquire about Lee Harvey Oswald's visit. You indicated to us during our last visit that it was your memory that you called the Russian Consulate personally.

Azcue: I never said that I had personally called the Russian Consulate. My recollection was that I thought that the Russian Counselor had called me. Because his telephone call was passed to me.

It is likely that it was Silvia Durante who called the Council and then gave the phone call to me. What I said was that it was strange that we had no reason to get concerned about that problem. That was Oswald's problem not ours. So I always thought that the Russian Councilman had phoned me because I was given the communication and talked to the Russian Counselor over the phone so I thought he was calling me. I didn't know.

Blakey: You talked to him personally, is that correct?

Azcue: Yes I did.

Blakey: I think you related to us in our last conversation what that was about, so let me move on to another matter.

Azcue: Yes.

Blakey: The next matter that I want to bring up with you is very delicate and I hope that you will understand that I am not asking these questions without serious reason. It is only because information has been brought to our attention that we have not evaluated, indeed seek to evaluate it by speaking to you and some other people here in Cuba. And it deals with Ms. Durante

We are concerned to make a judgement about her character. Not only for speaking the truth but also in her personal relations. It is based on information that has been brought to our attention about her personal life and its possible relation to Lee Harvey Oswald that I ask you these questions.

Azcue: Yes.

Blakey: In 1963 was Silvia Duran married?

Azcue: Yes, she was. Duran's name comes from her husband who was Horatio Duran.

Blakey: Did she have a reputation at the Cuban Embassy for being unfaithful to her husband?

Azcue: Not that I know. I never heard anything in that regard. Of course, we do not care about what people do in their personal life. She had a very decent behavior. She had a child, a girl. Her husband used to come to the Consulate very often to pick her up in his car. Their relation seemed to be very normal.

Blakey: Have rumors ever been brought to your attention that she may have had a love affair with Lee Harvey Oswald?

Azcue: I met him--we met him three times, both me and Silvia Duran. That gentleman never came back. I think she would have told me anything because she was perfectly loyal to me. She would have pointed to any aspect of any topic she would have had with him. And she left the Consulate really very late to have any date and she used to live very close to the Consulate. And her husband used to come for her almost every day. And she worked in the Consulate from very early in the morning til very late in the evening. We had lunch very close to the place where the Consulate was located?

Blakey: How did she get home?

Azcue: Mostly her husband used to come in the car to pick her up.

Blakey: Did anyone else ever pick her up?

Azcue: Never. She had very few relations. She used to have relations mostly with us and with elements that were sympathetic to us.

Blakey: Has it ever been brought to your attention that Silvia Duran may have introduced Lee Harvey Oswald to students at the National University in Mexico City?

Azcue: No, never. And I would have opposed to anything like that because I never liked the personality of that gentleman--I felt he was an enemy.

Blakey: Did you ever socialize with the Durans?

Azcue: Yes I did. They used to have many parties and we used to join them for dinner and for talks.
? with his husband.

Blakey: Were there any parties held that September weekend?

Azcue: I don't remember.

Blakey: Is it possible that there could have been a party that weekend?

Azcue: I remember that they gave me a party--as a farewell party, but it wasn't the beginning of November I think.

Blakey: We are obviously principally concerned about September 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.

Azcue: If she gave any party I did not attend.

Blakey: Did you have any conversations with anyone else that would lead you to believe that there might have been a party at her house at that time?

Azcue: I don't remember. It is impossible for me to remember.

Blakey: Is it possible that you could have given a party that weekend?

Azcue: No, I did not. I never gave parties.

Blakey: You indicated that you did go to parties at her house on more than one occasion.

Azcue: Yes because before being my secretary she used to be the secretary for the Cuban Mexican ? Committee or something like that. So she used to socialize very much with all of us for many years, not months but years.

Blakey: To your knowledge did Maria Teresa Proenza ever attend a party at her house?

Azcue: It's very likely, I don't know. Because Teresa Proenza is a very old lady. At these parties most of the people who attended were young people so I don't think she attended. Teresa Proenza was a very old lady at that time and was very delicate.

Blakey: How old would she have been then?

Azcue: Maybe she was of her sixties, but she didn't seem to be very healthy. She suffered from ? in her elbows. She was not able to write almost. And she was not the kind of lady to attend parties very often.

Blakey: Did Louisa Calderon ever attend a party at the Durans?

Azcue: Louisa Calderon was working at the Commercial Delegation then she didn't have those relations with Silvia. And Louisa Calderon had been working there for a short period of time and she lived with her mother. So she was not qualified for our group, so to say. The Commercial Delegation had their group.

Blakey: Did Alfredo Mirabal ever attend a party at the Durans?

Azcue: Alfredo Mirabal had just arrived. And he had many problems with the education of his son, the installation of his house. So the only party I ever remembered that he attended was a Congress of Counselors that took place in Mexico City in which we attended together. He was, so to say, a home man, a man who stay at home most of the time with his son and his wife, his mother-in-law.

Blakey: Did Ornesto -- would you help me with this punctuation?

Lopez: Ornesto M-i-l-e-r.

Blakey: Is that name familiar to you? Ornesto?

Azcue: Ornesto Miler? A Texan maybe?

Blakey: No.

Azcue: A very tall man who had been a friend of mine before in the Spanish War? A member of the Lincoln Brigade?

Blakey: No, this would have been a friend of the Durans.

Azcue: Yes, they had many friends. It was a very known family--Durans family. Known as progressive people.

Blakey: Emilio Carbiedo?

Azcue: Emilio Carbiedo? He's a Mexican writer, is that so?

Blakey: Would he have been at parties at the Durans?

Azcue: I never saw him there. I never saw him in parties but it is likely that he visited the Durans' family because he was a young man with good relations with us and he was known in Cuba too.

Blakey: How about Elena Guerro DePaz?

Azcue: Yes, she was a friend of mine.

Blakey: You must pardon my pronunciation of Spanish.

Interpreter: I should understand you but I don't know.

Azcue: She is a Mexican writer too. A very good writer.

Also the wife of ? Paz. One of the best modern poets Mexico has had. And related to Horatio Duran -- to Silvia's husband.

Blakey: She would have been a friend then both of yours and the Durans?

Azcue: Yes she was.

Blakey: Did you see her often?

Azcue: This gets complicated, I was a very good friend of the painter Guerro Galvan--married to the sister of Elena Guerro. He was my friend. He used to come to my house. We used to have dinner together or I used to go to his house and we had dinner there. Then at his house it was that I met Elena Guerro. A very interesting woman and very cult.

Blakey: Did you know her well?

Azcue: We met -- two or three times a year we used to meet. It's not that we were so intimate with each other, it's just that we met once in a while.

Blakey: Was she emotionally stable?

Azcue: Well she is the best woman writer that I have met and I have read.

Blakey: Did she have what might have been called a vivid imagination about things rather than about writings?

Azcue: I didn't know her so well, but I met her as a stable woman and her writings, you don't find that political ? but rather her living with an excellent knowledge of Spanish.

Blakey: If she told you a story about something that happened would you be apt to believe it?

Azcue: I think so.

Blakey: Did she have a reputation for telling stories that were not true?

Azcue: I don't think so.

Blakey: You would describe her then as a responsible woman?

