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When the Central Intelligence Agency forwarded to the Warren Commission a copy of Duran's signed statement. It read as follows:

...she remembered... (that Lee Harvey Oswald) was the name of an American who had come to the Cuban Consulate to obtain a visa to travel to Cuba in transit to Russia, the latter part of September or the early part of October of this year, and in support of his application had shown his passport, in which it was noted that he had lived in that country for a period of three years; his labor card from the same country written in the Russian language; and letters in that same language. He had presented evidence that he was married to a Russian woman, and also that he was apparently the leader of an organization in the city of New Orleans called "Fair \*\*\* (Play) for Cuba," claiming that he should be accepted as a "friend" of the Cuban Revolution. Accordingly, the declarant, complying with her duties, took down all of 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 Russia visa to Lee Harvey Oswald. However, they told her that there would be a delay of about four months in processing the case, which annoyed the applicant since, according to his statement, he was in a great hurry to obtain visas that would enable him to travel to Russia, insisting on his right to do so in view of his background and his loyalty and his activities in behalf of the Cuban movement. The declarant was unable to recall accurately whether or not the applicant told her he was a member of the Communist Party, but he did say that his wife\*\*\* was then in New York City, and would follow him,\*\*\* (Senora Duran stated) that when Oswald understood that it was not possible to give him a Cuban visa without his first having obtained the Russian visa,\*\*\* he became very excited or

angry, and accordingly, the affiant called Consul Ascue (sic),\*\*\* (who) came out and began a heated discussion in English with Oswald, that concluded by Ascue telling him that "if it were up to him, he would not give him the visa," and "a person of his type was harming the Cuban Revolution rather than helping it," it being understood that in their conversation they were talking about the Russian Socialist Revolution and not the Cuban. Oswald maintained that he had two reasons for requesting that his visa be issued promptly, and they were: one, that his tourist permit in Mexico was about to expire; and the other, that he had to get to Russia as quickly as possible. Despite her annoyance, the declarant gave Oswald a paper\*\*\*in which she put down her name, "Silvia Duran," and the number of the telephone at the consulate, which is "11-28-47" and the visa application was processed anyway. It was sent to the Ministry of (Foreign) Relations of Cuba; from which a routine reply was received some fifteen to thirty days later, approving the visa, but on the condition that the Russian visa be obtained first, although she does not recall whether or not Oswald later telephoned her at the Consulate number that she gave him.<sup>705</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

The Central Intelligence Agency had relied on Duran's statements but had delted <sup>706</sup> Duran's description of Oswald as blonde and short. ~~(Supra)~~ It had also excised Duran's statement, "The only aid she could give Oswald was advising that he see the Soviet Consul, and calling the person in charge of that office" which alluded to Oswald asking for some type of aid at the Cuban Consulate. <sup>707</sup> ~~(Supra)~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>its</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>sources and</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>problems</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>out of the</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>Warren Commission</sup>

Had the statements been included, the Warren Commission's conclusions would not have seemed as strong. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

"INLET"

The Warren Commission Staff was not completely satisfied with Ms. Duran's ten page signed statement obtained by the Mexican authorities. W. David Slawson wrote:

We then discussed ... the problem of (interviewing) Silvia Duran. We pointed out that our only interest in witnesses (in Mexico) other than Duran was to get their formal testimony for authentication purposes....This was not true of Duran, however, because she had been interviewed only by the Mexican police and we considered that interview inadequate. (I should point out that we do not consider it totally inadequate, however. It is only on details such as Oswald's physical appearance, side comments or remarks he may have made, etc., that we would like to interrogate Mrs. Duran further. On the essential point of whether or not his contacts with the Embassy consisted of anything other than an attempt to travel to Cuban, Silvia Duran's knowledge has probably been exhausted.) \* 708

~~(Memorandum for the Record re Trip to Mexico City, from W. David Slawson, 4/22/64, pp. 39-40. Last parenthetical in the original.)~~ The Warren Commission staff's attempts to interview Ms. Duran never succeeded. <sup>709</sup> ~~(Memorandum for the Record re Trip to Mexico City, from W. David Slawson, 4/22/64.)~~

Ms. Duran was not interviewed by Americans until 1976, when two reporters from the Washington Post interviewed her. <sup>710</sup> ~~(S. [unclear] interview, 6/6/78, JFK Document # 07-1631, p. 17.)~~

On June 6, 1978, representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations interviewed Ms. Duran in Mexico City.

