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Version of Interrogation given to Warren Commission By Mexican Government

On November 23, 1963, one day after the assassination

of John F. Kennedy, the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Headquarters suggested to Mexican officials that they arrest

Sylvia Irado De Duran. (Mexi 70299 to ~~Mexican officials~~ <sup>the DIRECTOR</sup>, Nov. 23, 1963;

Note to Luis Echevarria, November 23, 1963.) Mexico City ~~Headquarters~~ <sup>STATION</sup>

asked that Sylvia Irado de Duran be held incommunicado until she told <sup>old</sup> gave the Mexican officials all <sup>you know about Lee Harvey</sup> ~~(the information)~~ Oswald.

ARRESTED

The Mexican government ~~decided to arrest~~ Sylvia Irado de Duran

~~on~~ the same day. Captain Fernando Gutierrez Baines, Assistant

Director of the Federal Security police interrogated her at 6:00 p.m.

that evening (CE 2121, p. 35). [Ms. Duran stated that she began to

become the ~~temporary~~ <sup>acting</sup> secretary to the Consul, <sup>Eusebio Aguirre</sup> three months prior to

the assassination of John F. Kennedy ~~as a result of~~ <sup>due to</sup> the death of

Marcosman Olivan, who had been occupying ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> position]. (ibid p. 37)

She stated that in ~~at~~ late September or early October of 1963, a

North American, by the name of Lee Harvey Oswald, <sup>appeared at the Cuban Consulate</sup> ~~and~~ applied for <sup>an</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>interest</sup> visa

to Russia <sup>BY WAY OF</sup> ~~through~~ <sup>(ibid p. 39)</sup> Cuba. [Oswald presented evidence that he had

been in Russia for three years], that he was married to a Russian

woman and also that he was <sup>the leader</sup> ~~secretary~~ of an organization in New

Orleans called "Fair Play for Cuba" [Oswald stressed to Sylvia Duran

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that his visa application should be accepted as he was a friend  
 of the Cuban Revolution. <sup>(id. p. 35)</sup> Sylvia Duran stated that then, in compliance  
 with her duties, she filled out the appropriate application. <sup>had Oswald</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>(id. p. 39)</sup> [Oswald

then left and returned in the afternoon with the necessary  
 photographs. <sup>(id. p. 39)</sup> Ms. Duran stated that at that time, exceeding her

duties, she telephoned the Russian Consulate because of her interest  
 in facilitating the handling of the Russian visa for Lee Harvey Oswald. <sup>(id. p. 37)</sup>

The Russian Embassy <sup>told</sup> ~~announced~~ her that there <sup>would be a delay of</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>approximately</sup>  
 approximately four months in processing the case, which annoyed Lee

Harvey Oswald since, according to his statements, he was in a great  
 hurry to obtain a visa to travel to Russia. [He insisted on his right

to ~~be~~ <sup>obtain a visa</sup> in view of his background, loyalty and his activities on  
 behalf of the Cuban movement.] <sup>(id. p. 39)</sup> When Oswald understood

that it was not possible to give him a Cuban visa without ~~his~~ <sup>previously</sup>  
 obtaining a Russian visa, he became extremely angry. <sup>(id. 37)</sup> At this point, Ms.

Duran stated, <sup>that</sup> she called Consul Agene, who, at that time was in his  
 private office [accompanied by his <sup>offering</sup> ~~attendant~~ <sup>replacement</sup> Alfredo Mirabal]. <sup>(id. 4)</sup> Mr. Agene came

out of his office and argued with Oswald in English. <sup>(id. 4)</sup> ~~They argued and~~

[Mr. Agene told ~~him~~ <sup>Oswald</sup> that a person like him, instead of using the Cuban

Revolution did it harm.] <sup>(id. 4)</sup> Oswald at that point stated that ~~there was~~ <sup>he had to</sup> ~~far~~

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reasons for requesting his visa with urgency: one, that his <sup>Mexican</sup> permit ~~to~~ expired soon; and two, that ~~it was urgent that he reach Russia~~ <sup>he needed to reach Russia soon</sup> <sup>(Label p. 40)</sup> <sup>Mrs</sup> Duran stated that in spite of the argument she gave Oswald a piece of paper with her name

and <sup>Consulate</sup> <sup>(11-28-47)</sup> <sup>business</sup> phone number on it. <sup>(Label 40)</sup> [she also initiated the handling of his visa application by sending it to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign, <sup>Politics</sup> from which a reply was received in the normal manner some fifteen to thirty days later approving the issuance of <sup>AN INTERPASSIT</sup> <sup>on the condition that he</sup> ~~visa, but conditioning it on his previously obtaining a Russian (visa)~~ <sup>(Label p. 40)</sup> <sup>fact</sup>]