Azcue: I think so, maybe a very mature lady.

Blakey: And if she told you something of a very serious character, your tendency would be to credit it as true?

Azcue: Yes, maybe. Maybe.

Blakey: Did you ever hear that Lee Harvey Oswald had attended a party at the Durans in which any of these other people had been present?

Azcue: Lee Harvey Oswald absolutely disappeared from our minds at the moment in which he left the Consulate for the last time. Hundreds of people used to come to the Consulate. He was

one. He was just one of them. Lee Harvey Oswald came back again to our minds when he was quoted by the newspapers. May I smoke?

Blakey: Surely. You must understand that Lee Harvey Oswald has become a subject of attention in many peoples mind because of his possible involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy and many people now say things about him that are not always true and are very difficult to verify.

Azcue: ?

Blakey: To be able to tell a story about him, we have found during the course of our investigation, is something that many people like to do. And not all of the stories are true. What we are trying to do is to find out what is true. Did you know Consuella Esperon?

Azcue: Yes I did. She was a secretary for thirty years during all the governments and all the administrations

Blakey: Do you know or have you ever heard that she may have been present at a party in which Lee Harvey Oswald was?

Azcue: She did not have parties. She was an old lady and she wanted to guarentee the years of her life were filled. She had to work with a

retirement that we could provide for her.

Blakey: How old would she have been in 1963?

Azcue: Over sixty, very likely. Mexican--very tall.

Blakey: You recall that last time you indicated that you felt that you might be able to identify the individual that identified himself as Lee Harvey Oswald.

Azcue: I think so.

Blakey: Although did not appear to be the one who you saw on TV that Jack Ruby had killed.

Azcue: Yes, I did.

Blakey: Let me show you what has been marked as JFK Document #007549 and ask you to take a look at it. We might take a break now for five minutes or so while you do look at it.

Azcue: Thank you very much.

Blakey: We are back on the record now and it has been twenty-five minutes. Are you able to identify any of the photographs in the book.

Azcue: Yes I have identified some but I have observed something is very curious. These pictures, most of them I may identify just the background of

the pictures. ? that

I was told was in the front of the ? ?
as well as the bars. In defense it can be
seen that in most of these pictures that
have been taken in our Embassy or to our
Embassy front to the Embassy
or from someplace in front across by the
Embassy.

Blakey: Perhaps by a wandering photographer.

Azcue: There are many faces her which is very likely that I saw sometime. Some others I identified because I remember them because they are a friend of mine. But all of them have been taken at the Embassy and it very curious that the gentlemen who came to the Chanchery is not ? Nor the man who was shot dead in Dallas it doesn't come here. None of the two comes in this picture. The one who took these pictures it is a feeling he took one of the two. The one who came to the Chanchery. I see none neither Lee Harvey Oswald who was shot down by Jack Ruby who came to the Chancery. So

there are many pictures here. I may identify many of them, friends of mine and some others are just faces I have seen someplace at the Embassy or the Consulate. But not of them correspond to the Lee Harvey Oswald who came to the Consulate nor from the Lee Harvey Oswald who was shot to death. That's sounds curious to me. That something ? in foreign service like this one does not have the picture of the person who visited the Chancellor that day. Here I have a list of the ones I may identify.

Blakey: Could you give us the ones you can identify?
You identified Number 4?

Azcue: Yes I did. Mirabol. The Chancellor that replaced me.

Blakey: And you identified number 34?

Azcue: Rolando Estabio from our Commercial Delegation in Mexico City.

Blakey: And you identified number 81?

Azcue: He has a mode of strangeness which I recall from people who have been to the Embassy. but if I see them in the streets--if I come across with them in the street I wouldn't say hello. 61, too, you may add, it is

Rolando Estabio again. 81 is Mr. Wong.
He is an engineer who studied in Mexico
and he was at that time studying there
in Mexico. He was following a post-graduate
course.

Blakey: Number 85.

Azcue: This looks like Louisa Calderon, I'm not
sure. What was characteristic of Louisa
Calderon was the blue eyes, very blue eyes
and very black hair. The picture--I wouldn't
be so sure but it looks like Louisa Calderon.

Blakey: How long did she work at the Embassy?

Azcue: She went there approximately in June '63. So
she had been there only a few months at that
time.

Blakey: Do you know how long she stayed at the Embassy
after you left?

Azcue: When I came back to Cuba she was here already.
So she has been there very few months.

Blakey: When did she come back to Cuba?

Azcue: I don't know. I can't tell you accurately.
But she came very soon because when I came
back in November--On November 22 I arrived
here and very soon after I arrived I met her at the
theatre. She lived very close to the theatre.

Blakey: Do you know why she came back to Cuba?

Azcue: Well you know in the kind of positions in which we worked in the Embassy it is very ? and the Commercial Delegations, they just move you from one place to the other.

Blakey: Was there any special reason for bringing her back?

Azcue: No special reason because she just came to work here.

Blakey: Would her having been brought back been related any in any way to the aftermath of the assassination?

Azcue: It was even before that. I gave on the 22nd that she was already here. Yes I came on the 18th and she was already here.

Blakey: You identified Number 101 as identical to Number 101, 103, 105, 107.

Azcue: Yes all of them are the same person. It's a Dr. A very well known Doctor in Cuba and he was a writer too and he used to go to the Consular very often because he had a son studying architecture in Mexico. So the only motive for his visit to Mexico was to visit his son and

to bring him back in order to follow up his career because there they finished the class of November in Mexico.

Blakey: You identified Number 115.

Azcue: Alberero, he was from our cultural service--a painter.

Blakey: You also identified Number 157.

Azcue: No. 120?

Blakey: Which one--I'm sorry. While you are there tell us about 120.

Azcue: She was the assistant to our Counsellor in Vera Cruz. She used to come to the Embassy sometime. And the picture there it is taken at the Embassy. That's all of them. It's the same one without glasses. Number 157 and and 150, I think it is the same person.

Blakey: And who is it?

Azcue: I don't remember the name, he was a very young man, but he was the Assistant of our Consulate in Vera Cruz.

Blakey: Mr. Azcue, let me direct your attention back to Number 159. Have you ever seen that individual?

Azcue: It looks like a very old man. He looks Cuban.
His face looks to be that of a counterrevolutionary
? and dishonest.
Yes, he has that characteristic face.

Blakey: Have you seen him before?

Azcue: It seems to me that I have seen him before.
I don't know why, he looks familiar to me.
But I can't place him.

Blakey: The drawing looks familiar to you or the
person drawn looks familiar to you?

Azcue: The expression on the face. His hair, the sight
or the way he looks. Any other one?

Blakey: Would you look at Numbers 26 and 27.

Azcue: Twenty-six looks like a young American, typically
american.

Blakey: Have you ever seen him before?

Azcue: Typical American boy. Whenever I see his
picture, I would say it was a typical American.
His picture has been taken at the Embassy.

Blakey: Have you ever seen that individual or one who
looks like him at...

Azcue: No. I just say it because it is the typical
face of an American. He looks just like a
young American--like a young American student.

Blakey: Is it possible that that person could have
ever been with Silvia Duran?

Azcue: This picture has been taken at the Consulate.
The background of the picture is what we call
the Jose Latif quarters where we used to
honor Jose Latif at the Embassy. Identified
because of these round kind of Barcano stone.

