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HEARINGS

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Before The

John F. Kennedy Subcommittee

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIMONY OF BALMES NIVES HIDALGO, JR.

Washington, D.C.

August 10, 1978

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House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

Subcommittee on the Assassination of
President John F. Kennedy of the
Select Committee on Assassinations

August 10, 1978

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Testimony of Balmes Nieves Hidalgo, Jr.

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TESTIMONY OF BALMES NIEVES HIDALGO, JR.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1978

- - -

House of Representatives,
Subcommittee on the Assassination
of President John F. Kennedy
of the Select Committee on
Assassinations,
Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:46 p.m., in room 340, Cannon House Office Building, the Hon. Richardson Preyer (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Preyer, Burke, Dodd and Fithian.

Staff members present: E. Berning, M. Goldsmith, C. Berk, W. A. Cross, O. Wagner, D. Hardway, J. Conzelman and C. Fenton.

Mrs. Burke (presiding). The subcommittee will please come to order.

The Chair recognizes Elizabeth Berning to name those officially designated to be on the subcommittee pursuant to the Committee Rule 12.6.

Miss Berning. Mrs. Burke, you, Mr. Preyer, Mr. Dodd and Mr. Thone are regular members of the Kennedy Subcommittee. Mr. Fithian will be substituting for Mr. Dodd.

Mrs. Burke. Let the record show that there were three

1 members present. There are two members who are present who
2 are still remaining and the Chair will swear the witness.

3 Will the witness state his name, please.

4 Mr. Hidalgo. Balmes Nieves Hidalgo, Jr.

5 Mrs. Burke. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you
6 give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
7 truth, so help you God?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. I do.

9 Mrs. Burke. The hearing is in closed session pursuant to
10 the vote that was taken before the recess and that vote still
11 remains and the hearing is in closed session. If there is
12 anyone in the room who is not a member of the staff or an
13 attorney for the witness, they will leave.

14 Let the record show that the committee is in closed
15 session.

16 I would like to read a brief statement concerning the
17 subject of the investigation. This committee is operating
18 under the mandate of House Resolution 222 to conduct a full and
19 complete investigation and study into the circumstances surround-
20 ing the assassination and death of President John F. Kennedy,
21 including determining whether the existing laws of the United
22 States concerning the protection of the President and investi-
23 gatory jurisdiction and capability of agencies and departments
24 are adequate in their provisions and enforcement and whether
25 there was full disclosure of evidence and information among

1 agencies and departments of the United States Government and
2 whether any evidence or information not in the possession of
3 an agency or department would have been of assistance in
4 investigating the assassination and why such information was
5 not provided or collected by that agency or department and to
6 make recommendations to the House if the committee deems it
7 appropriate for the amendment of existing legislation or the
8 enactment of new legislation.

9 This is the mandate of the committee.

10 You may be seated, Mr. Hidalgo.

11 Would your counsel state his name.

12 Mr. Gaines. Stanley H. Gaines, 150 Little Falls Street,
13 Falls Church, Virginia.

14 Mrs. Burke. The staff will proceed to interrogate.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you.

16 Mrs. Burke, prior to the beginning of this hearing Mr.
17 Gaines asked me if he might make a brief statement and I
18 indicated to him I had no problem with that.

19 Mrs. Burke. Certainly.

20 Mr. Gaines. I would like to assure this distinguished
21 committee that Mr. Hidalgo has been apprised of the charter
22 of the committee, of the seriousness of the committee's charter
23 and the scope of it which is considerably broad and intends to
24 answer all relevant questions to the best of his recollection.

25 I would simply like to impress on the committee, although

1 I recognize it may be carrying coals to New Castle, that a
2 man who has spent many years as an officer in the Central
3 Intelligence Agency has a conditioned reluctance to disclose
4 methods notwithstanding the acknowledged entitlement of this
5 committee to receive such information if the committee deems
6 the information pertinent but I raise this point only by way
7 of appealing to the committee as we may from time to time, if
8 considered necessary, to carefully weigh the pertinence or
9 relevance or indispensability of names of persons who may have
10 risked life or limb or liberty or careers in the service of
11 the United States. If that information is deemed relevant,
12 there is no question that it will be provided if we are called
13 but there may be cases where the committee feels that although
14 it would be entitled to the information it can do without it
15 and in such cases we would request that the committee forego
16 the identification of persons.

