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Calderon

Item 2-3

As discussed in an earlier section of this report, the Warren Commission did not gain access to the CIA's production from its ( ) in Mexico City until an advanced stage in its investigation. The record reflects that Mssrs. Willens, Slawson, and Coleman did not review the production until they visited Mexico City on April 9, 1964. At that time, they reviewed a number of ( ) from the Soviet and Cuban Embassies. These ( ) included one call to the Soviet Embassy on September 27, believed to have been made by Oswald, two calls made by Silvia Duran from the Cuban Consulate to the Soviet Consulate, and one call from the Soviet Embassy to the Cuban Embassy, made by an unidentified caller (Cite Slawson memo of April 21, 1964.)

Francis surveillance operations

On September 28 the ( ) operation recorded a call by Silvia Duran at the Cuban Consulate to the Soviet Consulate. (Cite.)

On October 1 the ( ) operation recorded two calls made by a person later identified as Lee Harvey Oswald to the Soviet Embassy. (Cite.)

The Commission representatives were also supplied with the ( ) of two conversations that transpired between the Cuban President Dorticos and the Cuban Ambassador to Mexico, Armas. These conversations concerned Silvia Duran's arrest, whether Oswald had been

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*as reflected*

offered money while at the Cuban Embassy, and the general state of affairs at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City following the assassination. (Slawson memo of April 22, 1964, pp. 45-46).

*The Committee's*  
A review of CIA files ~~and other independent~~ corroborated of Slawson's ~~recounting of the~~ *memorandum regarding*

*( )* provided to and reviewed by the Commission. ~~One~~ *One* CIA document, *supporting Slawson's record is* a blind memorandum ~~is~~ entitled "Material

from P-8593 shown to Warren Commission" (Station Oswald File) and is dated April 10, 1964. (FOIA 653-828). This document records that the Warren Commission was shown calls

made by Oswald to the Soviet Embassy. These included ~~three of the~~ *conversations* ~~conversations~~ September 27 listed above, one call of September 28, two calls of October 1, and one call of October ~~1~~ *?* - *check document*

While this does not correspond to the listing of calls set forth by Slawson, it does independently establish that ~~no calls made on~~ *From* November 22, 1963 were shown to the Warren Commission.

In addition, this document corroborates the showing of the two Dorticas-Armas conversation ~~s~~ of November 26, 1964 *to the Warren Commission*

The Committee has queried former Commission and CIA representatives in an effort to determine if a transcript of the Calderon conversation was ever shown to the Warren

Commission. The response on both accounts has uniformly been that the Calderon conversation was never made available to the Commission nor was its existence ever made known to the Commission. (Rankin dep; Slawson interview, Willens response to letter, but see Rocca deposition wherein he states that he is sure the Commission knew of it, Helms hearing.) In addition, the Calderon 201 file bears no reference to the conversation nor does it indicate that it was ever made known or provided to the Warren Commission for its analysis.

~~This~~, the available evidence supports the conclusion that the Warren Commission was never given the information or the opportunity by which it could evaluate Luisa Calderon's significance to the events surrounding President Kennedy's assassination. Had the Commission been expeditiously provided this evidence of her intelligence background, association with Silvia Duran, and her commentary following the assassination, it may well have given more serious investigative consideration to her ~~and~~ <sup>potential</sup> ~~the possibility of Cuban knowledge about Oswald or~~ <sup>Knowledge of Oswald and the Cuban governments</sup>

<sup>possible</sup> involvement in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

(Quote Rankin on ~~what~~ <sup>what</sup> would have been done.)

Two difficult issues remain which are raised by the Committee's finding. First, why didn't the Agency

provide the Calderon conversation to the Warren Commission; secondly, why didn't the Agency reveal to the Warren Commission <sup>its</sup> ~~their~~ full knowledge of Calderon's intelligence background, her possible knowledge of Oswald and her possible connection to the CIA or some other American intelligence apparatus.

The first question can be explained in benign terms. It is reasonably possible that by sheer oversight the conversation was filed away and not recovered or recollected until after the Warren Commission had completed its investigation and published its report. However, this

conversation could have also been withheld deliberately. <sup>has been unable to get a definitive</sup> ~~The Committee has not means to determine the truth of either possibility.~~ <sup>Calderon</sup> The Committee can state, however, that whatever the truth may be, the conversation did <sup>occur</sup> ~~take~~

~~place~~ and the transcript was not provided the Warren Commission.