Mrs. Duran stated that she does not recall whether Oswald subsequently called her <sup>(Label, 40)</sup> <sup>Sylvia Duran</sup> on the Consulate phone number which she had given him. ~~She~~ stated that all the conversation that she and Enrique Azcue had with Oswald were in the English language since Oswald did not speak any Spanish. <sup>(Label p. 40)</sup> <sup>She</sup> [Finally, she stated that upon seeing Lee Harvey Oswald's photograph in the newspaper, she immediately recognized and identified it as being the same person that she remembered as Lee Harvey Oswald.] <sup>(Label p. 40)</sup>

~~Sylvia Duran was released Nov. 27, 1963 and rearrested Nov. 26, 1963 when the Mexican government found that Sylvia was attempting to leave Mexico for Havana (Cable from Ambassador to Headquarters, Nov. 27, 1963, Mex 7104, CIA # 492; Cable from <sup>Mexico</sup> ~~the~~ Station to Headquarters, Nov. 27, 1963, Mex 7101, CIA # 492) During the interrogation she remembered~~

~~denied he wore ~~any~~ glasses. (Cable from Mexico~~

## Original Signed Statement of Sylvia Duran Interrogation by Mexican Government

Sylvia Duran was arrested on Nov 23 and interrogated at 6:00 p.m. (see previous section) At that time her pertinent statements about the assassination and Lee Harvey Oswald were written down by the Mexican government and Sylvia signed the statement. They <sup>Separate</sup> were: Upon learning about this assassination she and her husband speculated that Kennedy may have been assassinated for racial reasons. When she became aware that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, she ascertained that it was the same man that about two months earlier had been to the Cuban Consulate to solicit an intransit visa to Russia, having taken his name from the special documentation he presented: he was married to a Russian woman and belonged to the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee"; she checked the data in the Consulate archives and then she became certain that it was the same individual, who was blonde, short, dressed inelegantly and whose face turned red when angry. This visa was denied ~~to him~~, the Consul told him, <sup>because</sup> that to obtain <sup>a visa</sup> from the Cuban government it was imperative that, <sup>personally</sup> he obtain <sup>a visa</sup> from <sup>the</sup> Soviet Consulate. Since obtaining a visa from the Soviets took four months and Oswald had to leave Mexico soon, <sup>Oswald</sup> he became excited, and <sup>she</sup> Duran who had an argument with him.

The only aid she could give Oswald was ~~in~~ advising that he go to the Soviet Consul, and also calling the person in charge of the office. The Soviet official told her that they would have to consult Moscow, which ~~could take~~ <sup>could take</sup> four months. That afternoon, ~~she~~ <sup>Oswald</sup> returned to the Cuban Consulate and Sylvia Duran confirmed that he could only get a Cuban visa, ~~when~~ <sup>only after</sup> he received a Russian visa. She ~~also~~ gave Oswald her name and business phone number but never gave him her address because she had no reason to give it to him.

She knew that phoning the <sup>Soviet</sup> Consulate was not one of her duties and that if she did so she did it only to help Oswald. She gave him her <sup>business</sup> phone number only because he would have to call subsequently to check whether he had obtained a visa. He never called back. (Blind Memo re Lee Harvey Oswald & Sylvia Duran,

November 26, 1963, CIA # 473.)

See next page  
 Sylvia Duran, <sup>protector</sup> was released Nov. 24, 1963. She was reunited ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> Oswald on Nov. 26(?) 1963 when the Mexican government ~~alleged~~ <sup>alleged</sup> that Sylvia was attempting to leave Mexico for Havana. (Cable from Mexico Headquarters to Headquarters, Nov 27, 1963, Mexi 7104, CIA # 482, Cable from Mexican Station to Headquarters, Nov 27, 1963, Mexi 7101, CIA # 493) During the

glasses (Cable from Mexico City Station to Director, Dec. 12, 1963, Mexi 7364, CIA No. 557558) otherwise though there was no addition to her original story (ibid)

Sylvia Duran was released Nov. 24, 1963 she was reunited

Nov. 2, 1963, when the Mexican government alleged that Sylvia Duran was attempting to leave Mexico and travel to Havana. (Cable from Mexico <sup>City Station</sup> Headquarters to Headquarters, November 27, 1963, Mexi 7104, CIA # 482;