17 That includes the identity of the witness himself. It
18 would be tragic or could be tragic if the fact were disclosed
19 to the press, for example, that he appeared before this com-
20 mittee in the capacity of a witness.

21 Finally, only by way of underscoring what I have said and
22 notwithstanding Acting Director Carlucci's letter to the
23 committee, this officer, like others in his category, feels a
24 personal fiduciary responsibility toward persons whom he
25 induced to work in a clandestine capacity for the United States

1 Government and whose efforts in that regard he directed which
2 makes it additionally difficult, if not painful, for him to
3 disclose who those persons were, particularly if some of them
4 are still in hostile territory.

5 Having said that, there are no reservations on Mr.
6 Hidalgo's part to answer any questions, save of course his
7 privilege of self-incrimination if required.

8 That is all.

9 Mrs. Burke. Thank you very much.

10 Counsel may proceed.

11 TESTIMONY OF BALMES NIEVES HIDALGO, Jr.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. For the record would you please state your
13 name and address.

14 Mr. Hidalgo. Balmes Nieves Hidalgo, Jr., 403 Silver Rock
15 Road, Rockville, Maryland.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, do you also go by the name of
17 Barney Balmes Hidalgo?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. Barney is a childhood name and so much easier
19 to pronounce rather than Balmes and nearly everyone, including
20 relatives, calls me Barney.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. I take it the answer to my question is yes.

22 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you.

24 Is it true that you have been employed by the CIA?

25 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

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1 Mr. Goldsmith. For how many years were you affiliated
2 with the CIA?

3 Mr. Hidalgo. Eighteen.

4 Mr. Goldsmith. What years were those, sir?

5 Mr. Hidalgo. 1952 through 1958. I am sorry.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Would you like to clarify that?

7 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, that does not make sense. You must
8 understand there are going to be lapses here. 1952 through
9 1970. February of 1952 to February of 1970. Thank you.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. In what general capacity did you work for
11 the CIA?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. I was an intelligence agent.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. Now as an intelligence agent for the CIA
14 were you required to sign the secrecy oath?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. In that regard I would like you at this
17 time to have an opportunity to read JFK Exhibit No. 94.

18 For the record that is the release letter of 23 March 1978
19 issued by Acting Director Carlucci to Chairman Stokes.

20 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir, I am aware of it.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Have you had a chance to examine that
22 exhibit?

23 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you understand it?

25 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

1 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, on July 28, 1978, were you
2 interviewed by two staff employees of the Select Committee on
3 Assassinations?

4 Mr. Hidalgo. It was in July of 1978, yes.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hardway who is sitting on my left and
6 Mr. Berk who is sitting on my right.

7 Mr. Hidalgo. That is right.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. Subsequent to that interview did you have
9 any discussion with any employee of the CIA concerning what you
10 told Mr. Berk and Mr. Hardway?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. Concerning what I told Mr. Berk and Mr.
12 Hardway, no, sir.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. So no one from the CIA, I take it, dis-
14 cussed the substance of your discussion with Mr. Berk and Mr.
15 Hardway.

16 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Is that correct?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. May I say they are no longer the people I
19 talked to because we are still friends and I see them occa-
20 sionally. They are not now with the CIA.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. I understand.

22 Has anyone from the agency discussed with you the substance
23 of your testimony that you are about to give here today?

24 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Now you indicated that you worked as an

1 intelligence agent for the CIA. Is there a difference between
2 a case officer and an intelligence agent?

3 Mr. Hidalgo. Not in my meaning of the word, no, sir.

4 Mr. Goldsmith. Could you give the committee some back-
5 ground in your particular areas of expertise as an intelligence
6 agent?

7 Mr. Hidalgo. Well, general collection of information,
8 interrogation of suspected agents of foreign countries, methods
9 of acquiring information by many means, counterintelligence was
10 the fourth really.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Were you generally involved in clandestine
12 activities?