Blakey: Let me direct your attention to ?
Have you ever seen Number 2, 66?

Azcue: I don't recognize him.

Blakey: Have you ever seen Number 2, 43, 44, 45, 46?

Azcue: ? (tape turns over)

Blakey: Have you ever seen Number 213?

Azcue: Maybe in something, but I don't really know,
I have not met this person.

Blakey: Can you recognize any of the individuals in
Number 275?

Azcue: The Ambassador, Tomas Mann.

Blakey: And how about the gentlemen on Mr. Mann's left?

Azcue: That face looks familiar to me like the one
of Tomas Mann which is the one I have seen in
pictures. I don't think I know him personally.

Blakey: Do you recognize the gentleman on Mr. Mann's
right?

Azcue: I recognize none of the two. The ?
is that you recognize only a face of the
people that you have seen more often.

Blakey: Let me return for a moment to Maria Teresa
Proenza. She was recalled from Mexico City
to Cuba in December, is that correct?

Azcue: I don't know. When I came she stayed there.

Blakey: Have you ever seen her since you returned from
Mexico City?

Azcue: I saw her just a month ago in the National
Library where she is working now. She is
very old.

Blakey: Do you know why she came back to Cuba?

Azcue: No, no I don't.

? No, I have no questions of Mr. Azcue. I think
you have asked the ones we have.

Blakey: Mr. Azcue I would like to thank you for your
graciousness in coming here today.

Azcue: It's a pleasure.

Blakey: Your testimony has been very helpful.

Azcue: I hope so.

Blakey: And it has clarified a number of points that
troubled us. Let me raise one additional thing

with you. Your testimony that the individual who came to the Consulate and at the time of the Oswald visa application was signed may not have been the Lee Harvey Oswald who was killed by Jack Ruby is obviously very important. We have taken your testimony in the form of a recording. The Committee would also like to extend you an invitation to come to the United States and testify publicly before the Committee. We recognize obviously that the details of such a trip would have to be worked out between your government and ours, but nevertheless we would like to formally extend you that invitation. The Committee would pay your transportation and travel expenses while in the United States and you would of course have all of the immunities that would attach to a witness appearing before a Congressional Committee. And you would have the protection of the Government of the United States.

Azcue:

That protection sounds very poor to me.

I am very grateful for that ?

but of course our government would be the one

to have the final word.

Blakey: But in any case, I did want informally on the record to indicate that your testimony is of sufficient significance that we would like to be able to have you present this testimony publicly to the Committee and the Congress and the American people.

Azcue: Thank you.

? Thank you Senor Azcue.

Azcue: You are welcome.

? I second the invitation.

Blakey: Let me indicate for the record that it is now 4:35.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Alfredo Mirabal DiazDate August 26, 1978 Time 10:15 a

Address _____

Place Riveria Hotel, Havana, Cuba

Interview:

Blakey: For the record, let me indicate that it is Saturday, August 26. It is 10:15 and we are in the Riviera Hotel in Havana, Cuba and the people present from the American Delegation include Congressman Richardson Preyer, G. Robert Blakey and Edwin Lopez. And I wonder if the Cuban Delegation could identify themselves.

Interpreter: Senor Buergo, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Captain Felipe Ville from the Ministry of Interior, and Ricardo Escartin, Foreign Service; Juanita Vera, interpreter.

Blakey: Mr. Mirabal, what we'd like to do this morning with your permission is to discuss with you some of the facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, more particularly the visit of Lee Harvey Oswald to Mexico City in September of 1963. I wonder if you'd state for the record your full name.

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature G. Robert BlakeyDate transcribed 8-30-78By: br Form #4-

Mirabal: Alfredo Mirabal Diaz.

Blakey: Would you state your date and place of birth?

Mirabal: I was born in Havana on August 11, 1923.

Blakey: Are you presently employed?

Mirabal: Yes, I am.

Blakey: Where?

Mirabal: In a factory of paintings.

Blakey: Where were you employed in September of 1963?

Mirabal: In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Blakey: Where you were physically located?

Mirabal: At the Department of the Chauncery of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Blakey: And where were you stationed?

Mirabal: In Mexico City.

Blakey: Mr. Mirabal, on April 1, 1978 Mr. Eusebio Azcue prepared a drawing for us of the Consulate in Mexico City. Let me show you what's been previously marked as Azcue #1. Does that appear to be an accurate drawing of the Consulate?

Mirabal: Yes.

Blakey: I wonder if you could explain for me a couple of things. Looking at the drawing from the bottom up, the bottom being what is marked Azcue #1, would you tell me the name of the street that runs--would you tell me which direction is north and which direction is south? If you remember.

Mirabal: It's not easy for me but now I think it was that way, upside down. No, I'm sorry, it is like you presented it to me first.

Blakey: The top of the drawing would be north? And the bottom would be south?

Mirabal: Yes, I think, because the entrance to the Embassy would be up here. But I'm not sure of that. I mean at present I'm not quite sure.

Blakey: Would you tell me the name of the street then that runs east and west?

Mirabal: I think that one was Francisco-Marques Street.

Blakey: The street that runs north-south, is that Francisco-Marques?

Mirabal: I don't remember the name of the other street. I can't remember because we always gave the address, the Embassy's address, which was Francisco-Marques and it was a very wide avenue.

Blakey: Would you tell me in your own words how you would gain entrance to the Consulate?

Mirabal: By this door.

Blakey: Was this an iron gate or steel gate or--?

Mirabal: This was walls.

Blakey: How high were the walls?

Mirabal: There was another floor up above the walls. If I'm not wrong in my memory, as I recall, these

walls here accounted for all the buildings which were there--two story buildings. It was not exactly a wall to separate us from the street but rather other buildings.

Blakey: Were these gates normally closed?

Mirabal: This was a wooden door, a wooden gate. Actually, I never came in this way, on very few occasions, then I don't have an accurate idea of how the outside of the building looked.

Blakey: Would people who came for visas come through the wooden doors?

Mirabal: Yes. And here there was a living room and here there would be the secretary. And this would be the staircase that would lead to the second floor.

Blakey: When you came in through the wooden door, did the wooden door--did it open into a courtyard or did it open into a living room?

Mirabal: No, no. This was a living room and here there was a laundry, a pantry. This was the courtyard. There was a door around here and you go to the courtyard. That room did not have a door.

Blakey: What were the hours that the Consulate was open?

Mirabal: For the public it was open at ten in the morning and close at two in the afternoon.

Blakey: What days of the week were these hours observed?

Mirabal: From Monday to Friday.

Blakey: Was the Consulate open on Saturdays?

Mirabal: I don't think so, I don't think so. Not on Saturday for the public. We used to work, but internally.

Blakey: But it was not open to the public?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: From two to four, was that your lunch hour?

Mirabal: Yes, from two to four.

Blakey: Did you return after lunch to continue working in the afternoon?

Mirabal: Yes, from four to six.

Blakey: From four to six you worked, but the Consulate was not open at that time.

Mirabal: It was not open to the public. And we used to work also from eight to ten in the morning but it was not open to the public at that time.

Blakey: Did everyone leave around six in the evening?

Mirabal: Yes, and there were two people working, because the janitor worked at the Embassy, too.

