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INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Identifying Information:

Name Ruben Duran Navarro

Date June 6, 1978

Address _____

Place _____

City/State _____

Telephone _____

Date of Birth _____

M or S _____

Social Security _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

2. Physical Description:

Height _____

Color Eyes _____ Hair _____

Weight _____

Special Characteristics _____

Ethnic Group _____

3. Personal History:

a. Present Employment: _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

b. Criminal Record

1. Arrests _____

2. Convictions _____

4. Additional Personal Information:

a. Relative(s): Name _____

Address _____

b. Area frequented: _____

c. Remarks: _____

Investigator _____

Date _____

Form #4-B

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Ruben Duran Navarro Date June 6, 1978 Time 11:15AM
 Address _____ Place _____

Interview:

Present: Gary Cornwell, Dan Hardway, Ed Lopez,
 Harold Leap, Honorio Escondon and
 Dr. Alfonso Orozco Contreras

G. Cornwell : Representing the Mexican Government,
 Honorio Escondon and Dr. Alfonso Orozco
 Contreras. We spoke to you last week
 on Wednesday and we have come back today
 to simply make a record of your memory of
 the events that we have an interest in.

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : Could you tell what your present occupation
 is.

R. Duran : Interior Design ?

G. Cornwell : What is the business address?

R. Duran : Here? ?

?

G. Cornwell : And how long have you had that occupation?

R. Duran : Since 1948

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature Gary Cornwell, Dan Hardway, Ed Lopez, Harold Leap

Date transcribed 6/30/78

By: cs Form #4-

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G. Cornwell : During that period of time, have you had any other jobs or sources of income?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : I'd like to direct your attention to the week of November 22, that was a Friday, of 1963. Did it come to your attention on that day that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : Do you recall where you were when you first heard that news.

R. Duran : Well, it was Friday, I was probably working. I don't remember exactly where I was but I hear the news, I read the papers and all other excitement.

G. Cornwell : Did you at that time have an occasion to discuss the assassination with any other person?

R. Duran : Yes, probably with my brother, with my wife, with everybody that is near me.

G. Cornwell : And for the record what is the name of your brother?

R. Duran : Horatio Duran Navarro.

G. Cornwell : And your wife's name?

R. Duran : Betty Serrato Azucka de Duran.

G. Cornwell : And are you still married to her?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : Did you have an occasion, on that day, to discuss it with anyone else?

R. Duran : I don't remember exactly who I discuss it with.

G. Cornwell : On that day, or shortly thereafter, did you read in the newspapers or see on television-- or hear on television, the name and the face of the alleged assassin?

R. Duran : I remember that I read the papers out of the--sure everybody read the paper, everybody read the paper to see what happen. The only thing I didn't--er don't remember who was the killer til they took us to the ?

?

precient.

That was the first time I hear his name.

G. Cornwell : Had you, then to the best of your memory not discussed the name of the assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, with any friends or relatives prior to being taken to the police station?

R. Duran : No, because during that hour that they took us-- that hour, I did not know the name of this guy.

G. Cornwell : Do you recall seeing his picture on television or in the newspapers?

R. Duran : I remember the first time I saw his picture was on TV when they took it and they kill him.

G. Cornwell : That would have been the occasion on which he was killed, the assassin was killed, or the alleged assassin was killed in the police station in Dallas?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : That would have been then on Sunday the 24th.

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : Upon seeing Lee Harvey Oswald then on television at that time did you have any memory of ever seeing him on any prior occasions?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Going back then, to your statement that his name came to your attention when the police contacted you.

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : Would it be accurate to state that was on November 23rd, Saturday?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : At that time the police came to your home? Correct?

R. Duran : Correct.

G. Cornwell : And they also took you to the police station?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : What were the nature of the questions they asked you?

R. Duran : If I know Lee Oswald. They don't ask me if

I know him. They told me that he was my friend
?

G. Cornwell : In other words they made the allegation or
the accusation to you that he was your friend,
is that correct?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : In order to get you to respond?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : Did they make any other allegation or accusation
you?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Did they look through any of your books or
papers or records?

R. Duran : They look through--when they went to my home,
they went through my pictures and my papers
Between my sister-in-law went to my house going
to see what's going on. Then when they all
these people get into my house, they started
looking in all my papers, all my draws, everything.

G. Cornwell : They did a thorough search of your home?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : Complete search?

R. Duran : Well, I don't think it was a complete search
because they they just looked for pictures. I
had a lot of pictures.

G. Cornwell : But they looked everywhere in your house?

R. Duran : I don't remember if they looked everywhere in my wife's house --man, it was so many people over there. Well, around probably they looked all through my house.