13 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. I would like to focus now on the period
15 1960 through 1964 and I ask you to give the committee a summary
16 of the assignments that you had during that period.

17 Mr. Hidalgo. Well, from 1960 through 1964 I was assigned
18 to the division having to do with Cuba in general and the things
19 that were going on at that time between Cuba and the world in
20 general.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Was that task force W that you were working
22 with?

23 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't recall the name of it.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever work for a program referred
25 to as the Durable Assets Program?

1 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't recall working for that, no. I may
2 have, I don't know.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever work with the JM wave station
4 in Miami?

5 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Would you indicate to the committee where
7 specifically you were located during these assignments during
8 the period from 1960 to 1964?

9 Mr. Hidalgo. In Washington, Miami, New York City,
10 Philadelphia, New Orleans, Mexico, Guatemala, Salvador. I
11 believe I have covered them. If I left anything out, I don't
12 mean to. Puerto Rico.

13 Excuse me. There is an island a few miles off from
14 Puerto Rico and actually my work was not in Puerto Rico, it
15 was on this island.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Fine. Now you indicated you spent some
17 time in Washington, D. C. Do you recall what time period you
18 spent in Washington, D. C.?

19 Mr. Hidalgo. Well, Washington, D. C., was my official
20 station.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. During that entire period?

22 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir. The others were TDYs.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. What is a TDY?

24 Mr. Hidalgo. Temporary duty stations.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether the CIA had a domestic

1 exploitation section?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. Domestic --

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Exploitation section during the period that
4 you were working for it.

5 Mr. Hidalgo. Not by that name. If you tell me what --

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Specifically by that name, do you know
7 whether the agency had such a unit?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. I am not quite aware of it. I may know it
9 by some other name is what I am trying to say.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Now you indicated a moment ago that you
11 spent some time in Mexico during the period 1960 through 1964.
12 Approximately how many times did you visit Mexico for the
13 agency?

14 Mr. Hidalgo. I am trying to recall this as best I can.
15 When the staff interviewed me I made the remark that I had been
16 there in 1964 and since then my wife corrected me on that. She
17 said, "You were not there, we were on our honeymoon in 1964 so
18 you were not in Mexico." So it must have been 1961 and/or 1962.
19 I don't recall 1963 but 1961 and 1962 are the dates that really
20 now come to mind. Since then let me say I have been raking my
21 mind, going over in my mind everything and everything that I
22 did because I do want to cooperate with you.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. I understand.

24 Now what was the purpose of the trip to Mexico in 1961?

25 Mr. Hidalgo. All the trips that I took to Mexico were in

1 connection with an operation I had going against the Communist
2 Party in Mexico.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Is it possible, sir, that you were also
4 in Mexico in 1963?

5 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't recall it now but like I say it has
6 been quite a few years ago.

7 Mr. Gaines. Counsel, may I simply point out to the
8 committee members what I think counsel knows, that Mr. Hidalgo
9 suffered a major stroke in 1958 and a minor one in 1964 and
10 that that may account for what would appear to be an unusual
11 lapse of memory. There are many things that he just cannot
12 remember or cannot remember when asked but there is no inten-
13 tion to evade any of your questions.

14 Mr. Preyer. Thank you.

15 Counsel.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Perhaps at this time I might ask, Mr.
17 Hidalgo, how old are you?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. I am 59 years old.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, have you ever examined your
20 office personnel file?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. Now you have indicated you were involved
23 in an operation against the Communist Party in Mexico.

24 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Were you also involved in any operations

1 against the Cuban government in Mexico?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. Not in Mexico, no, sir.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. When you were in Mexico on these opera-
4 tions against the Communist Party, was the local CIA station
5 to your knowledge aware of your presence in Mexico?

6 Mr. Hidalgo. YES, sir. I had the contact.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. So someone at the Mexico City station knew
8 you?

9 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, knew that I was there.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall what the cryptonym was of
11 the operation against the Communist Party in Mexico?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir, I really don't.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. I believe you have indicated that to the
14 best of your recollection you were in Mexico two times during
15 this period.