Blakey: Were there ever occasions when either you or other people connected with the Consulate stayed after six?

Mirabal: Yes, it could be one of those days at the end of the month but it was not a common practice.

Blakey: Who worked in the Consulate office?

Mirabal: The secretary and me.

Blakey: What was her name?

Mirabal: Sylvia Duran.

Blakey: In September of 1963 was there anyone else in the office besides yourself and Sylvia Duran?

Mirabal: Eusebio Azcue. I took his office but at that time he was still helping me to get familiar with the working of the office. So he stayed there for some time assisting me.

Blakey: Did the two of you share the same office?

Mirabal: Yes, we did because it was a large room, but he was not there permanently. He just came and left-- He spent some hours there. If he was needed he would stay longer.

Blakey: When did you arrive in Mexico to replace Mr. Azcue?

Mirabal: On September the second.

Blakey: When did he leave to return to Cuba?

Mirabal: I don't remember.

Interpreter: (He misunderstood the question.)

Mirabal: Some days past after I arrived in Mexico City, maybe a month, over a month, two months.

Blakey: Was it prior to the assassination of President Kennedy?

Mirabal: I think so.

Blakey: But after the visit of Lee Harvey Oswald to the Consulate?

Mirabal: Yes, it was afterwards.

Blakey: Was Mr. Azcue normally in the Consulate during this period in September from the hours that we talked about, roughly eight to seven?

Mirabal: Well, yes. He used to go in the morning to see if I needed him. Every day he went to the office.

Blakey: I take it then that you were familiar with the procedures that were normally followed in the issuance of visas. Is that correct?

Mirabal: Yes, I was.

Blakey: And either you or Mr. Azcue processed most visas. Is that correct?

Mirabal: There was a moment at which I took full responsibility for the Consulate. Signing all the documents, and from that moment on he didn't sign any more. I used to sign them myself-- though he was still there in order to assist me with the proceedings.

Blakey: Was there any circumstance in which a security officer associated with the Consulate would get involved with a visa application?

Mirabal: Not that I know. The visas were handled by me from the point of view of the official procedures and in special, in very special cases the Ambassador

would take responsibility for that.

Blakey: Did you have any instructions to bring to the security officer's attention anything that might occur through the course of a visa application?

Mirabal: Those instructions I had regarding the Ambassador, I mean to go to the Ambassador directly, to consult with the Ambassador because they -- they only make all the arrangements for the visa. Sometimes we had cases which had to be solved by the Ambassador himself. For instance, Cuba people who came very often to Cuba, then the Ambassador knew about that situation and they did not have to go through this application process. But that had to be authorized by the Ambassador himself, and nobody else.

Blakey: Were there any circumstances in which you would draw the attention of a security officer associated with the Embassy to the visa application? That is as opposed to drawing it to the attention of the Ambassador?

Mirabal: The problem is that I've never had new from a security officer attached to the Embassy for these cases. All my relations were with the Ambassador.

Blakey: To your knowledge then, no security officers were attached to the Embassy?

Mirabal: Not that I know.

Blakey: Let me draw your attention then to that latter part of September of 1963. Were you at the Consulate Office when Lee Harvey Oswald visited and attempted to acquire a visa?

Mirabal: Yes, I was present.

Blakey: What day did he first come?

Mirabal: I have the idea that he went two days. It seems to me that he visited the Consulate on two occasions. Now, when was it? The first one I don't remember; the second one I think was the one at the end of September. The day which he signed the application.

Blakey: Let me, let me show you a calendar for 1963, and direct your attention to September. The Cuban Government has previously furnished the Committee with a copy of an-application for a visa. Number 779, that indicates that an application was filled out on September 27th, which according to the calendar would have been a Friday. Does that information refresh your recollection as to when Mr. Oswald would have first come to the Consulate?

Mirabal: Of course, a long time has passed. In addition to that, I was not the one who took charge of the

visitors. Rather, it would be the secretary who was in charge of receiving the visitors. I would only sign the applications and the documents I had to sign.

Blakey: Did you sign the application for Mr. Oswald the first time he came, or the second time he came?

Mirabal: I don't remember. I don't remember as to be able to give you an accurate answer. I have in my recollection that it was the second time.

Blakey: That would mean the first time he visited would have been a Thursday, the 26th. Is that correct?

Mirabal: I cannot tell you accurately.

Blakey: And then the second time he visited would have been on a Friday the 27th when he filled out the formal application?

Mirabal: Yes, I do remember that there was a discussion. There was an argument on the two occasions that he came.

Blakey: Was there an argument on both occasions that he came?

Mirabal: Yes, with Azcue.

Blakey: Were you present during both discussions that he came?

Mirabal: Well, present in the building but that discussion was, that argument took place where the secretary

was. When I heard the people talking loudly, of course, I just went and looked. But I was not present at the argument, exactly, when it took place.

Blakey: Do you recall seeing Lee Harvey Oswald?

Mirabal: Yes, in that way, because I just went to the door and took a little peak as I heard the loud voices.

Blakey: Would you describe him as you remember him?

Mirabal: If I describe him now I could be influenced by the pictures I have seen of him. I do not have a clear cut image of him at that time.

Blakey: Could you tell me about how old he was?

Mirabal: About thirty years.

Blakey: Could you tell me what kind of build he had? Was he slight, muscular?

Mirabal: He was rather light, not very broad-shouldered but rather light and narrow build. I think the head was not a kind of a round head, but rather narrow. And the man was rather small.

Blakey: What color hair did he have?

Mirabal: I would say light brown.

Blakey: Do you recall the color of his eyes?

Mirabal: No. I didn't see them.

Blakey: What do you recall of his complexion?

Mirabal: I saw him. It came to my attention when I heard

the argument loud then I just went out to take a look at the argument, what he was discussing. I was not interested in his person exactly. Besides, I did not know English. I thought it could be an argument. So I saw it and then I went back and took seat in my office. I remember comparing him with Azcue. He was rather small and narrow, a very grave face, a serious face.

Blakey: How was he dressed? Did he have a suit on?

Mirabal: It seems to me he had a suit and a tie. It seems to me.

Blakey: I recognize of course that I'm asking you about events over fifteen years ago and what we want really is your best memory and I know that it's sometimes difficult to remember things. And so I hope you bear with me if I ask you these kinds of detailed questions. Can you recall what kind of suit it was? Was it dark or light?

Mirabal: I can tell that the recollection I have is that it was rather light but who can retain that in the memory?

Blakey: Can you remember whether it was stripped or solid color?

Mirabal: If we ask the secretary maybe she knows, because

women take more notice of that kind of thing.

Blakey: Did you have any subsequent discussions with Mr. Azcue about the nature of the argument that you had?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Did he ever tell you what Lee Harvey Oswald had said to him?