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VI. Information not available at the time of the

Warren Commission INVESTIGATION

A. Silvia ~~Duran~~ **TIRADO (NEE DUPAN)**

1. House Select Committee on Assassinations 6/6/78

Interview of Silvia Tirado

Ms. Tirado <sup>SILVIA</sup> (Duran divorced Horatio Duran in 1968)

was never questioned by American officials in 1963. Thus, the Committee established contact with the Mexican government and requested that the Mexican government make Silvia Triado available for an interview. <sup>711</sup> \* ~~(Letter HSCA~~

~~to Mexican government, JFK Doc. # )~~

The Mexican government complied on 6/6/78. Ms. Tirado told the House Select Committee on Assassinations the following:

Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate three times on September 27, 1963, not twice as the Warren Commission previously reported. <sup>712</sup> \* ~~(HSCA interview of Silvia Tirado, 6/6/78, JFK Doc. # 511681 p. )~~ Oswald first visited the Cuban Consulate at approximately 11:00 a.m., requesting an intransit visa to Cuba with Russia as the final destination. <sup>713</sup> \* ~~(Ibid., 523-526)~~ He showed her some documents, then, left to obtain photographs needed for his application. <sup>714</sup> \* ~~(Ibid., 523-526)~~

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Oswald returned at approximately 1:00 p.m. with four photographs. <sup>x 715</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 526.~~) Ms. Tirado typed the application in duplicate, stapled a picture on top of each and had Oswald sign each in her presence. <sup>x 716</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 527-8.~~) As identification, Oswald showed her documents he had brought: his Russian labor card, marriage certificate with the name of his Russian wife, his American Communist Party membership card and his "Fair Play for Cuba" membership card. <sup>717 x</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 531.~~)

Ms. Tirado found Lee Harvey Oswald's behavior suspicious because normally a Communist traveled only with his passport as belonging to the Communist Party was illegal in Mexico in 1963. <sup>x 718</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 533.~~)

There was a procedure whereby the American Communist Party would arrange visa matters for their members with the Cuban Communist Party. <sup>719 x</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 532-533.~~) The American would then come to Mexico, visit the Cuban Consulate, and receive his visa immediately. <sup>720 x</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 533.~~) When Tirado asked Oswald why he did not have the American Communist Party arrange his trip to Cuba, he stated that he had not had the time. <sup>721 x</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 532.~~)

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After explaining to Oswald that he had to acquire a Russian visa before he could receive a Cuban visa, Tirado jotted her name and business phone number on a piece of paper and gave it to Oswald who then left to get his Russian visa. <sup>\* 722</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 549, 534.~~)

Oswald returned to the Cuban Consulate between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., which was after normal working hours, <sup>723 +</sup> ~~10:00 to 2:00 p.m.~~ (~~Ibid., p. 543.~~) The guard called Tirado, stating that someone who did not speak Spanish was at the gate inquiring about a visa. <sup>724 \*</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 543-4.~~) As routine procedure, she asked the guard to escort the individual to her office. <sup>725 \*</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 544.~~) Oswald told her that he had acquired a Russian visa. <sup>726 +</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 544.~~) Since he did not produce it when asked, she called the <sup>727 +</sup> Russian Consulate. (~~Ibid., p. 545.~~) The Consul told Duran that Oswald had been to the Consulate requesting a visa and had been told that the reply would take approximately four months. <sup>728 \*</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 545.~~) When she relayed the message to Oswald, he got very excited, insisting that as a person who had been in jail because of the Cuban Revolution he should receive a visa. <sup>729 +</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 546.~~) Oswald stated that he could not wait that long because his Mexican visa expired in three days. <sup>730 +</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 546.~~) At this point, Ms. Tirado informed Consul *el*

