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COMMENTS:

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (105-82555)

FROM : Legat, Mexico City (105-3702) (RUC)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - RUSSIA - CUBA

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT AS SANITIZED
(K 2/10/97)
Sept. 30, 1969

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Classified by 9803 rld/scl
Declassify on: OADR
4/27/93 AS: JFL TAD

All information except that
marked CONFIDENTIAL

ReBulet 9/12/69 to Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, copies of which were forwarded to this office.

Enclosed herewith are two Xerox reproductions of the Mexico City file copies of Mr. CHARLES THOMAS' memorandum dated 12/10/65, and the memoranda from this office to the Ambassador dated 12/27/65 and 2/23/66.

Background

ELENA GARRO DE PAZ, or Miss GARRO as Mr. THOMAS calls her, is a well known figure in Mexican political, social and literary circles. She was a playwright and well known to many officials of the Embassy including the then Ambassador FULTON FREEMAN, the then Deputy Chief of Mission CLARENCE A. BOONSTRA, and many others. All of those officials expressed to me on various occasions the opinion that Miss GARRO is a very interesting person and a scintillating conversationalist, but that she has a vivid imagination and frequently appears to be unable to distinguish between truth and fiction. Although interesting, they all consider her as highly unreliable as a source of information except for Mr. THOMAS who apparently placed consistent credence in what Miss GARRO said.

When Miss GARRO visited this office in November 1964, she claimed that she had seen LEE HARVEY OSWALD at a party given at the home of RUBEN DURAN on September 30, October 1, or October 2, 1963, as reported in Mexico City letterhead memorandum of 12/11/64. As previously reported, Miss GARRO claimed that her daughter, ELENA PAZ GARRO, who accompanied her at that party, met for the first time a young man later identified by her as ARIQ ALEJANDRO LAVAGNINI STENIUS. Identification of this individual, who had

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SECRET - 82555-5617

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who acquired this intelligence information, I feel a responsibility for seeing it through to its final evaluation. It appears, therefore, that Mr. THOMAS has now decided that he and not the FBI or the Department of Justice is the one to decide how the story given by Miss GARRO is to be evaluated. The concept that every person who passes on to another government agency information relating to matters within the jurisdiction of that agency has the responsibility and authority to review and evaluate the action taken by that agency is, of course, untenable.

Further question concerning Mr. THOMAS' judgment is raised by item 3 of paragraph 10 of his memorandum furnished to the Secretary of State. Any reference to the relationship between the head of CIA Mexico and top Mexican officials, if true, is a very highly classified matter and any "leak" or revelation to unauthorized individuals concerning such an arrangement would, in view of the delicate Mexican political situation, be disastrous to the Mexican Government as well as to Mexican-American relations. The delicacy of the situation has recently been greatly augmented by the published Cuban allegation that one of the officers of the Mexican Embassy in Havana was acting as a CIA spy with the knowledge of the Mexican Government. Mr. THOMAS, however, included such a highly classified reference in a memorandum which he classified only as "confidential", contrary to regulations relative to classification of documents. While this reference relates to the activities and operations of another Government agency and therefore is not of primary concern to the Bureau, it is nevertheless called to the Bureau's attention for consideration in evaluating Mr. THOMAS' current allegations.

An additional copy of this letter is being forwarded for use in the event the Bureau desires to forward a copy to Dallas which received a copy of referenced letter.

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