Mirabal: Yes. At the moment he told me. At the moment of the argument I remember that Oswald showed a Communist Party card and another card of American association. It's written down in the note, a card of the Fair Play for Cuba Association. Then Azcue took it to my desk and showed it to me. Displayed in front of me. So I had no instructions of anything of that sort, so I told Azcue to take it away but it caught my attention from the first discussion that took place. Two things: first, the demanding and angry way in which he said that he wanted a visa in any case, that he was being persecuted, that he had no money to keep himself in Mexico and that he needed to travel to Cuba urgently. That he said it in a way that is not a humble way of asking for it but rather demanding. That seemed to me very rare, it was strange; it seemed to me like a

kind of a provocation. And later the display of the Communist Party card and the other card. That time I told Azcue no, give all back to him. And he probably was like any other person. And that Comrade Azcue knew too. So there was no difference, no argument between Azcue and me about that. The only solution was to have it, to have him sent to the Ambassador, for the Ambassador to make a--a decision about that, because the Ambassador could have given him the visa as a political matter. But the way he demanded it, the way he projected himself was so strange, that we just applied the rules. Then he also said that his wife was a Soviet citizen, as a way to identify himself. Then I called the Consul, the Soviet Consul. I consulted him about the case, if he knew anything about that case. So I was told that he had been at the Soviet Embassy also and requested a visa but they had followed the procedures and forwarded it to Moscow but that would take time.

Blakey: Let me return to that in a moment, Mr. Mirabal, and let me ask you one other thing about the discussion that Mr. Azcue had with Mr. Oswald. What

I'd like to do is to read you a passage from a book written by a man named Daniel Shorr. The name of the book is "Clearing the Air." It was published in 1977. By reading it, you should not think that I necessarily credit as true. What I'd like to do is ask you as a person who was present in Mexico City to comment on the information that it contains. And I'm quoting now from page 177.

"Oswald had come to the Consulate, the Cuban Consulate twice, each time for about fifteen minutes." (This is now a quote attributed to Premier Castro.) "The first time I was told he wanted to work for us. He was asked to explain but he wouldn't. He wouldn't go into details. The second time he said he wanted to 'free Cuba from American Imperialism.' Then he said something like, 'Someone ought to shot that President Kennedy.' Then Oswald said, and this is exactly how it was reported to me, 'Maybe I'll try to do it.'"

Do you recall anything like these quotes attributed to Lee Harvey Oswald having occurred in the Embassy? The Consulate I mean?

Mirabal: Absolutely not.

Blakey: Did you have discussions with Sylvia Duran about what Oswald said?

Mirabal: Not at that time. She was just there and while Azcue and me were talking she was just there listening. We just exchanged some words, we can not say it was conversation.

Blakey: Did she ever tell you anything like the threats that are attributed to Oswald?

Mirabal: No, she never did.

Blakey: Did you ever have any discussions with Mr. Azcue since both of your return to Cuba about his feeling that the person who was present at the Consulate may not have been the same Lee Harvey Oswald who was killed in Dallas?

Mirabal: I don't remember. After Azcue came back and then I returned too, I met him only once and now yesterday I saw him on his way out here.

Blakey: So you've never discussed with him his feeling that there might have been two Oswalds?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Does your memory of the man who was in the Consulate square with the same person you know to have been, from seeing him in the newspapers, killed in Dallas?

Mirabal: Well, when the first pictures came in the newspapers, the following day after the assassination, there was not even on the part of Sylvia Duran or on my part anything that told us that it was not the same person. We did not enter into a discussion whether it was the same person or not, we

did not make that decision. We never thought--the impression we got when we saw the pictures was that it was the same person. And we didn't start to think about it I don't remember having talked about that.

Blakey: Let me go back to where you were before I interrupted you. You indicated that Lee Harvey Oswald had come in, probably on a Thursday and asked for an application. And then someone then called the Russian Consulate. Can you recall who it was that called?

Mirabal: I did.

Blakey: Your memory is that you called personally?

Mirabal: On the first occasion, no. On the second occasion, when I wrote the note, was that I phoned the Soviet Consulate.

Blakey: You did it personally?

Mirabal: Yes, I did.

Blakey: It was not done by Sylvia Duran?

Mirabal: If she did it, I don't know. I did it myself.

Blakey: With whom did you speak at the Soviet Embassy?

Mirabal: With the Consul or the Deputy Consul.

Blakey: Can you recall his name?

Mirabal: No I don't.

Blakey: What did you tell him?

Mirabal: I consulted him about the case, whether they had any news about that person or his wife who was a Soviet citizen.

Blakey: And what did he tell you?

Mirabal: And he told me about that, that that same man had been in his office to request a visa for the U.S.S.R. But that he had forwarded to Moscow and that it would take about four months to get a reply. It is known that a citizen of a country has the right to go back to that country. But it was not she who was requesting a visa to come to Cuba but rather himself, her husband. But then it seemed to me somewhat strange, a strange combination. So we decided not even to forward the case to the Ambassador.

Blakey: Let me see if I can't get clear. When did this telephone conversation--when in the day did this telephone conversation take place? Was it in the morning or in the afternoon?

Mirabal: It seems to me it was around noon time. I don't remember. It should have been within ten and two in the afternoon.

Blakey: Was Oswald present in the Consulate when you

made the phone call?

Mirabal: I think so. I think he was because I made the telephone call before writing out the note.

Blakey: Okay. Let me see if I can't reconstruct with you what happened.

He came in on the second occasion, filled out the application, and then you called the Soviet Embassy to check to see whether he had received his visa and they gave you the information that you previously gave us.

Mirabal: Yes.

Blakey: Did you then give the information to Mr. Oswald?

Mirabal: No, I did not. To Mr. Azcue.

Blakey: And that's when the argument occurred?

Mirabal: No, no. The discussion was before that. Because though he came to fill out the application, the way he was asking to do it, he wanted to have the reply very soon. He said he could not wait for months and then there was another argument about that. There was an argument on both occasions.

Blakey: Did any other people make phone calls from the Cuban Embassy to the Russian Embassy? About the Oswald case?

Mirabal: Not from my phone. I had a telephone in my office

and the secretary had another telephone.

Blakey: Did Sylvia Duran ever call the Russians?

Mirabal: I cannot tell you yes and I cannot tell you no.

Blakey: Did you ever had any conversation with her that would lead you to believe that she had made phone calls?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Did you ever have any conversations with Mr. Azcue that would lead you to believe that he had made phone calls in this connection?

Mirabal: I don't know about that.

Blakey: You mean you don't remember whether he did or didn't? Or you just have no knowledge at all?

Mirabal: Not that I know. I never knew about that.

Blakey: Did you ever make a phone call to the Russian Embassy in which you put Lee Harvey Oswald on the phone to let him directly talk to the Russian Embassy?

Mirabal: No, I never did.

Blakey: Did you ever have any direct face-to-face conversations with Mr. Oswald?

Mirabal: No, I never did.

Blakey: When the argument occurred, what language was Oswald speaking?

Mirabal: English.

Blakey: Did he ever speak Russian in the Embassy?

Mirabal: Not that I heard.

(Tape turned over.)

Blakey: Let me repeat that question. Did he ever speak Russian in the Embassy?

Mirabal: No, I was all the time in my office, and working. I had work to do. I tell you honestly, I never gave much importance to that. It was just a simple argument, a discussion. At that moment also he was not--the figure he became later. I did not pay much attention. But rather to loud voices I heard, that was what called my attention. But what was going on there I do not know.

Blakey: Those voices were speaking in English, then?

Mirabal: The three of them--the Secretary, Azcue and Oswald.

Blakey: Did you know Azcue both professionally and socially?