Cable from Mexican <sup>City</sup> Station to Headquarters, Nov. 27, 1963, Mexi 7101, CIA # 493)

The Mexican government told Mrs. Duran on this occasion that they were holding her to protect her. (Interview conducted by H.S.C.A., June 6, 1978 in Mexico City) Subsequently, <sup>about her parent</sup> during her detainment, Duran stated, "They were very rough this time... they repeated the same questions but they were more, how do you say, evil. And they... wanted to know exactly what I have done in Cuba, the people that I met there, everything. They were asking me questions about all the people that were working in the Embassy and this time I wanted to go to the bathroom and they wouldn't take me and it was longer, because it was from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Interview conducted by H.S.C.A.,

June 6, 1978 in Mexico City). According to the Mexican officials that detained

ON ALL THE EXPLANATIONS: "OR" THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ~~COULD HAVE~~

(7)

~~HAD A DIFFERENT STATEMENT OR MORE EXTENSIVE NOTES~~

The following material found in the Warren Commission

EXTENSIVE NOTES

that there was a stenographer present all the time she was questioned.

Ms. Duran's tell

H.S.C.A. Staffer (Interview) H.S.C.A. Duran Jun 6, 1978 - Mex-Co-Cit

Exhibit 2121 was not in the Mexican government's <sup>interrogator</sup> report of Sylvia

Also c. Thomas

Duran:

1. Mrs Duran stated that she became the secretary to the Consul three months prior to the assassination of John F. Kennedy due to the death of Maximilian Alvarez, who had been occupying the position. [WCE W42121 p.37]

<sup>although</sup> Explanation: Mrs Duran did not make this statement in her signed affidavit

~~but~~ the Mexican government could easily have discovered the above <sup>since</sup> because

it actually occurred.

2. Oswald presented evidence that he had been in Russia for three years. [ibid p.39]

Explanation: Although Mrs Duran did not state this in her signed statement the Mexicans could attribute it to her because it appeared on Oswald's Cuban visa application. Insert. [see attached]

3. Oswald stressed to Sylvia Duran that his visa application should be accepted as he was a friend of the Cuban Revolution. [ibid p.39]

Explanation: It is possible that after Lee Harvey Oswald stated that he belonged to the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee" and then signed <sup>that getting a visa</sup> that

the Mexican government could have discovered that he had falsely stated that his visa application should be accepted as he was a



L.t. 7: Secretary at Cuban Embassy

L.t. 9: Cultural Attache

Duran she remembered Oswald perfectly and denied

he wore glasses. (Cable from Mexico City Station to

Director, Dec. 12, 1963, Mexi 7364, CIA No. 557-558) Otherwise the

Mexican officials <sup>state</sup> there was no addition to her original story. (ibid)

Also, in a cable from the Mexico City Station to Headquarters on Nov. 23, chief of Station Winston Scott writes that Cebanarra told him that Sylvia Duncan stated that Lee Harvey Oswald showed her a United States passport showing a long stay in USSR. [Cable chief of Station to Headquarters, Nov. 23, 1963, Mexi 7046, CIA No. 424; Chronology of Anne Goodpastor, entry no. 59, Nov. 23, 1963, CIA No. 638]

0299

4. Oswald then left and returned in the afternoon with the necessary photographs. (ibid p. 39)

Explanation: The Select Committee on Assassinations can not ~~understand~~ <sup>explain</sup> why this statement is attributed to Mrs Duran <sup>since</sup> ~~if~~ nowhere in her signed statement she mentions photographs. The only corroborating piece of information the Committee found was that Mr Escobar Aguirre, <sup>the</sup> Cuban Consul in an interview on with the House Select Committee on Assassinations stated that Oswald did not bring a photograph on his first visit to the Cuban Consulate and thus was forced to return the following morning with one. (HSCA int Escobar Aguirre, )

5. Oswald insisted on his right to obtain a visa in view of his background, loyalty and his activities on behalf of the Cuban movement. (ibid p. 39)

Explanation: See number three

6. Mrs. Duran stated the ~~called~~ <sup>she</sup> called Consul Aguirre, who at that time was in his private office accompanied by his upcoming replacement Alfredo Michal. (ibid p. 40)

Explanation: The House Select Committee on Assassinations found no evidence of this statement. It is not in Mrs. Duran's signed

stated that he was alone in his office when Sylvia Duran called him to speak to Oswald. Mrs. Duran stated to H.S.C.A. <sup>staffers</sup> that ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~office~~ <sup>office</sup> when she asked Agene ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~go~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~see~~ <sup>see</sup> Oswald. (Interview H.S.C.A., June 6, 1978 in Mexico City)