16 Mr. Hidalgo. Two, perhaps three.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Was the purpose of your visit each time
18 with regard to this operation against the Communist Party?

19 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, without going into sources
21 or methods, I would like you to give just some general details
22 on this operation.

23 Mr. Hidalgo. The operation, as I say, took a couple of
24 visits to set up and culminated with my gathering every bit of
25 information from all of the files of the Mexican Communist
Party -- I mean all of the original files of the Mexican

1 Communist Party and other properties.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you work with any other individuals
3 on this project?

4 Mr. Hidalgo. I had this contact who assisted me in
5 setting up what we called a safehouse and put me in touch with
6 certain members of the Mexican police that assisted me in my
7 job.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. So there was some involvement with the
9 Mexican police in part, is that correct?

10 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Just assisting you in general terms?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. And your local contact, was he from the
14 Mexico City station?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. He was in Mexico City, yes.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Well, the CIA officer is what I am asking
17 you.

18 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir. Let me add I was under unofficial
19 cover, I was not there using my true name, so therefore this
20 one contact knew I was there and arranged things for me.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall which name you were using
22 at that time?

23 Mr. Hidalgo. You mean to him or in my official capacity?

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Whatever name you were using in your
25 unofficial cover in Mexico.

1 Mr. Hidalgo. It could have been Bernard. It could have
2 been Benny. It could have been -- I used so many. I am sorry,
3 I don't know. If someone called me and said, "What is your
4 name?" and I said Bernard, I would say that was your first
5 name. I would not --

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Again in general terms was this operation
7 a success?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Were the materials that you obtained
10 given to anyone else at the CIA?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Was the material given to an individual
13 in Mexico City?

14 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. So was it an individual at the CIA head-
16 quarters?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, were you ever involved in any
19 operations in Mexico City aimed at the Cuban embassy or consulate?

20 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. When you were in Mexico City were you
22 aware of the photo and telephonic surveillance operations which
23 the Mexico City station had against the Cuban and Soviet embassy
24 and consulate?

25 Mr. Hidalgo. I knew there was one but I did not know

1 where it was located.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know a woman named Sylvia Duran?

3 Mr. Hidalgo. Sylvia Duran. The name is familiar to me,
4 very familiar in hearing, but that is as far as I can go, I
5 mean truthfully.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall in your interview with Mr.
7 Berk and Mr. Hardway when asked whether you used Sylvia Duran
8 your response was, "Sure do know her but I sure don't want to
9 discuss it"?

10 Mr. Hidalgo. Okay. I sure do know of her is what I
11 should have said. Now I am discussing it as to where I heard
12 it and I will tell you how that name popped up if you wish.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. Please do.

14 Mr. Hildago. Okay. In this operation that I did in
15 Mexico City I believe it was the last visit that when it was
16 finally accomplished I needed some information as to times and
17 places which would enable me to countervent the security of the
18 Communist Party security system. In other words, I wanted to
19 do my job and not get caught. The case officer there that I
20 had contact with said that he had someone, an agent, a Mexican
21 national, who could tell me these things and without giving me
22 her name, etc., we arranged or I arranged a method of meeting
23 her using intelligence trade craft to more cover my tracks,
24 cover her tracks so that we could meet and she mentioned this
25 name in the conversation but it had nothing to do with what I

1 was there for so when the name came up, the name popped into
2 my memory.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever meet with Sylvia Duran?

4 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir, not to my knowledge. I met one
5 woman there and she was someone else.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. To your knowledge did Sylvia Duran ever
7 assist you directly or indirectly in any operation?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether Sylvia Duran was
10 affiliated in any way with the CIA?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether she was affiliated in
13 any way with Cuban intelligence?

14 Mr. Hidalgo. At the time when this contact told me of it
15 I tied the two together, yes, sir.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Why did you make that connection?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know. Now at that time it was
18 obvious to me as an intelligence agent that there was some
19 connection there but it was of no interest whatsoever to me.
20 I do remember that when I next saw this contact of mine I
21 mentioned the fact to him and let him proceed to do whatever
22 he wanted to.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. So for purposes of clarification, during
24 this period you felt that Sylvai Duran may have been connected
25 in some way with Cuban intelligence, is that correct?