Mirabal: I met him September the second, 1963. He went to receive me at the airport. Then afterwards we became good friends.

Blakey: Did you know Sylvia Duran both professionally and socially?

Mirabal: Well, from the social point of view I visited her once during a birthday party because it was logical.

I was head at the office and she invited me.

But we never carry out any social life together.

Blakey: Did you ever attend any parties at her house?

Mirabal: Yes, I did.

Blakey: Do you recall attending any parties that period during September at her house?

Mirabal: Well, the party was soon after the night I arrived in Mexico. I don't remember if it was her birthday, I think it was. Hers or her husband's.

Blakey: Do you know when she was born?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Could it be that her birthday is November 22nd, the day of the assassination?

Mirabal: No, I can't tell you.

Blakey: Can you recall whether you attended a party that would not be a birthday party that weekend in September when Oswald was in Mexico City?

Mirabal: No, I don't.

Blakey: Do you know if Mr. Azcue attended any parties at her house that weekend?

Mirabal: They knew each other for sometime but I can't tell you if he went to her house to a party.

Blakey: Did you know Maria Teresa Proenza?

Mirabal: I met her at the Embassy but I didn't have any relations with her.

Blakey: Do you know if she was at a party at the Durans that weekend?

Mirabal: No, I don't remember.

Blakey: Did you know General Jose Jesus Clark Florez?

Mirabal: I met a lot of people, I don't remember.

Blakey: Did you know Emilio Carbellido?

Mirabal: I think I heard the name but if I met him I don't remember, perhaps it was at the time I think I heard the name, Emilio Carbellido.

Blakey: Do you know if he attended a party at the Durans that latter part of September?

Mirabal: No I don't.

Blakey: Did you know Elena Garro de Paz?

Mirabal: No, I don't. Perhaps I met her but I cannot associate the name with the person now.

Blakey: Did you know Deba Guerrero de Galvan?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Did you know a Victor Rico Gallan?

Mirabal: Yes, I did.

Blakey: And who was--

Mirabal: Journalist.

Blakey: Did you know him well?

Mirabal: No, but he used to go to the Consul. We had super-

official relations always.

Blakey: Did you ever hear that Lee Harvey Oswald was at a party at the Durans on the weekend of September 26, 27, 28, 29?

Mirabal: No, I never heard that.

Blakey: Mr. Mirabal, I hope you will understand that the questions now that I am going to ask you are somewhat delicate and I would not ask you unless I had information that made it necessary. And I would not ask these kinds of questions just to pry into people's private lives. Having apologized for the delicate character of what I am doing, let me ask you a series of questions.

Was Sylvia Duran married when she worked at the Consulate?

Mirabal: She told me that she was married with a painter.

Blakey: Did you ever hear that she was unfaithful to her husband?

Mirabal: Well, there were some comments but not very serious. I never gave any importance to the comments that were made.

Blakey: Did she have a reputation for being with more than one man on more than one occasion?

Mirabal: No. As far as I know.

Blakey: Could she have been described as a woman of easy virtue?

Mirabal: The thing is that I never used to speak about those types of things with the other people.

Blakey: The distinction that I'm trying to draw, it is sometimes possible for a person to have an affair even outside of marriage based on love. There are other people who would stay with anyone and what I'm trying to ask you as delicately as possible is if Ms. Duran had the reputation of being the kind of woman who might stay with anyone?

Mirabal: I never knew that version.

Blakey: You indicated that you did hear that she perhaps was unfaithful. Without going into the details of the people.

Mirabal: There were some comrades there at the Embassy who started commenting but not as a serious matter. Not as a serious conversation.

Blakey: Did you ever hear that she might have had an affair, at least a week-end affair, with Lee Harvey Oswald?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Do you think that if this had occurred that you might have heard about it?

Mirabal: Yes. People would have commented on that. Because after what happened, that is, the assassination of the President, we talked a lot. There was a lot of conversations dealing with Oswald.

Blakey: Do you know how Sylvia Duran got home at night?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Did her husband come to pick her up?

Mirabal: Sometimes.

Blakey: Did you know a Ernesto Lehfeld Miller (Ph.)?

Mirabal: Do you know if anyone other than her husband ever came to pick her up?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Did you ever hear or learn that Sylvia Duran sent Lee Harvey Oswald to a group of students at the University of Mexico? In an effort to obtain the visa?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Do you think you would have heard of such activity had it occurred?

Mirabal: It would have been normal.

Blakey: Do you know an Oscar Contrares Lartigue?

Mirabal: Not by the name.

Blakey: Did you know any students at the law school at the University of Mexico?

Mirabal: Well, I, there were some students who used to go to the Embassy looking for propaganda, books, literature.

Blakey: Did you know a Ricardo Guerra?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Following the assassination of President Kennedy, was Sylvia Duran arrested by the Mexican Government?

Mirabal: Yes, she was.

Blakey: Did she discuss with you that arrest?

Mirabal: Afterwards.

Blakey: Would you tell us what she said happened to her?

Mirabal: She told me that she was arrested. I don't even remember where it was. It was either in her house or out of her house, that she was maltreated.

Blakey: What do you mean by maltreated?

Mirabal: Not, uh, she was not beaten. But she had some bruises and they wanted to link her with Oswald.

Blakey: How did they give an indication that they wanted to link her with Oswald?

Mirabal: Because of the visit to the Embassy.

Blakey: When you say they, do you mean the Mexican Police?

Mirabal: Yes, it was the Mexican police.

Blakey: Which police service arrested her?

Mirabal: I don't remember -- The Mexican police.

Blakey: What I mean was that, there are several different Mexican police services. Do you remember which service it was that arrested her?

Mirabal: No, I don't.

Blakey: Did she tell you what questions she was asked by the Mexican police?

Mirabal: Well, you know, she was talking about that and who was present. The Ambassador was also present.

Blakey: What questions did they ask her?

Mirabal: I don't remember exactly now but I do know that--

Blakey: Did they make any accusations against her?

Mirabal: No, no. She was released.

Blakey: What I meant was, in the questions did they accuse her of doing anything?

Mirabal: As far as I knew, they wanted to link her with this event. I know that there is something about that.

Blakey: Did they want to link her to it personally. For example, did they ask her if she had an affair with Lee Harvey Oswald?

Mirabal: No, I don't remember anything.

Blakey: Or did they try to link her in the sense that she was an employee of the Cuban Embassy?

Mirabal: I think so.

Blakey: Did they suggest that somehow the Cuban Government was involved with Lee Harvey Oswald, and thus the assassination, an attempt through Ms. Duran to establish that link?

Mirabal: I don't remember but I don't think so.

She commented on everything but uh--

Blakey: I note that it's now eleven fifteen and that it would probably be unfair for me to continue asking questions without giving you say, five minutes for rest. I wouldn't want it said that I was unfair to you. Perhaps we could take a five minute break.

Let the record indicate that it is now twenty minutes to twelve. (Break.)

Blakey: On any occasion that Mr. Oswald was present at the Consulate did you ever get any indication that he was with other people?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Did you see anyone outside that he might have gone out and been with?

Mirabal: I remember an image that one time in which I went to the window there was a woman close to the Consulate. I remember but it is not very clear but I didn't know who she was.

Blakey: Is there any reason to associate her with him?