G. Cornwell : To you knowledge did they find anything which indicated any association between you and Lee Harvey Oswald?

R. Duran : No, it was impossible.

G. Cornwell : How many people do you recall being taken to the police station?

R. Duran : It was er, my sister-in-law, my brother, my wife, this American girl, Barbara was there, her boyfriend that went to pick up her and ? he's dead already, girlfriend of my sister, she was eating with my brother and my sister.

G. Cornwell : When were all of you released from the police station?

R. Duran : At the same day--the next day Sunday at about two or three o'clock in the morning.

G. Cornwell : So it would be very late Saturday?

R. Duran : Around twelve hours they took us there--eleven to twelve hours.

G. Cornwell : After that do you recall again--or do you recall discussing the interrogation with your relatives?

R. Duran : Yes, I discussed that. We asked my sister-in-law

what was going on and she told us that she could not talk. The only thing that she could tell us that the reason they took us over there because he has her name-- Lee Oswald has her name in her phone book.

G. Cornwell : OK when you say your sister-in-law, you are referring to Silvia?

R. Duran : Silvia, yes.

G. Cornwell : When did this conversation occur?

R. Duran : In Samborne's after they let her go we went all together when we got away from there to have something to eat.

G. Cornwell : So this would be two or three o'clock in the morning?

R. Duran : Yes. Three or four.

G. Cornwell : You went to Samborne's?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : And that is a large department store, cafeteria, cafe?

R. Duran : Yes, it's only one block from there. It's a cafe that's open 24 hours. The only one there open 24 hours.

G. Cornwell : And at that time you discussed the nature of the questions that had been asked by the police?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : Did you learn through those conversations that

the police had asked any other kinds of questions other than the ones they had asked of you? In other words, did they ask any kinds of accusations of the other people-- of Silvia or Horatio?

R. Duran : No, no, no. They all asked the same thing and all--they told us it was a big mistake and that we have to forget about everything.

G. Cornwell : OK based on the conversations that you had at Sanborne's , it appeared to you that the police had asked everyone the same type of questions?

R. Duran : Yes, I think that everybody asked the same-- my brother, they asked him to, my wife too and everybody.

G. Cornwell : All right. Based on those conversations, did anyone --your brother, your wife, anyone ever indicate that they had ever met with or seen Lee Harvey Oswald besides Silvia?

R. Duran : The only one was Silvia.

G. Cornwell : And would you tell us as best you recall exactly what Silvia said at that time the nature or her contact with Oswald was?

R. Duran : My I speak Spanish?

G. Cornwell : Certainly, we'll translate..

R. Duran : OK

R. Duran : I remember that we arrived at Samborne's. We were all very anxious to find out exactly what had happened--what this whole thing was all about. Than Silvia said to us, the problem was, the accused assassin of John F. Kennedy had been in Mexico looking for a visa to go to Russia via Cuba.

Ed. Lopez : In other words a in-transit visa.

R. Duran : And that she had been the person who would handle him, and so that he would not consistently or persistently visit the Cuban Consulate, she had given him her telephone so that he could communicater with her and for that reason they had looked her up and they had found data with her name in a address book of Lee Harvey Oswald's.

R. Duran : That's it.

G. Cornwell : Did she tell you anything about any other conversations which may have occured inside of the consulate?

R. Duran : No. We did not discuss any of that because we were all very tired and really none of us knew anything about this. The following day I'm not sure if it was the following day or the day after that, they again detained her to the Security Station to protect her. ?

T.V. so that she would not be alone.

Then again I did not see her-- we've never really been that close-- until it all ended.

G. Cornwell : Did she mention to you anything about her reaction to Oswald--what she thought about her?

R. Duran : I'm not sure if we talked about that, but we probably did talk about it since it is so strange, so out of the ordinary. I tried to figure out what was going on and I became very interested and I asked ? to be more ? about it.

G. Cornwell : Where did you read about it?

R. Duran : In the newspapers.

G. Cornwell : Anywhere else?

R. Duran : ?

G. Cornwell : Did she tell you whether or not Oswald had made her mad, whether she felt sorry for him, whether she tried to help him or any thing along those lines? What was her personal reaction to him?

R. Duran : I'm not exactly sure, but I have an idea. She gave him the telephone number because she felt very sorry for him and he continued to insist--insisted-- and I think that's why she probably gave him the phone number, as he remembers.

