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On October 5, 1964, eleven days after the publication of the Warren Commission Report, a story alleging Lee Harvey Oswald's presence at a party in Mexico City attended by Cuban government personnel came to the attention of the Central Intelligence Agency. (W 2743, p. 94, p. 94) (23) CIA # 739.

An allegation of this type, if true, could negate the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of John F. Kennedy.

Elinor's Story As Reported October 5, 1964

and Rafa Barro de Abru with his fiancée, Ignacia Hinojosa, and Leon Duran were invited to a formal party at the home of Antoin Duran in the middle of a week in the fall of 1963. Lee Harvey Oswald was alleged to have been at that party in the company of "two other distinct looking boys." (163) Elinor and Leon remained together the entire evening and did not dance. When Elinor tried to speak with the Americans, she was "shifted" to another room by one of her cousins. [The memos does not state whether Elinor had mentioned which cousins did not allow her to speak to the Americans] One of Elinor's cousins told her at the time that she nor she did not know who the Americans were except that Ignacia Hinojosa (wife of Antoin Duran) had brought Elinor to the party.

The day after the party, Rafa and Elinor saw the three Americans on the streets of Mexico City. The Barros claimed that they had recognized Oswald's photograph when it was published after the assassination. Ignacia Duran's arrest "unmasked their position" that - the men had been Lee Harvey Oswald. (164)

Rafa added that Ignacia and one of the Duran brothers had made trips to Texas. She added that, even though
The Duane brothers had always been gone before the assassination; they were both dining across town that day. (CIA)

The source of the memo was a Central Intelligence Agency analyst known by the cryptonym LICOKIES I, whom the Committee identified as Jose Cobalaring while reviewing LICOKIES files. He had arranged for Cobalaring to travel to Washington, D.C., for the purpose of seeing the Committee. Cobalaring was sent to Emme’s home, for a few days, by a mutual friend, Colton firm writer Emme Ode. [CIA No] No. Emme enquired about 300-583; Wx-7241, Entry #420, p. 92, CIA #715] While in Washington, Cobalaring met Emme at Emme’s home, where he expressed interest in the Kennedy assassination. One might Emme’s sister Debra, who was visiting from Texas, get drunk and remember something. (CIA) claiming to be a CIA agent, Cobalaring suggested that Emme and Debra go to Texas to tell their story. (CIA) When this suggestion was rejected, Cobalaring stated that he would arrange a meeting with the CIA Station Chief. [CIA No] Winton Scott was the Aspen City Station Chief in 1964]. The meeting did not occur because the CIA was not interested, and Cobalaring continued his investigation. [CIA No] 580-583; Wx-7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #715] A notation on the memo says that 4/1 (LICOKIES I) never received contact with Emme Emme de Piv (Wx-7241, p. 94, Entry #426, CIA #715; Blind Memo dated 4/5/64, CIA #576].

The Licokie memo was not included in either the Emme Emme or the Warren Oswald "P" (generally) files, but in a separate file. [The Committee was not given this file]. The Committee learned about the memo from Wx-7241, a chronology of the Oswald case prepared by Anne Goodwin for
Biography

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

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

In the 1960's Elena became a significant writer. Hogar Solido, El Rey Mago, La Señora en su Balcon, Ventura Allende, Andaise por las Ramas, Parada Empresa, and El Viaje are plays that have had appreciative audiences in Europe, where they were translated into German, as well as in Mexico. Ms. Garro's short stories are collected in a volume called La Semana de Colores. The Literacy Supplement of the London Times has called her novel, Los Recuerdos de Porvenir, "a
splendid success." Critics have said of her: "For Elena Garro, there is no frontier between reality and fantasy; in any case, the latter is a second reality—perhaps more intense—to which one may penetrate without passport or forewarning, thanks to the effectiveness of a literature fired with passion, flavor and life." Many people who knew Elena have asserted that the frontier between reality and fantasy is also difficult for her to distinguish in real life.