As for the <sup>Agency's</sup> ~~question~~ surrounding ~~the~~ withholding of information concerning Calderon's intelligence background, the record reflects that the Commission was merely informed that Calderon may have been a member of the DGI. (Cite 5 May memo.) The memoranda which provided more extensive examination of her intelligence background were not made available for the Commission's review. Significantly, the May 8 memorandum written by <sup>Joseph Karsorch</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~, following his debriefing of AMMUG-1 indicated that AMMUG-1

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Calderon

and a second Cuban Intelligence officer believed ~~to~~ to be a CIA operative. It is possible that this information was not provided the Warren Commission either because there was no basis in fact for the allegation or because the allegation was in fact true. If the allegation were true, the consequences for the CIA would have been serious. ~~for~~ <sup>It would have</sup> demonstrated that a CIA operative, well placed in the Cuban Embassy, may have possessed information prior to the assassination regarding Oswald and/or his relationship to Cuban Intelligence, <sup>she</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>Services</sup> and that Services' possible involvement in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

Regarding <sup>Calderon's</sup> possible association with the CIA,

~~the Committee has examined Calderon's file.~~ ~~THE FILE~~ ~~Agency~~

Files reviewed

reveals no ostensible connection between Calderon and the CIA. However, there are indications that such contact between Calderon and the Agency was contemplated. A September 1, 1963 CIA dispatch from the Chief of the Special Affairs Staff to the CIA's Chief of Station in Mexico City states in part:

...Luisa Calderon has a sister residing in Reynosa, Texas, married to an American of Mexican descent. If (CIA asset) can further identify the sister, our domestic exploitation section might be in a position to follow up on this lead...Please levy the requirement on (CIA asset) at the next opportunity.  
( ) 1935, Sept. 1, 1963)

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An earlier CIA dispatch from the CIA Chief of Station in Mexico City to the Chief of the CIA's Western Hemisphere Division records that:

Wilfredo of the Cuban Consulate, Tampico, reported that Luisa Calderon has a sister residing in Reynosa, Texas...Luisa may go up to the border to visit her sister soon-- or her mother may make the trip--details not clear. ( ) 1849, July 31, 1965)

At the very least, the above dispatches evidenced an interest in Calderon's activities and those of her family. Whether this interest took the form of a clandestine-agent relationship is not revealed by Calderon's 201 file.

The Committee has queried the author of the above-cited dispatch requesting that Calderon's sister be contacted by the CIA's "domestic exploitation section."

David Ronis, the ~~dispatch's~~ author, was a member of the CIA's Special Affairs staff at the time he wrote the dispatch. He worked principally at CIA headquarters and was ~~was~~ responsible for recruitment and handling of agents for collection/intelligence data. Mr. Ronis, when interviewed by this Committee, stated that part of his responsibility was to scour the Western Hemisphere division for operational leads related to the work of the Special Affairs staff. Ronis recalled that he normally would send requests to CIA field stations for information or leads on various persons. ~~often~~ <sup>often</sup> he would receive no

response to these requests. It was Ronis' recollection that the above-cited domestic exploitation section was a task force within the Special Affairs Staff. He also stated that in 1963 the CIA's Domestic Contacts Division might have been requested to locate Luisa Calderon's sister. Ronis told the Committee that he had no recollection of recruiting any person associated with the Cuban Intelligence Service. He did recall that he had recruited women to perform tasks for the Agency. However, he did not recall ever recruiting any employees of the Cuban Embassy/Consulate in Mexico City. Finally, Mr. Ronis stated that he had no recollection that Luisa Calderon was associated with the CIA. (HSCA Staff Interview August 31, 1978)

Various present and former CIA representatives were queried whether Luisa Calderon had ever been associated with the CIA. The uniform answer was that no one recalled such an association. (Cites: Helms, Hearing, August 9, 1978, p. 136; Rocca, Dep. p.148, July 17, 1978; ~~Langosch~~, Interview of August \_\_, Piccolo, Interview of \_\_)

Thus, the Agency's file <sup>in Calderon</sup> and the testimony of former CIA employees <sup>have</sup> reveal <sup>no connection</sup> <sup>between</sup> Calderon <sup>and</sup> the CIA. Yet, as indicated earlier, this file is incomplete <sup>absence from Calderon's 201 file</sup> the most glaring omission being <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ Calderon's ~~her~~ cryptic remarks following the assassination of President Kennedy.