G. Cornwell : Did she ever express any doubt about whether or not the man who was in some the newspapers and on television was in fact the man who had come to the consulate and visit with her?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Did she ever say anything to you that lead you to believe she might have met with him outside of the Consulate?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Has that allegation or accusation ever come to your attention before? Have you ever heard any conversation about that possibility?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Did she ever say anything to you which indicated that he may have made comments in conversations with her that indicated an intention in his part to possibly to shot the president?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Are you sure about that?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : Let me read to you a small excerpt out of a book written by Daniel Schorr, a correspondent from the United States, called Clearing the Air which reports apparant comments by Fidel Castro and ask you if she she ever relayed anything like this-- a conversation like this to you--

Silvia did. It states in the book on page 171 "In an interview in July 1967, with a British Journalist, Comer Clark, Castro said that Oswald had come to the Cuban Consulate twice each time for about fifteen minutes. The first time I was told he wanted to work for us, he was asked to explain, but he wouldn't, he wouldn't go into details. The second time he said he wanted to free Cuba from American Imperialism. Then he said something like someone ought to shot that President Kennedy then Oswald said and this was exactly how it was reported to me, 'Maybe I'll try to do it'." Did Silvia ever explain her contact with Oswald in terms--in any way resembling that?

R. Duran : No none absolutely.

G. Cornwell : Did she ever indicate the possibility, that perhaps when she was leaving the Consulate, Oswald was waiting outside to talk to her? Was there any contact like that outside of the Consulate?

R. Duran : No. I don't if she really has some kind of a contact with him or relating with the Visa or something like that, but he--I never heard anything like that.

G. Cornwell : Ok that, exactly the possibility that I meant

to ask you about, the possibility that he had waited and said, you know "Can you give me some more help on this Visa" or anything like that.

R. Duran : It can be possible.

G. Cornwell : But you never heard any stories?

R. Duran : Oh no, no, I never heard any stories.

G. Cornwell : You indicated earlier, that the subject matter, of course with Silvia's contact with this man interested you enough that you read the newspaper articles on it?

R. Duran : Yes, I have read all the problems during that time for that reason and.

G. Cornwell : Had you ever read the Warren Commission report?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Had you ever read any part of it, for instance the part dealing with Silvia?

R. Duran : No. I don't even know what it is.

G. Cornwell : The arrest and detention by the Mexican authorities, in and of itself is of no interest to us, except with respect to one point and that is, was there anything about that arrest or your treatment which led you to provide them anything but the truth about what happened? In other words, did arrest or the detantion cause you to make any false statements to them?

- R. Duran : No.
- G. Cornwell : Did you tell them the absolute truth when they interviewed you?
- R. Duran : Yes. It was very little to say. I didn't have to really think about it.
- G. Cornwell : So everything you told him was the truth?
- R. Duran : Yes.
- G. Cornwell : Did you know Sabio Asquay?
- R. Duran : This is the first I hear his name, I don't know.
- G. Cornwell : He was the Council at the Cuban Consulate.
- R. Duran : Um hum.
- G. Cornwell : You did not know him though?
- R. Duran : No, I do not know him.
- G. Cornwell : Had you ever met him?
- R. Duran : Never.
- G. Cornwell : Did you know an employee there, Theresa Prorenzo?
- R. Duran : No.
- G. Cornwell : Did you ever know a person name Louisa Calverone?
- R. Duran : Louisa Calverone? No.
- G. Cornwell : Did you ever know Camillo Carbiedo?
- R. Duran : Well, I hear his name in the papers, he is a writer ? But I never met him.
- G. Cornwell : A cousin of yours Deba Guiera.
- R. Duran : Deeba. Not ? It's Debake Gueria de ? She's a cousin of mine. Her husband was my professor--an art professor of mine at St. Carnabis.

G. Cornwell : Did--was your relationship with DeBakke or Ellena or her daughter Ellinita more than just a family relationship? Was it social at all?

R. Duran : No, we--when we were kids we used to see each other very often, but after I got married and after, I don't know probably since 1943 since I didn't see them very often, only once in a while.

G. Cornwell : On those occasions what was the nature of those associations? What type of events?

R. Duran : Well, since her husband was broken she was trying to sell his paints outside interior design the greatest, so I sometimes I sell some of his paints to some of my clients.

G. Cornwell : Who is this you are talking about?

R. Duran : ?

G. Cornwell : Did you ever go to parties with DeBake or Ellena?

R. Duran : Well not during that time, probably when we were kids.

G. Cornwell : Only when you were kids?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : During the 1960's we understand that you and Silvia and Horatio had dance parties, is that correct?

R. Duran : Do what?

G. Cornwell : Dance parties, where you get together with a bunch of friends and do the twist and that sort of thing?

R. Duran : Oh yes, Yes, yes.

G. Cornwell : Did Elenna or Ellinita DeBake ever come to those parties?

R. Duran : No, we don't see each other for some time and they are older than us. She is about 10 years older than I am.

G. Cornwell : Where were those parties held?

R. Duran : In my house where I used to live and ?
? after I change address from Erridoto, where they arrest us, where they went for us, we moved to another part of the street up from there. There we used to have parties. Oh, about ten parties in three years, something like that.