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

Elena was considered a witty, urbane and opinionated woman with an unflagging sense of humor. Her forthright opinions and sharp wit tended on occasion to ruffle feathers in Mexico, but her important social, literacy, and political connections rendered her fairly immune from serious counterattack until 1968. Then, Ms. Garro was forced to flee the country with her daughter, Elenita and her sister, Deba Guerrero de Galvan, in the midst of the student strikes. The House Select Committee on Assassinations has been unable to determine the exact reason Ms. Garro had in fleeing Mexico.
Before her disappearance from Mexico, Elena was well disposed toward the United States and had been friendly with Embassy officers. Her broad range of significant personal friends, the views of many important to the American Embassy, made her a useful Embassy target. Throughout the early 1960's she was carried as a target in the Embassy's Youth Program.

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

[A "useful Embassy target" is a person deemed important because enough by American Embassy officials to merit frequent contact, either willing or unwilling, with American Embassy officials]
October 12, 1964 CIA MEMO FOR THE RECORD

On 10/11/64 the Chief of Counter Intel, Flannery, wrote a memo for the record regarding that Elena Barro de Pay had told her story to Lavine Odor. The Committee has not been able to determine if Elena told Odor or if Odor told Ms. Odor or both. It is unknown how Odor learned of the story.

The story is not as detailed as the 10/5/64 version. There is no mention of Deba Garro Guerrero Galvan. The story, perhaps because it is third-hand, differs from the previous story in two areas: the party was at the Cuban Embassy not at Ruben Duran's; Elena talked to a Cuban Embassy official not one of her cousins about the three Americans.

Attached to the memo was a note from Flannery to the Chief of Station, Winston Scott, which read: "Do you want me to send the girl to this to Headquarters?" Scott replied "Yes, but we should follow up first." Flannery then wrote: "Nothing further." Scott then noted that the memo should be filed. The file indicates that the memo went into the Oswald "P" file and the Elena Barro "P" file. (Cited)
November 24, 1964  CIA Infrment Report.

On November 24, 1964 a Central Intelligence Agency

infrment [The House Select Committee has been unable
to determine the infrment's identity] reported infrmnt

[Memorandum for Winston Scott, re: June Cobb, 11/25/64, CIA No. 593-593; Wk 7241, p. 88; Entry # 404, CIA No.
715] he had learned from "SICHANT 1. [While reviewing
SICHANT 1's file the Committee determined that "the CIA

infrment's true name was Manuel Calvillo. The day following
the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Calvillo escaped; his

two daughters to the Vermont Hotel for protection; See also
December 25, 1965 memo for more information on Manuel Calvillo.]

The infrment asserted that June Cobb was an "American

Communist" who rented a room from Ellis Stewart. [Memor-

andum for Winston Scott, re: June Cobb, 11/25/64, CIA

No. 593-593; Wk 7241, p. 88; Entry # 404, CIA No. 715] The infrment

also stated that Ellis tried to talk to Robert Kennedy when

he was in Mexico because he had met Oswald "and his

friend (Calvillo) at a party at Prince Davis's house. (p. 91)]

In addition, the infrment claimed that Ellis also told her

story to an American official, at the Embassy, who claimed

to represent the Warren Commission. (ibid.) The Chief & Sten-

otist tells he had asked the infrment to disguise the

story (ibid.), but there is no indication that SICHANT 1

ever complied with this request. [NSCIA Review & Classification

CIA Documents]
Elena was questioned regarding the identity of other persons attending the party at the Ruben Duran home who might have been in a position to observe the three Americans.

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

Ms. Garro exhibited two of the letters, as well as a business card which identified the young man as Ario Alejandro Lavagnini Stenius. (IBID?3)
The letter which Ms. Garro said was the first written by the young man to her daughter bore the date September 1, 1963 and the Mexico City Post Office postmark September 2, 1963. When Ms. Garro was told this she commented that probably the Communists have facilities for falsifying postcards. (IBID)

To further investigate Ms. Garro's story, the Federal Bureau interviewed Ario Alejandro Lavagnini Stenius on November 27, 1964. (IBID.) Lavagnini recalled that there were approximately thirty people at the Ruban Duran party, few of whom he knew. He recalled having met a Mexican girl who had recently returned from living in France. He was unable to fix the date of the party, but felt it was probably early in September because of a heavy rain which occurred as they were leaving the party about 2:00 a.m.