Mirabal: No, I didn't have any--

Blakey: Did you see him go out and talk to her?

Mirabal: No, I did not. Excuse me, one of the things he brought to the Consulate was a certificate of marriage. When he showed it to me, I didn't ask

anything related to these certificate but I related that I associated that perhaps that woman that was outside could be his wife.

Blakey: Did he say that he was with her?

Mirabal: No, no. I never talked to him.

Blakey: It's just an assumption on your part that it could have been true?

Mirabal: Yes, only an assumption.

Blakey: Could you recall for me what the reaction was in the Cuban Consulate and Embassy to President Kennedy's assassination?

Mirabal: Well, when we heard about it, I can't recall, I think it was the day after, I heard it in the morning, we put on the radio and we heard about the news. Well, you can imagine the feeling of the people working at the Embassy, they were very upset. They were worried also, because that's not common for these events to happen. Especially because at that time our relations with the U.S. government were not good and in Mexico we had a very active counter-revolutionary force who threatened us whenever we had a party and sometimes they managed to carry out some acts against us. For example, throwing ink bottles to our Embassy, and different provocations

against us. So, first of all, the news worried us because it was the assassination of a U.S. President and this hadn't happened for a long time. And also, because that situation perhaps the counter-revolutionaries could use us. That is mainly the impression I recall. And we tried to maintain ourselves as calm as we could.

Blakey: Did you have any discussions with Sylvia Duran about Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to the Consulate in light of the assassination?

Mirabal: No, I didn't.

Blakey: Do you recall her reaction to the assassination?

Mirabal: She was the one who gave me the news that he was assassinated. She communicated first that he was assassinated, then I put on the radio. Sometime later she herself came again and she told me that the name that the radio had given as the assassin was the same name of that person who went to the Embassy requesting a visa. Because the thing is that she handles everything, the papers, and she had to write up for sometime, different times, the name, so she recalled it. And she remembered the name.

Blakey: What did you do with that information?

Mirabal: Well, what I told you before, we

Blakey: Did you report it to the Ambassador that the reported assassin of the President of the United States had asked for a visa?

Mirabal: Yes.

Blakey: Do you know what he did with it?

Mirabal: He recommended us to be calm and to wait for the events. He was going to talk with the Mexican authorities. That is what I remember.

Blakey: Do you know if any communication was had between Mexico City and Havana about Lee Harvey Oswald and the visa application?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: You don't know. Could, is it possible that there was some communication that you did not know about?

Mirabal: I didn't know.

Blakey: Did anyone ever talk to you as part of an investigation conducted by the Cuban Government into Lee Harvey Oswald's visit?

Mirabal: After the assassination?

Blakey: After the assassination.

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Have you ever had any conversations with anyone about what we're talking about today?

Mirabal: At that time?

Blakey: Yes.

Mirabal: Yes, at that time we were talking with the different officers of the Embassy, because the press was talking about these events very frequently. But after some days, nothing was said. I haven't talked about this--

Blakey: These were all informal conversations?

Mirabal: Yes. Among comrades.

Blakey: Have you ever participated in any investigation of what happened?

Mirabal: No.

Blakey: Either then or subsequently?

Mirabal: So far, no.

Blakey: Let me show you the copy of a visa application supplied to us by the Cuban government, number 779. Let me direct your attention to the lower right-hand corner. Do you see the signature there? Is that your signature?

Mirabal: Yes, it is.

Blakey: Could you tell us how that application would have been filled out? Who typed it?

Mirabal: It was typed by the secretary to Sylvia Duran.
I suppose so, because she was the one in charge
of that.

But she used to fill out applications.

Blakey: Where would she have gotten the information on
the top part of the application?

Is that the signature of Lee Harvey Oswald?

Mirabal: The applicant is the one that supplies the infor-
mation.

Blakey: Where would she have gotten the information that
appears below the phrase?

Mirabal: It was drafted by myself.

Blakey: Would you have dictated this to her?

Mirabal: I wrote it down on a piece of paper and I gave
it to her.

Blakey: Where would you have gotten the information?

Mirabal: From the documents he showed to me, and from
the call I made to the Embassy. I think that is
what is expressed there. Do you mind if I read
it?

Blakey: No, please do.

Mirabal: The applicant says that he is a member of the Com-
munist Party of the United States. It seems to
say "Secretary in New Orleans of the
Fair Play for Cuba Committee" and also that he

lived in the U.S.S.R. from October 1959 up to June 19, 1962. That's what he said. That while there he got married with a Soviet citizen. He produced some documents that accredited him as member of the organizations mentioned before and a marriage certificate. He presented himself at the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. in this city requesting a visa to visit the Embassy in Cuba. We called up the Consulate of the Soviet Union and they told us that they had to wait for the authorization of Moscow in order to issue the visa and that it would take approximately four months. That is, that what he declared and the different consultations I made with the Consulate so that the Cuban authorities might be able to understand.

Blakey: When would this application have been typed in this fashion? ...

Mirabal: At that moment.

Blakey: The information would have been, I take it then, directly given to Sylvia Duran by Mr. Oswald. And the other information would have been given to you.

Mirabal: Not to me alone but to Azcue. Both.

Blakey: And then it would have been typed on the application, and Mr. Oswald would have signed it right then?

Mirabal: I don't remember now if he signed before or afterwards, but it was the same day.

Blakey: Do I understand you to say that he may have signed an application in blank and then the information would have been typed into it afterwards?

Mirabal: It is possible because that is something that belongs to the Mission. It is not signed by the applicant; he just only commit himself with what he says. This is internal.

Blakey: What I'm trying to understand is the procedure that would have been followed. In most situations what did the applicant do?

Mirabal: He signed the application.

Blakey: In blank?

Mirabal: No, no, no. After filling it out.

Blakey: Okay. He would, what I'm--as you told me, he didn't type it. The secretary typed it. Okay. So he would have to have given the information to the secretary. She would then have to have typed it. And the information would have to have given to Mr. Azcue and he would have to have dictated to Ms. Duran the material that appears on the bottom.

And when all of that was typed on the application,
I take it it would have been given to him to sign.
Is that correct?

Mirabal: I can't tell you if it was like that exactly.
It was done generally; I can't tell you exactly
if it was done like that. Now, what I can tell
you is that it was made the same day at the same
moment.

Blakey: Uh huh. Did he sign that in your presence?

Mirabal: Not in my presence.

Blakey: Was it ever a practice to allow an applicant to
take the application with him, away from the Con-
sulate?

Mirabal: No, that was not allowed.

Blakey: So they would always have been filled out and signed
in the Consulate?

Mirabal: It was not forbidden but it was not necessary to
do that.

Blakey: Was more than one copy of the visa application made?

Mirabal: Yes.

Blakey: How many were?

Mirabal: I just sign them. I think there were five or six
copies.

Blakey: Did the applicant sign each one individually?

Mirabal: Yes.

Blakey: Did you have carbon paper available that would permit him to sign all copies at the same time?

Mirabal: I can't tell you that because he didn't sign in my presence.

Blakey: Was it the custom that you had carbon paper available? That would permit applicants to sign all copies at the same time?

Mirabal: That was handled by the secretary and I don't know how she worked (it). I was never interested in that because I was working on other things. She was working there for some time--

Blakey: Could I ask you to give me an exemplar of your own signature? (Break while Mr. Mirabal writes name.)