G. Cornwell : Did during this same period of time, you or Horatio or Silvia know any persons from Cuba?

R. Duran : Here in Mexico?

G. Cornwell : Yes.

R. Duran : No, not that I know.

G. Cornwell : Not that you knew anyway? Did you recall during that period of time ever meeting a Negro from Cuba?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Do you recall any employee of the Consulate ever being at those parties?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Do you know General Flores?

R. Duran : Yes, he was my client, he was my friend and I did a lot of work for him.

G. Cornwell : What kind of work?

R. Duran : Designing, he used to own a hotel in Iguna and I make designs for him. He has a house in Cinada and I did designs for him since he was building a city in Encinada and Iguana and we were doing some work with him, plans and designs of motels, things like that.

G. Cornwell : Was he also a social acquaintance?

R. Duran : A What?

G. Cornwell : Also on a social basis?

R. Duran : Yes, he was very nice with my family and he used to go to my house once and a while

?

G. Cornwell : Did he ever come to the parties?

R. Duran : No, not to the parties, he was older too.

G. Cornwell : I assume that the event--the assassination, the arrest--was a rather significant thing in the lives of you and your family, correct?

R. Duran : It wasn't significant per se, it was something different and strange and relevant, but nothing

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relevent.

G. Cornwell : The only reason I asked the question is, when a rather significant event happens, and especially if the event is also portrayed in the newspapers, it's usual that for a long period of time thereafter people will come to the person who experienced the event and talk to them about it, correct?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : Over the years since the assassination, has anyone ever come to you and profess to know anything about Oswald and his trip to Mexico City?

R. Duran : No, they look for us, I think from the Black Magazine once, but we have--we don't want to talk to nobody and they told us in the
? Spanish not to make

Ed Lopez : The police told them not to make any comments

G. Cornwell : But has any of the people I have asked you about for instance ever mentioned to you that they saw Oswald while he was here?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Have they ever professed to have any information about his trip to Mexico City?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Do you have any reason to suspect that if we

to any of these people, they would have information of help to us?

R. Duran : I don't know what people, if you tell me but I don't know.

G. Cornwell : All of the people I just asked you about that you did know, Ellena, Ellinisa, DeBake General Forbes. Any of those?

R. Duran : No, no. I don't know deBake an Ellena. I don't think so. I think that Ellena at that time was a little girl. I'm not sure if she had returned yet, but I saw her
? I saw her in 1962, she was married to Octavio Paz and I was in Paris for twenty-four hours and there I went to visit her. I have to find her address through the Embassy. She is the only person I knew in Paris. We went out together with her daughter and she showed me a few things about Paris, a few places in Paris for the few hours that I had there--spent there.

G. Cornwell : But this was prior to the assassination?

R. Duran : July, 1962.

G. Cornwell : Have you seen or talked to her since then?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Do you know Ricardo Guerro?

R. Duran : Ricardo Guerra? I know he is a professor and

a friend of my brothers in the University.

G. Cornwell : Were you and he on a social basis?

R. Duran : No.

G. Cornwell : Did he ever come to any of the parties at your home or Horatio's?

R. Duran : No. He wasn't my friend, I just know him.

G. Cornwell : Have you ever traveled outside of Mexico, other than the Paris trip?

R. Duran : Yes.

G. Cornwell : With who and when?

R. Duran : I make a trip to Europe in 1962 with Clark Flores, he met us over there, my cousin

? and another family of Port ? we went to Europe in 1952. We went to Amsterdam and then we fly to Cuba and we went with--Black Forest invite us to go to Moscow because it was a Reunion of the Olympic Committee.

G. Cornwell : You went to Moscow for a reunion of the Olympic Committee.

R. Duran : Yes I was going to Europe and he told me you would like to go to Russia because I am going there and I invite you over there. So, he fixed our papers and then our cousin, she was visiting us, she was very excited and she wanted to go to, and then this friend of mine he

wants to go too. The three together, we stayed three in Los ? and two days in the ? and two days in the La Grado and then we went to ? ? Denmark, the ? Germany, then we went to Austria it was a trip all over, then Spain and then across Paris on the ?

G. Cornwell : Have you ever been to Cuba?

R. Duran : Yes, I went to Cuba in 1961. I went to ? In St. Peter, Florida and I fly thru Cuba to Miami and I stayed one day in Cuba because I had never been there, in Havanna.

G. Cornwell : Did you or Horatio or Silvia have any friends living in Cuba?

R. Duran : Well, my brother was invited with my--he went with Silvia--I do not know if he went ? or he went together. I remember at one time they went for one week and was invited to Mrs. Shoo.

G. Cornwell : When was that?

R. Duran : I don't remember exactly but it was around-- I can not tell exactly that time, it was probably after 1966.

G. Cornwell : I don't understand. Who invited them to Cuba?

R. Duran : I really don't know who invited them. I don't remember either if my brother went with Silvia