(IBID. p. 4)

Lavagnini noted no Americans present at this party. He was familiar with the appearance of Lee Harvey Oswald because of publicity following the assassination of President Kennedy but otherwise had no knowledge of him and had never seen him except for news photographs following the assassination. (IBID. p. 4)

There is no indication on the document that this information was given to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station.
First Meeting with Elena Garro Where Lee Harvey Oswald is Described

On 12/10/65 Charles Thomas, a political officer at the American Embassy, wrote a memorandum about a conversation with Elena Garro de Paz. (CIA #586-587, WX-7241 Entry No. 425, p. 91, CIA No. 718.) The meeting with Elena had been about other matters but she mentioned knowing Oswald. Thomas noted that she was reluctant to talk but did. (bid)

Elena's story reported here is the same, but with more details, as that given in the LICOOLIE Memo. She said that General Clark Flores, Silvia Duran, Eusebio Azcue, Emilio Carballedo, and a Latin American Negro man with red hair were at the party. A marginal comment by this entry in WX-7241 says, "How did Elena know about a red-haired Negro?" Elena also told Thomas that she had later learned that Silvia Duran had been "Oswald's mistress while he was there." (A note by this entry in WX-7241 says "How did Elena Garro know about Silvia being the mistress of Oswald?? This is 1965."

Elena told Thomas that she and her daughter had gone to the Cuban Embassy on November 1963. On entering the gates they shouted "assassins" and other insults at the Embassy employees. Shortly after this incident a friend, Manuel Calvillo, an official in the Gobernacion, took her and her daughter to a small hotel in the center
of Mexico City. They were kept there for eight days under the pretext that they were in danger. Elena claimed to have told Calvillo that she wanted to tell her story to the American Embassy. Calvillo dissuaded her by telling her that the American Embassy was full of Communist spies. Elena said that some of the other people who had been at the party were taken to Veracruz where they were "protected" by Governor Lopez Arias. She said that Ruben Duran, reportedly "protected" by General Clark Flores, was very prosperous and was driving a big car.

Elena also claimed that Ruben Duran told her months after the assassination that he was not really a Communist and that King Kennedy had been a mistake. Cikid, the House Select Committee on Assassinations has not been able to determine whether Ruben Duran actually told Elena about the assassination. Ruben Duran claims he had no reason to.

The COS wrote a note on the memo which says: "What an imagination she has! Should we send to Headquarters?" The Officer replied, "Suggest sending. There have been stories around town about all this, and Thomas is not only person she has talked to...If memory serves me, didn't LICOOKIE refer to Oswald and the local leftists and Cubans in one of her squibs?" (CIA No. 588, note from SW to COS.)
The Mexico City Station called the information in Thomas' 12/11/65 memorandum for AT Division in Headquarters (Cable from Mexico City to the Director, Dec 5621, date cut 86 copy; CIA Nos. 584-585).

The cable said that Elena's story would be checked with LICHANT/1, again the production from the Cuban surveillance operation "and other sources." (IBID.) Scott wrote, next to the routing indications on the cable, "Please ask Charles Thomas if he'll "follow-up". Get questions from Anne G. Please let's discuss. Thanks."

After the December 10 memorandum/ conversations, Winston Scott (Chief/Station) and Nathan Ferris (Legal Attache) called C. Thomas for a meeting. They asked him to get a more detailed replay of Ms. Garro's story. At this meeting Winston Scott made it clear that the FBI had full responsibility for any further investigation in the Oswald case. (State Dept: letter from Charles Thomas to William P. Rogers, July 25, 1969, JFK Doc. #)
Charles Thomas Meeting with Elena Garro on December 25, 1965

Thomas met with Elena again on December 25, 1965. The same date he wrote a memorandum of conversation which provided a much more detailed restatement of Ms. Garro's alleged encounter with Lee Harvey Oswald and subsequent developments. (CIA Nos. 580-583; WX-7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #719)