Would you date it? August 26, 1978.

(Laughter.)

Mr. Mirabal, you previously indicated that you knew Maria Teresa Perenza and that she worked in the Embassy. Was she subsequently recalled from Mexico City to Cuba?

Mirabal: Yes.

Blakey: Why was she recalled?

Mirabal: I don't know.

Blakey: Did you ever have any discussions with anyone in the

Embassy about why she left?

Mirabal: If I had it, I don't remember.

I had very few relations with her.

Blakey: You previously indicated that you knew Luisa Calderone. Is that correct?

Mirabal: We haven't talked about Luisa Calderone.

Blakey: I'm sorry. Did you know Luisa Calderone?

Mirabal: Yes, she worked at the Embassy.

Blakey: What did she do at the Embassy?

Mirabal: She worked I think in the commercial department.

Blakey: She subsequently was recalled to Cuba, is that correct?

Mirabal: Yes, after two months. I knew her a very short time.

Blakey: Why was she recalled to Cuba?

Mirabal: I don't know.

END OF TAPE.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Alfredo Mirabal Diaz

Date _____ Time _____

Address _____

Place _____

Interview:

See attached.

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature R. Preyer/GR Blakey/E LopezDate transcribed 9/1/78By: am Form #4-

BLAKEY: You were just saying before we had to change the tapes...

MIRABAL: Well, generally, personnel in an embassy will take office over for just a period of time. And I think they said that she left to Cuba because she finished with her period of time in the Embassy.

BLAKEY: Was there any connection between her return to Cuba and the assassination of President Kennedy?

MIRABAL: No, never. I don't know if she left before or after.

BLAKEY: Mr. Mirabal, let me show you two black folders, one of which is identified as the photo identification book. The second is identified as...

INTERPRETER: The first one is identified...

BLAKEY: ...as photo identification book. The second is identified as J.F.K. document number 007549. Each black notebook contains a number of photographs. I'd like you to take a few minutes and look at them, and then I'd like to ask you if you can identify any of the people in them. It's now about 12:05. I wonder if we could take a break for about ten minutes while you have the opportunity to do that.

- BREAK -

BLAKEY: For the record, let me indicate that it is now 12:20. You were indicating that you did not know anyone in the photo identification book?

MIRABAL: I'd like to clarify that I'm not very good at recollecting people. Sometimes I can't distinguish my children in a picture.

BLAKEY: Let me direct your attention to photo No. 57 in the photo identification book and ask you if you can recall that individual.

MIRABAL: Well, the face looks somewhat familiar.

BLAKEY: But you're not sure who it is?

MIRABAL: No.

BLAKEY: Okay. Then let's direct our attention to the 007549.

INTERPRETER: Zero, zero...?

LOPEZ: 7-5-4-9.

BLAKEY: You indicated that you could identify some of the people in that book. I wonder if you would give us the name and the number.

MIRABAL: No. 4 is myself. That's it. No. 33 seems to me to be Rogelio Rodriguez, a comrade who used to work at the embassy with us.

No. 34. It seems to me that it was a Mexican. He was a Mexican or a Cuban who used to work at the embassy. I'm not very sure. I don't remember his name. I just remember having seen him there working on different things. Because of his face he looks Mexican. I can't place him, though. It seems to me that he's the same person who fits your number 61. It seems to me that it is the same person in both pictures. Then No. 44, which seems to be a comrade who used to work at the commercial office whose name I don't remember now. Now I was looking at -- it seems to me that he resembles No. 1.

MIRABAL: I told them that he used to work at the commercial office. Then we have 111. It seems to me that this man was Alberu, who worked at the Embassy and who was a painter. His name I don't remember. Alberu was his last name. Then we have 120. This is Buenaventura, who used to work at the Embassy, too. A young man. Buenaventura, it seems to me that was his last name. This Buenaventura is the same person in 157 and 158. And then now I'm looking here. One hundred and fifteen seems to be again-- 115. Then 116 is Braun. She was a member of the Mexican Communist Party who used to come to the Embassy quite often. I mean, I'm not very sure if she was really a member of the Party, but she used to come to the agency. That's as far as I have recognized here. Some of them are not very clear.

BLAKEY: Would you look at No. 34? Could that be Rolando Esteva?

LOPEZ: Rolando Esteva.

MIRABAL: I don't remember that name.

BLAKEY: Would you look at No. 81?

MIRABAL: But that one I mentioned to you--No. 34. Yes, No. 34 was a Cuban or Mexican working at the Embassy. I don't remember his name. I just recognize the face as a Cuban or a Mexican who used to work at the Embassy.

BLAKEY: Would you look at No. 81? Could his name be Juan?

MIRABAL: I have not seen him. That face I don't remember.

BLAKEY: Would you look at No. 101? Could his name be Dr....

LOPEZ: Ramirez Corea?

MIRABAL: I don't know him.

BLAKEY: Okay. Would you look at No. 85?

MIRABAL: I don't know him.

BLAKEY (aside): (Is it him or her?)

LOPEZ (aside): (her)

BLAKEY: Looking at No. 85 -- could that be Luisa Calderon?

MIRABAL: I don't have a good recollection of her because I saw her just a few days but I don't have a recollection of her.

BLAKEY: Would you look at numbers 26 and number 27. Is that face familiar?

MIRABAL: No.

BLAKEY: Could that be Ernesto Lehfeld Miller?

MIRABAL: I don't know him.

BLAKEY: Mr. Mirabal, would you object if we took your picture now? We would like to have it for our files in connection with...

MIRABAL: I'm sorry that I'm suffering from inflammation of one of my teeth and my face is somewhat swollen - a little bit swollen.

BLAKEY: But you don't mind if we take your picture?

BUERGO: Before taking the picture, maybe you would allow me to make a clarification, because maybe Comrade Mirabal had forgotten. As you may remember, we had mentioned in the previous talks about Comrade Escartin had some meetings with Comrades as part of an investigation that was carried out by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1976. And Comrade Mirabal was one of the persons interviewed on that occasion. And the conversation that we had at that time coincides more or less with what has been said here today. Maybe our good Comrade Mirabal could tell through the Directorate that he was previously interviewed.

MIRABAL: Yes, when you asked me whether I had spoken to anyone on another occasion, I had said that I never again had spoken about that so far. But when I said so far, I meant including the Comrade in the process because I feel this is a process, so I include Comrade Escartin in the whole thing.

BLAKEY: The record--the record really ought to indicate that that's the way I understood it and that I did not understand you to say that you had not talked with Mr. Escartin.

MIRABAL: Yes, I didn't mention that exactly because he told me on that occasion that that talk would end in a process like this and it will start the whole thing.

BLAKEY: The record really should be very clear that there's no misunderstanding. I asked the question implicitly including myself and Mr. Escartin. And you answered implicitly in the same way and I was not misled.

PREYER: Mr. Mirabal, we appreciate very much your coming with us today. I hope this photograph will turn out better than some of those and I hope your tooth problem will be much better.

INTERPRETER: 'Cause he doesn't want to laugh for picture.

BLAKEY: Well, while I'm waiting for my camera to warm up let me thank you for your time in what has obviously been at imposition. And let me indicate that the time is 2:35.