Eusebio Azcue of the situation. <sup>\* 731</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 546.~~)

Azcue had been in his private office which he shared with his upcoming replacement, Alfredo Mirabal. <sup>732</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 546.~~) Azcue politely explained the requisites for an

intransit visa to Oswald. <sup>733</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 546, 554.~~) When

he noticed that Oswald was a stubborn man he told Oswald that he was obviously not a friend of the Cuban revolution <sup>734</sup> because he would otherwise understand that

Cuba had to be extremely careful with the people it allowed in the country. <sup>735</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 554.~~) Azcue and Oswald

yelled at each other. <sup>736</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 554.~~) Then Azcue went to the door, opened it and asked Oswald to leave. (~~Ibid.,~~

~~p. 554.~~) Oswald did not revisit or telephone the Consulate. <sup>737</sup> (~~Ibid., p. 554.~~) Ms. Tirado described Lee Harvey

Oswald as approximately five feet six, with <sup>SPARSE</sup> blonde hair, weighing about 125 pounds, <sup>738</sup> ~~and with very little hair.~~

(~~Ibid., p. 96.~~)

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2. CIA information not available at the time of the Warren Commission investigation.

a. LIRING/3 allegation.

In 1967 a report that Silvia Duran had had intimate relations with Lee Harvey Oswald came to the attention of the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station. <sup>739</sup> (~~Write up: Wallace B. Rowton meeting with LIRING/3, May 26, 1967.~~) The source, LIRING/3, (~~a source the CIA rated extremely reliable~~) stated that he had recently

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received a call from Silvia Duran. A telephone tap on LIRING/3's telephone confirmed that the <sup>740</sup> <sup>ibid</sup> ~~call~~ <sup>Duran</sup> <sup>called</sup> had been <sup>made.</sup> <sup>\* 741</sup> (~~ibid.~~) LIRING/3 reported that he had visited Silvia to renew acquaintances. <sup>742</sup> <sup>\*</sup> (~~ibid.~~) During the visit, Duran told LIRING/3 that she <sup>US</sup> <sup>had</sup> met Lee Harvey Oswald at the Cuban Consulate when he applied for a visa and had dated him on several occasions. <sup>743</sup> <sup>\*</sup> (~~ibid.~~) Duran admitted that she had <sup>int</sup> intimate relations with Oswald, but insisted that she had no idea of his plans. <sup>744</sup> <sup>\*</sup> (~~ibid.~~) In addition, Duran told LIRING/3 that when the news of the assassination became public knowledge, the Mexican government arrested her and during the interrogation beat her until she admitted that she had had an affair with Lee Harvey Oswald. <sup>745</sup> <sup>\*</sup> (~~ibid.~~) Rowton (<sup>LIRING/3's</sup> ~~LIRING/3's~~ case officer's pseudonym) counseled LIRING/3 against any further contact with Duran because the Cubans or the Mexican police might become suspicious of him. <sup>\* 747</sup>

~~(ibid.)~~ There is no indication in Rowton's report as to why contact with Silvia Duran would make the Mexican ~~Police~~ suspicious of the agent. The report also notes that Ms. Duran says that she has not had contact with the Cubans since the time of the assassination. <sup>748</sup> <sup>\*</sup> (~~ibid.~~) There is no indication in the report as to why LIRING/3's contact with Duran would make the Cubans suspicious.