Elena admitted that she had spoken to two men at the Embassy "(presumably from the Legal Attache's Office)." (ibid: The meeting occurred on Nov. 24, 1963) She said that she did not tell them the whole story because "the Embassy officers did not give much credence to anything she and Elenita said." (ibid CIA Nos. 580-583; WX-7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #719)

She stated that the party had been at Ruben Duran's home. (ibid) She was unclear about the date of the party. It was a few days before the Soviet Astronaut, Gagarin, visited Mexico; she thought that this would put the party around September 2 or 3, 1963. (ibid) She believed that the party was on a Monday or Tuesday because it was an odd night for a party. (ibid) She knew that September 2 was a Monday and she was indeed Monday the 2nd. Elena could not check her calendar to refresh her memory at the time of the interview because the calendar was in a desk that had been stored away. (ibid)
During the conversation Elena described Oswald and his companions. The man who she thought was Oswald wore a black sweater. She said he was quiet "and stared a lot at the floor." One of his companions "was very tall and slender and had long blond hair which hung across his forehead. He had a gaunt face and a rather long protruding chin." The other companion was also tall, with short, light brown hair and no distinctly distinguishing characteristics. The three Americans did not dance or mix with the other guests. Elena saw the same three men on the street the next day. (IBID.)

Elena was certain that Eusebio Azcue, Horacio Duran, Silvia Duran, Lydia Duran, Deba Guerrero, General Clark Flores and his mistress, a doctor from Dalinde Hospital,
a young American couple who were honeymooning in Mexico, and several other people were at the party. She said that Ricardo Guerra, whom she claims converted Horatio Duran to Communism, and his wife, Rosario Castellanos, were supposed to be at the party but did not attend.

(IBID.) Alleged

Elena stated that the red-haired man and Emilio Carballido were not at the party that Oswald attended but at another party where Carballido and Azcue got into a heated argument about President Kennedy. "They came to the conclusion that the only solution was to kill him." (IBID.) Elena was not clear on whether this party was before or after the party where she met Oswald. (IBID.) The House Select Committee has been unable to confirm the conversation. Emilio Azcue stated that it did not occur.

Elena said that Carballido "is a known Castro agent in Mexico." After the assassination he spent a year in Cuba. He then got a job teaching at Rutgers University through Dr. Jose Vasquez Amoral. (IBID.) The House Select Committee has been unable to confirm this statement. Elena reiterated that Carballido was present at the incident at the Cuban Embassy, where Elena and her daughter shouted "assassins", etc., at the Embassy employees, occured on November 23rd at about 3:00 p.m. Elena and Elenita were driven to the Cuban Embassy by Elena's brother who was embarrassed by their behavior. (IBID.)

This occurred before they had seen photographs of Oswald. (IBID.) Hs. Corro claimed that later that day they were visited by Manuel Calvillo who told them that they were in serious danger from the Communists and that he would take them to a small hotel,
where they would be safe, for a few days. Elena said she trusted and believed Calvillo because he was a known undercover agent for the CIA. He was also a friend of Noé Palomares and Gustavo Díaz Ordaz. Calvillo also told Elena and her daughter that Silvia Duran had been arrested. Duran's arrest was not public information at the time.

On November 23, 1963, Elena could not remember the name of the hotel so she took Thomas to the section of Mexico City where she thought it was. They found the hotel. It was the Vermont Hotel, Calle Vermont 29. Elena said that she assumed that Calvillo had registered them as relatives or friends. They stayed at the hotel until the following Friday, Nov. 30, 1963 hardly leaving their rooms. (See legal report) While they were at the hotel they saw the photos of Oswald and realized that he had been the man at Ruben Duran's party. When Calvillo visited them at the hotel Elena told him that she wanted to report it to the American Embassy. Calvillo dissuaded her by stating that the American Embassy was full of Communists. When Elena returned to her home, guards were posted outside. After she returned home Elena saw her sister, Deba Guerera, who had also come to the same conclusion, independently of Elena. Deba was "terrified."
two months after the assassination two "communists" visited Deba and threatened her never to reveal that she had been to a party with Oswald. Deba, consequently, would not accompany Elena to the American Embassy to tell her story on Nov. 24, 1966. (ibid)

Elena said that a few days after the assassination Emilio Carballido took the Duran's to Jalapa, Veracruz and "kept them out of the way until the initial shock of the assassination wore off." The House Select Committee has been unable to confirm Mrs. Barrio's allegation.