1 Mr. Hidalgo. With Cuban operations. You know, the Cuban
2 operation versus say Guatemala or Russian or whatever.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. I am not sure that I understand. When
4 you say Cuban operations do you mean operations by the Cuban
5 government?

6 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, rather than saying, yes, I took it for
7 granted that she was an agent of the Cuban intelligence. That
8 is why I told this contact and he took it from there to inves-
9 tigate further.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether that issue was ever
11 resolved?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir, I never even bothered to check on
13 it.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have any information about that
15 today?

16 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Are you familiar with the cryptonym AMMUG/1?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. Without disclosing the identity of this
20 individual would you tell the committee generally who he was?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. AMMUG/1 was a Cuban intelligence officer,
22 he worked for Directorio General Intelligencia, DGI, the Cuban
23 government, the counterpart of CIA. He defected to Canada in
24 I believe 1964 and was brought into the United States and that
25 is what he did. He was a defector.

1 Mr. Goldsmith. Did he provide information to the CIA?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. How significant was the defection of
4 AMMUG/1 considered to be?

5 Mr. Hidalgo. It was quite an effective, important
6 defection.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. Is it fair to say he provided a wealth of
8 information?

9 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know his present whereabouts?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. I would suspect he is in Miami but I do not
12 know.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. When was the last time you saw him per-
14 sonally?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. 1964 I believe, late 1964.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. What role, if any, did you have in
17 handling this defector?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. I was his hand holder and interrogator for
19 all the time that he was in the Washington area.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. How many personal contacts did you have
21 with him during that period?

22 Mr. Hidalgo. Quite a few. I lived in the same apartment
23 that he did.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. So you saw him virtually on a daily basis?

25 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir. All day I spent with him and night.

1 Mr. Goldsmith. For how long a period was he in Washington?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. Now that you could help me.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Approximately, Mr. Hidalgo?

4 Mr. Hidalgo. From the time he got to Washington, D. C.,
5 until June -- see if I remember this date now. My wife will
6 kill me because it is the day before we got married. Late June
7 1964 when another agent took over temporarily while I went on
8 my honeymoon.

9 Mr. Preyer. Mr. Hidalgo, I am sorry. I think we will
10 have to recess for about ten minutes.

11 (Whereupon, at 3:15 p.m., the hearing recessed until 3:36
12 p.m.)

13 Mr. Preyer. The committee will come to order.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo --

15 Mr. Gaines. He wants to add something.

16 Mr. Hidalgo. On those places I operated, I left out two
17 that might be important to you, I don't know. One was Germany
18 and the other one was Scotland.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. I believe my last question was for how
20 long a time period --

21 Mr. Preyer. If you will excuse me, Mr. Goldsmith.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. Yes, sir.

23 Mr. Preyer. If I could interrupt this hearing for a
24 matter that is not related to this hearing. A subpoena in the
25 name of Jules Mayer Turnable that was issued on August 2, 1978,

1 was made returnable today at two o'clock before this committee.
2 The committee will permit compliance with the subpoena next
3 week by Tuesday, August 15, at two p.m.

4 I am sorry to interrupt you. You may proceed, Mr.
5 Goldsmith.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you.

7 Mr. Hidalgo, I believe my last question to you prior to
8 our recess was how long a time period have you actually spent
9 with AMMUG and you attempted to answer that question and my
10 recollection of your testimony is that you indicated the last
11 date that you spent with him but you never really told us when
12 you started spending time with him so again I would like to
13 ask you how much time, for how long a time period, did you
14 spend time with him?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't recall the starting date but it
16 was immediately upon his arriving in the Washington area from
17 Canada.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. Can you estimate how much time was
19 involved, a couple of months?

20 Mr. Hidalgo. Oh, yes. Total five, six months at one
21 time and then after this June date I again saw him for about
22 two or three weeks so it was a bit of a time.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. During that five or six month period
24 initially you had daily contact with him I take it.