The CIA Mexico City Station reported this information to Headquarters:

First that Silvia Duran had sexual intercourse

with Lee Harvey Oswald on several occasions when the latter was in Mexico is probably new, but adds little to the Oswald case. Second the Mexican police did not report the extent of the Duran-Oswald relationship to this Station. # 749

(~~HMMMA-32243, 5/27/67.~~) This was not the first report of such a relationship between Oswald and Duran. Elena Garro <sup>yes</sup> reported the same information to Charles Thomas ~~in 1965.~~ <sup>28 \* 751</sup> (See Section VI, C, below.) ~~In addition,~~ In

~~her~~ <sup>the</sup> chronology of the Mexico City investigation of Oswald. Ann Goodpasture notes: "Why didn't Mexi police give us <sup>RAYMOND RACCA 750</sup> all info?" (~~WX 7241, entry no. 613.~~)

That the Mexican government did not disclose all the information in <sup>its</sup> ~~their~~ possession to <sup>AMERICAN AUTHORITIES</sup> ~~the Central Intelligence Agency~~ raises one of two possibilities:

- 1) the Mexican government did not want to disclose that one of <sup>its</sup> ~~their~~ citizens had had intimate relations with the assassin of John Kennedy; or
- 2) Silvia Duran was a Mexican penetration agent in the Cuban Consulate and the Mexican government was protecting <sup>its</sup> ~~their~~ informant by minimizing her relationship with

Oswald.

- 3) <sup>OR they forgot i.e. pure simple mistake</sup>
  - b. The possibility that Silvia Duran was an agent for either American, Mexican or Cuban Intelligence.

Since the publication of the Warren Commission Report in September 1964, critics have written about the possibility that Silvia Duran was an intelligence

agents for either the Americans, Mexicans or Cubans. FN

(1) was Silvia Duran an agent, <sup>ASSET OR SOURCE</sup> for Mexican or American intelligence?

In an effort to resolve this question, the House Select Committee <sup>ON ASSASSINATIONS</sup> reviewed the United States investigative agencies' files on Silvia Duran. <sup>752</sup> The Committee found no evidence in this file review that Silvia Duran was either an American or Mexican intelligence agent.

In addition, the Committee has interviewed most of the Mexico City Station employees about the possibility. Only David Phillips, Chief of Covert Action and the Cuban Section in the Mexico City Station in 1963, <sup>- a position which made him very knowledgeable</sup> considered that Duran was possibly an agent. <sup>OR SOURCE</sup> Mr. Phillips <sup># 753</sup> stated that "at one time the agency pitched almost everyone at the Cuban Embassy." <sup>754 X</sup> (Phillips Interview, ~~8/3/78, pp. 8. "Pitched" is a term used by the CIA to designate an attempt to recruit an individual.~~) Mr. Phillips stated that he had first heard <sup>the</sup> Duran's name from the telephone intercept transcripts. <sup>755 X</sup> (Ibid.) But Mr. Phillips asserted that the CIA had no interest in Ms. Duran because "She wasn't friendly with anyone." <sup>756 X</sup> (Ibid.) Mr. Phillips had previously mentioned the CIA, Mexico City Station's interest in recruiting a former Cuban Ambassador to Mexico named <sup>E</sup> <sup>757 X</sup> Dechuga. Mr. Phillips was shown a memorandum written by W. David Slawson of the Warren Commission <sup>A</sup> staff regarding his trip to Mexico.

by WARREN COMMISSION STAFF MEMBERS

which said:

Mr. Scott's (Chief of the CIA Station in Mexico City) narrative disclosed that the CIA's action immediately after the assassination consisted basically of alerting all its confidential sources of information throughout Mexico to immediately channel all information into their headquarters, and of compiling as complete dossiers as possible on Oswald and everyone else throughout Mexico who at that time the CIA knew had had some contact with Oswald... This meant especially Silvia Duran, who because she had previously been having an affair with Lechuga, the former Cuban Ambassador to Mexico and presently the Cuban representative at the United Nations, had previously been of substantial interest to the CIA.... \* 758

~~(Memorandum for the Record re Trip to Mexico City, from W. David Slawson, 4/22/64, pp. 22-23. Emphasis added.)~~

Mr. Phillips was surprised by this and stated that "No one let me in on this operation." \* 759 \* (Phillips

~~Interview, 8/3/78, p. 8.~~) But Mr. Phillips added that he doubted that Duran would have been pitched because the Station could not identify any of her weaknesses.