Elena also said that shortly after the assassination an American named June Cobb spent several days in her house. Ms. Cobb had been sent to Elena by a mutual friend, Eunice Odio. Eunice Odio was a Costa Rican who had been visiting Amado's mistress when Amado was with the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1962 Ms. Cobb and Mrs. Odio were roommates. While Ms. Cobb was at Elena's house she expressed an interest in the Kennedy assassination. Deba got drunk one night and told Ms. Cobb the entire story. Ms. Cobb wanted them to go to the American authorities. Claiming to be a CIA agent, Cobb advised against going to the American Embassy. She suggested that Elena and Deba go to Texas to tell their story. When her suggestion was rejected, Cobb said that she would arrange a meeting with the CIA Station Chief.

The meeting did not occur because Ms. Cobb was asked to
leave the Garro house; evidently because she kicked
Elena's cat. (bid)

The House Select Committee on Assassinations has determined
that June Cobb Sharp was a CIA asset in 1964. (bid, p. 3)

Elena claims Ruben Duran visited Elena around the end of
January, 1964. He was worried that Oswald's visit to
his home might be discovered and that he might lose
his Mexican citizenship. Ruben told Elena that it had
been Silvia who had gotten him involved with Oswald. (bid)

Ruben added that he was not really a communist and
had opposed the assassination. (bid)
The Committee spoke to Mr. Palomares who denied Ms. Opar's claim. (bid, interview of Mr. Palomares)

Elena said that she had told her story to Noe Palomares of the Gobernacion about six months after the
assassination. He advised against going to the American
Embassy and told her that if she did anything at all
she should merely write an anonymous letter. (bid)
The Committee spoke to Mr. Palomares who denied Ms. Opar's claim. (bid, interview of Mr. Palomares)

Elena stated that it was "common knowledge"
that Silvia had been Oswald's mistress. When asked who
could verify the allegation she could only remember one
person who had told her this. That person was Victor
Rico Galan, a "pro-Castro journalist." (bid)
The Committee could not verify Ms. Opar's allegations. Ruben Duran denied
the allegation. Ruben Duran denied the same story in 1967.
Subsequent to December 25, 1965, Thomas wrote in the Dec. 25, 1965 memo that Elena had found her calendar and had reconstructed the date of the party as late September not early September. When Thomas went to Ferris' office and informed him, Ferris replied that Elena had given the late September date when she had originally reported her story at the American Embassy.

However, Mr. Ferris explained that someone who had been at the party had stated that there were no Americans there. Mr. Ferris did not reveal that Arlo Alejandro had provided this information. Mr. Ferris suggested that it was not necessary for Thomas to pursue the matter since he considered the Oswald case closed and had heard all the rumors before.

The State Department forwarded (the same day) a copy of the Charles Thomas memorandum to the Central Intelligence Agency's Weapons City Station to aid in their investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination. On the first page of the memorandum, Cavanaugh Winter wrote, "Shouldn't we send to Headquarters?" someone responded "Of course." [CIA No. 582-583; 1972, p. 92, CIA No. 715]
On December 27, 1965 the Legal Attache wrote a memo to the Ambassador regarding Elena. [Memorandum, Legal Attache, 12/27/65, CIA #578; WX-7241 Entry #429, p. 94, CIA #721.] This is one of the memos the Legal Attache refers to in the Sept. 30, 1969 memo. She reported that Elena and her daughter were interviewed on 17 and 24 November 1964. The memo said that Elena and her daughter furnished information similar to that in Thomas' 12/10/65 memo. The Legal Attache went on to say "Inquiries conducted at that time, (November '64) however, failed to substantiate the allegations made by Mrs. Garro de Paz and her daughter. In view of the fact that Mrs. Garro de Paz' allegations have been previously checked out without substantiation, no further action is being taken concerning her recent repetition of those allegations." (IBID.)
The next entry in Oswald's Mexican file is a cable written by Ann Goodpasture. [Memo from Mexico City to the Director, 12/29/65, Mexi 5741, CIA #575; WX-7241 Entry #430, p. 94, CIA #721.] The cable reports the Legat interview and the failure to substantiate Elena's story. The cable promised to keep Headquarters advised if any further information was developed. (IBID.)