25 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir. I actually lived in the same

1 house he was in.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Before we continue with AMMUG I have a
3 few further questions to ask about Sylvia Duran. Did you file
4 a report concerning information you had received about Sylvia
5 Duran?

6 Mr. Hidalgo. No. All I did in that case was I saw this
7 contact of mine in Mexico City and told him about it and it
8 would have been something like, look, so and so, I am here on
9 something else, you know, this is out of my bailiwick and I
10 have no interest in it but if you are interested to follow it
11 up, go ahead, and that was the end of it.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall telling Mr. Berk and Mr.
13 Hardway at the time of your interview with them that in fact
14 you had previous information concerning Sylvia Duran?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. To my case officer, yes; to my contact down
16 there.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. You didn't mean a written report?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. I didn't mean a formal written report, no.
19 When I came back I probably wrote a simple debriefing report
20 as to what I did during the time I was away, this was the normal
21 thing to do, but it would have been focused on my operation,
22 the success of it, etc.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. With regard to this operation I believe
24 you testified that you were in Mexico on two or three occasions.
25 For approximately how long a time period were you in Mexico on

1 each occasion?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. Let me see if I can recall that. It would
3 not have been more than a week with the exception of the last
4 one I think it was about ten to fourteen days.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. Now was it your understanding that this
6 woman who told you about Sylvia Duran, was it your understand-
7 ing that she reported regularly on Duran?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. No. I knew she reported regularly but not
9 specifically on Duran.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Was she a close associate of Sylvia Duran?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know that. My interest in this
12 woman was simply one of getting my operation through success-
13 fully and protecting myself and others.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. I take it, returning to AMMUG, that this
15 individual was subjected to a series of intensive debriefings,
16 is that correct?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. And in the course of these debriefings I
19 take it that he provided information regarding Lee Harvey
20 Oswald, is that correct?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. Not to me he didn't, sir.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. To whom did he provide information?

23 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know if he did. Not to me. All
24 the information that I was interested in getting from him and
25 my group was interested in was intelligence information of

1 Cuban operations against the United States and against other
2 countries and it was just to get us an insight eye into the
3 Cuban intelligence system.

4 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether AMMUG provided infor-
5 mation concerning Oswald's contacts with DGI personnel in
6 Mexico City?

7 Mr. Hidalgo. He spoke about Mexico City and I remember
8 showing him many, many photographs from that situation that
9 you mentioned before, the photographic surveillance.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever show him any of the photo-
11 graphs from the Mexico City station that had been obtained on
12 Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico City?

13 Mr. Hidalgo. All the photographs I remember showing him
14 were photographs provided to me by my direct superior in
15 Washington headquarters and I assumed that all of them were
16 from this surveillance. Now perhaps others were included in
17 that, I was not.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. I understand. My question is do you
19 recall whether he was shown any photographs of Lee Harvey
20 Oswald?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. Not to my recollection, I did not. Whether
22 he was shown photographs by my direct superior or at times when
23 some other agent took over, I cannot comment on that but I did
24 not.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether AMMUG was permitted to

1 listen to any tape recorded statements of Lee Harvey Oswald's
2 voice?

3 Mr. Hidalgo. Not to my knowledge. He was, as I say, at
4 times with other people but when my direct superior came in I
5 left. At times I needed relief, I needed to get away a little
6 bit, and other agents would come in.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether any of the AMMUG
8 debriefing reports were sent to the CIA office designated as
9 SI?

10 Mr. Hidalgo. I would imagine they might have been.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know what the term SI refers to?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. I would say Special Intelligence.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. What is Special Intelligence?

14 Mr. Hidalgo. That is all I know. I was not interested.
15 Because of the compartmentation I had, I wanted not to know.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have any idea what the purpose of
17 the SI unit was?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. Was any of the information concerning
20 Oswald sent to SI?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. Why would this information have been sent
23 to the SI unit?

24 Mr. Hidalgo. Disseminated to people that were interested
25 in it. Let's take, for example, that AMMUG said there is a