The Committee staff members then told Mr. Phillips about the reporting on file <sup>concerning</sup> about Ms. Duran, from one of the Station's penetration agents, <sup>760 \*</sup> LITAMIL/9, at the the Cuban Embassy. At one point LITAMIL/9 had reported to his case officer that all that would have to be done to recruit Ms. Duran was to get a blonde, blue-eyed American in bed with her. \* 761 +

With this, Mr. Phillips said that it did indeed sound as if the Station had targeted Ms. Duran for recruitment, that the Station's interest had been substantial, and that

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the weaknesses and means had been identified. <sup>762 \*</sup> ~~(Phillips~~  
~~Interview, 8/3/78, p. 9.)~~ Mr. Phillips pointed out,  
 however, that because Duran had been targeted did not  
 necessarily mean that she had been pitched. <sup>763 \*</sup> ~~(Ibid.)~~  
 In addition, he stated that he had never heard that  
 Duran had been pitched. <sup>764 \*</sup> ~~(Ibid.)~~

Mr. Phillips did state that he would expect that  
 Ms. Duran's file at the CIA would be "very thick" because  
 of all the telephone intercepts that concerned her and  
 the substantial interest that the Station had in her. <sup>765 \*</sup>  
~~(Ibid.)~~ He stated that much of the material in her file  
 should predate the assassination. <sup>766 \*</sup> ~~(Ibid.)~~ Mr. Phillips  
 stated that he would be very surprised if Ms. Duran's  
 201 file was small and contained only a few pre-assassi-  
 nation documents. <sup>767 \*</sup> This is in fact the case of the  
 Headquarters 201 file. <sup>768</sup> ~~(Cite summary.)~~ This Committee  
 has asked the CIA to make Ms. Duran's Mexican "P" <sup>769 \*</sup> (person-  
 ality) file available for review. The CIA informed the  
 Committee that there was no "P" file available on Ms.  
 Duran. <sup>770</sup> ~~An explanation of why there is no available "P"~~  
~~file was requested from the CIA on~~ <sup>770</sup>  
~~(Add CIA response when we get it.)~~

Another CIA employee, Dan Neiscuir, who worked on  
 an "Oswald Task Force" in late September or early October  
 of 1975 dealing with Freedom of Information act law  
 suits brought against the agency concerning the files  
 on Lee Harvey Oswald, stated that he believed that Ms. DURAN

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may have been a source of information for either the CIA or the Mexicans. <sup>771</sup> Mr. Neiscuir could not recall why he specifically had this recollection, but thought that it was due to something he had seen in Oswald's <sup>772</sup> file. He said that it may have been the Agency's attempts to protect Ms. Duran after the assassination and the heavy cable traffic that those attempts generated that led him to his inference that she was a source of information for either the Agency or the Mexicans. <sup>773</sup>

~~(Dan Neiscuir interview, 8/29/78, p. 1.)~~ <sup>case officer asking LIRING 3 out the contact</sup>  
Despite LIRING/3's being warned off Ms. Duran by his case officer, Mr. Phillips statements, and Mr. Neiscuir's hazy recollections, the Committee can not definitely resolve whether Silvia Duran was a Mexican or American intelligence agent or source.

(2) was Silvia Duran a Cuban intelligence agent?

In an effort to resolve this question, the HSCA reviewed the United States investigative agencies' files on Silvia Duran. <sup>774</sup> The Committee found no evidence in the files that would indicate that Ms. Duran was associated with Cuban intelligence.

In addition, the HSCA interviewed most of the Mexico City Station employees about the possibility that Duran worked for Cuban intelligence. Only Barney Hidalgo, a CIA officer who travelled to Mexico City in 1963, considered the possibility to be likely. <sup>775</sup> Mr. Hidalgo,