LICOOKIE's 10/5/64 memo is attached to this cable. WX-7241 explains this in a marginal comment, "This document by LICOOKIE was not in (Oswald's file), but was copied from (a project file) and attached to Mexi 5741, 29 Dec. 65." (IBID.)

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

That she created a disturbance at

The Cuban embassy on November 28, 1963.

On February 3, 1966, Anne Goodpasture sent Thomas (unn , March 15, 1965)

memo to the Cuban section with an attached note asking

them to check whether Elena was "seen creating such a

disturbance as they claimed in front of the Cuban

Embassy." (Note from Ann Goodpasture to "Cubans",

2/3/66, CIA No. 579; WX-7241, Entry 428, p. 94, CIA #721.)

One Cuban section officer responded, "No bells

ring with me." Another one wrote "Me neither." The

third officer wrote "No pictures either." (IBID.) There

is no indication that the penetration agents in the Cuban

Embassy were queried about this. (IBID.) (That there are

no pictures is reasonable since Elena claimed that the

event happened: 1.) on a Saturday at 3:00 p.m. when

the Cuban Embassy was not normally photographically

surveilled; and 2.) the "disturbance" occurred inside the

cuban compound. HSCA Examination of the CIA Cuban Embassy

photographic surveillance showed no surveillance on 11/23/63.

(Classified Summary of Staff Review of CIA Documents,

undated, P. 3, CIA #763.)
On 2/23/66 the Legal Attaché wrote a memo to the Ambassador regarding the Carros allegations. (Memo from Legat to Ambassador, 2/23/66, CIA #571; WX-7241 Entry #455, p. 95, CIA #722.) The memo reports that "extensive investigation" failed to disclose that Oswald had traveled to Mexico prior to September 26, 1963 and that no information had developed that would show that he had not been in New Orleans in the early part of that month. The memo states that no further action was being taken by the FBI because her allegations had not been substantiated. (bid)

The Legal Attaché forwarded a copy to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station. (The House Select Committee on Assassinations has been unable to determine when the copy was forwarded.)

A marginal comment by this entry in WX-7241 says, "How can it be ascertained that Oswald did not travel to Mexico prior to early Sept. 63? There must be some basis for Elena's reporting." (IBID; referenced to Thomas' 12/25/65 memo.)
CHARLES THOMAS MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
Re: Elena García.

On 7/13/66 Charles Thomas wrote a memorandum reporting that Elena had told him that she had received an invitation to visit Cuba from Ambassador Juárez Meneses. [Memorandum of Conversation by Charles Thomas, 7/13/66, CIA #565; WL-7241, Entry 463, p. 91, CIA #223] Elena gave Thomas two letters to support the claim, one of which had been delivered to her home by a driver from the Cuban Embassy. (ibid) The envelope gave her address as Vermont 38. (ibid) Because of her stay at the Hotel Vermont, she saw the letter as a threat and was frightened. (ibid) [The HSCA has determined that the Cuban government invited Elena García to visit Cuba due to her great literary talents; see Biography]
LEGAL ATTACHE MEMO TO WINSTON SCOTT

Re: Elena's allocation that she had stayed at the Hotel Vermont from the day after the assassination until November 3, 1963.

On 10/13/66 the Legal Attache wrote a memo to the CIA/COS reporting that a reliable confidential informant had reported that the records of the Hotel Vermont disclosed that "Elena Paz, housewife from San Luis Potosi" had registered at the Hotel Vermont on November 23, 1963. She left on November 30, 1963. The memo said that "the above individual may or may not be identical with Elena Garro de Paz."

(Memo from Legat to Winston Scott, 10/13/66, CIA No. 564; WX-7241, Entry #466, p. 98, CIA #725; Thomas' 7/13/66 memo.) (The House Select Committee on Assassinations has been unable to determine why the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation waited until 1966 to investigate this aspect of Elena's story.)

Charles Thomas' 12/25/65 memo said, "She (Elena) and her daughter did not personally register at the hotel. She thinks Calvillo registered them as relatives or friends of his from San Luis Postosi." (Memo of Conversation by Charles Thomas, 12/25/65, p. 3, CIA #582.)

(The entry for the 10/13/66 Legat memo in WX-7241 bore the notation "This is what Elena claimed and no one would believe her." (WX-7241, Entry #466, p. 98, CIA #725.)
Charles Thomas September 30, 1969 Letter to State Department and Legal Attachés Response

No further reports on Elena's story were generated until 1969 when Charles Thomas was "selected out." ("Selected out" is a phrase used when an officer is retired after having been in one grade for the maximum period of time and is not considered qualified for promotion to a higher grade.) Then, he wrote a letter and memorandum to the Secretary of State saying, "Since I was the Embassy Officer in Mexico who acquired this intelligence information, I feel a responsibility for seeing it through to its final evaluation." (State Dept.: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969)

Charles Thomas' memorandum stated that he got no reaction from Nathan Furin and William Scott regarding his memorandum of December 25, 1965. (State Department: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969) In addition, Thomas wrote that the only person to speak to him about the Dec. 25, 1965 memorandum, Clarence Bowman, Deputy Chief of Mission, State Dept., Chief of Affairs at the time of the John F. Kennedy assassination and subsequent Oswald investigation, told him that Oswald had not been in Mexico on the date given for the event. (State Department: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969) The fact that Thomas noted that even when heominated that Elena had not changed her story but rather that she had now given a more accurate account, Bowman stated that the date was wrong and dismissed the entire affair. (ibid)
The Mexico City Legation's Office, in reply to Thomas' letter and memorandum, asserted that Thomas' office had been advised by memoranda dated December 27, 1945 and February 23, 1946 that since Elvia Thomas' allegations had previously been investigated without substantiation, no further action was being taken concerning her recent repetition of those allegations. [See Report, 9/26/46, pp.34, 565 Div. A.] In their report, the Legation concluded that neither the Counselor for Political Affairs nor the Legation itself had received memoranda from Charles Thomas or that Thomas did not recall receiving them.

Thomas wrote that when he went to Mexico, he was informed that Elvia had found her Calderas and had reconstructed the date of the party as late September. Thomas alleged that Elvia had given the late September date when she had originally reported her story at the American Embassy. [State Department: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1947.] Thomas noted that Thomas explained that someone else had been at the party who had stated that Elvia had not been present. Thomas then alleged that Thomas had been told that there was no American, and Thomas alleged that Thomas said that it was not necessary for Thomas to question the matter since he considered the case closed and had heard all the rumors before.

The Mexico City Legation replied that Mr. T. had not told Thomas that someone who was at the party had stated that Thomas had not been at the American's presence. [See Report, 9/26/46, p.34, 565 Div. A.] The report asserted that Thomas had been told that it would not be necessary for him to question the matter any further since Elvia's story had been investigated previously.
without being substantiated. In addition, the memo stated that
Thomas had been told that Chri's story was considered a
closed issue not that the Oswald was closed. (End)
House Select Committee on Assassination

Investigation of Elena Garro's Allegations

The House Select Committee on Assassinations investigated Elena Garro's story both through file reviews and personal interviews. The Committee requested and reviewed the CIA's, FBI's and State Department Files, when they existed, on Elena Garro de Paz, Elenita Garro de Paz, Manuel Calvillo, Noe W. Palomares, June Cobb Sharp, Victor Rico Galan, Eunice Odio, Sylvia Duran, Lydia Duran, Ruben Duran, Betty Serratos, Horatio Duran, Eusebio Azcue, and Emilio Carballido. Only the Elena Garro de Paz file contained information on her allegations. Though all the names listed above played a role in Elena Garro de Paz' story, not one of their files included a reference to Elena Garro de Paz.

Furthermore, the House Select Committee on Assassinations requested and reviewed the Central Intelligence Agency's LICOOKIE I, LICHANT I, LIRING 3, LIHUFF I and TICHBORN files. Once again not one of the files included a mention of Elena Garro's allegations. The House Select Committee on Assassinations learned that LICOOKIE I was June Cobb Sharp who first reported Elena's allegation. (Supra p. 4) The Committee also learned that LICHANT I was Manuel Calvillo who hid Elena Garro and her daughter in a hotel the day
following the assassination. (Supra p. 13) He also told Elena that Sylvia Duran had been arrested before it was public knowledge. 

Since a file review lead nowhere, the Committee decided to arrange interviews in Mexico with Sylvia Duran, Elena Garro, Elenita Garro, Horacio Duran, Ruben Duran, Lynn Duran, Emilio Carbillo and Betty Serratos. The Mexican Government informed us that Elena and Elenita Garro had disappeared in 1968 during the student uprisings and had never returned to Mexico. The officials stated that Elena and her daughter might be in Spain. (See Mexico City Procedural Write-up Trip 1.) Emilio Carbillo could not be found. The others were interviewed between June 1 and June 6, 1978.

Betty Serratos, Lydia Duran, Ruben Duran, and Horatio Duran all stated that Elena was not the dancing type and therefore did not attend any of the twist parties at the Duran homes. (See: HSCA Staff Interview of Betty Serratos, 6/6/78, p. 6, JFK Document No. ; HSCA Staff Interview of Lydia Duran, 6/5/78, p. 6, JFK Document No.; HSCA Staff Interview of Ruben Duran Návarro, 6/6/78, p. 16, JFK Document No.; HSCA Staff Interview of Horatio Duran Navarro, 6/5/78, p. 25, JFK Document No.)

When Sylvia Duran was asked if Elena or Elenita Garro
ever attended twist parties at the Duran homes, she stated that she recalled Elena attending one twist party at Ruben's home in 1963 when she returned to Mexico from France. (HSCA Staff Interview of Sylvia Triado Bazan, 6/6/70, p. 90, JFK, Document No. ) All the Durans denied that Lee Harvey Oswald had attended any party at one of their homes. [strange info]

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

The Agency declined to aid the Committee of investigation.
The Committee returned to Mexico City and attempted to locate June Cobb Sharp and Manuel Calvillo. The results of the Committee's work were as follows.

The Mexican government told the Committee that June Cobb Sharp received a tourist permit, number 72781, on June 27, 1947 when she entered Mexico through Nuevo Laredo. She asked, but was denied, permission to represent the magazine, Modern Mexico.

On June 21, 1948, she received a courtesy permit, number 25556. She disappeared in 1954 and never returned to Mexico. (See Procedural Writeup Trip 2 Mexico City) The Committee knows the information is incorrect.

According to the CIA file, she worked for the agency as an asset in Mexico from 1961 through 1966. (CIA-Report 1965, June Cobb file, 201.)

Cobb was also in Mexico from 1961 through 1966. (CIA)

The Mexican government told the Committee that Manuel Calvillo did not live at Cuahetemoc 877-5 as the Committee had stated. Their agent in charge had spoken to the superintendent at the apartments for the past twenty-five years who said that no Manuel Calvillo had ever resided there. When Committee staffers gave the Mexican government Calvillo's pen name, the Mexicans gave the same answers. (See Procedural Writeup Mexico City Trip 2) The Committee is quite certain that Mr. Calvillo lives at this address since it acquired the address from a recent CIA document. (CIA Report, 1974, Manuel Calvillo file, 201.)