7. Mr. Agene told Oswald that a person like him, instead of aiding the Cuban Revolution, did it harm. (ibid p. 40)

Explanation: Both Mr. Duran and Mr. Agene told H.S.C.A. staffers that Agene ~~made~~ <sup>made</sup> this statement. ~~It is possible that the Mexican government could~~ ~~assume, in light of the argument between Oswald and Agene, that~~ ~~Agene could make such a statement.~~

8. She also initiated the handling of his visa application by sending it to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations, from which a reply was received in the normal manner some fifteen to thirty days later & approving the issuance of a visa, on the condition that he previously obtain a Russian visa. (ibid p. 40)

Explanation: <sup>Insert explanation top of p. 7</sup> ~~Although this statement is not in Mrs. Duran's signed statement, it actually occurred and the Mexican government could (have) attributed (the) statement to (her).~~ Mrs. Duran stated that

9. Mrs. Duran stated that she does not recall whether Oswald subsequently called her on the Consulate phone number which she had given him. (ibid p. 40)

Explanation: Mrs. Duran never made the above statement. In fact ~~statement~~ she said that she had given <sup>Oswald</sup> ~~him~~ <sup>him</sup>.

her business phone number because he would have to call subsequently to check whether he had obtained a visa, but that

he had never called back. Ms. Duran also told H.S.C.A. staffers that she knows that Oswald never called back. (Interview Sylvia Duran, June 6, 1978, WFO: (A))

10. Sylvia Duran stated that all the conversations that she and Emilio Azcaré had with Oswald were in the English language since Oswald did not speak any Spanish. (ibid p. 40)

Insert on p. 7  
Sylvia Duran's original statement was in English  
& original book committee

Explanation: Sylvia does not state this in her signed statement. The Mexican government and the Central Intelligence Agency both had information from

the tags that a person who called the Soviet Embassy, allegedly Oswald, spoke Spanish in some of his conversations (see section on Russian Embassy tags) <sup>for clarification</sup> ~~Keep as is till our conclusions.~~

11. Sylvia Duran stated that upon seeing Lee Harvey Oswald's photograph in the newspapers, she immediately recognized and identified it as being the same person that she remembered as Lee Harvey Oswald (ibid p. 41)

Explanation: <sup>Begin with "In."</sup> ~~Ms. Duran did not make this statement.~~ <sup>they say the above (in her signed statement)</sup> She said that when she became aware that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, she ascertained that it was the same man that about <sup>two</sup> ~~about~~

months earlier had been to the Cuban Consulate to solicit an entransit visa to Russia, having taken his name from the special

and belonged to the Fair Play For Cuba Committee; she checked the data in the Consulate archives and then she became certain that it was the same individual who was blonde, short, dressed unelegantly and whose face turned red when angry. (Blind Memo re Lee Harvey Oswald + Sylvia Dusan; November 26, 1963, CIA # 473) ~~But in a~~ cable from the Mexico City Station to Headquarters on Nov. 23, 1963, Chief of Station Winston Scott writes that Chevarria told him that Sylvia Dusan stated that she had recognized Oswald on TV November 22 and had told her husband, Horatio Dusan, about the visit. (Cable Chief of Station to Headquarters, Nov. 23, 1963, Mexis 7046, CIA No. 426; Chronology of Amos Hodgastine, entry no. 59, Nov. 23, 1963, CIA No. 638)

The following material found in Sylvia Duran's signed statement never made its way to the Warren Commission's Exhibit 2121.

1. When she became aware that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, she ascertained that it was - the same man that about two months earlier had been to the Cuban Consulate to solicit an transit visa to Russia, having taken his name from the special documentation he presented: he was married to a Russian woman and belonged to - the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee"; she checked the data in the Consulate

archives and then she became certain that it was - the same individual, who was blonde, short, dressed unelegantly and whose face turned red when angry. (Blond Memo re Lee Harvey Oswald + Sylvia Duran, 12/26/63, CIA # 473)

Explanation: The statement attributed to Mrs. Duran in the interrogative report given to the Warren Commission was not the above but the following: Sylvia Duran stated that upon seeing Lee Harvey Oswald's photograph in the newspapers, she immediately recognized and identified

it as being the same person that she remembered as Lee Harvey Oswald. Never did the Mexican gov<sup>ts</sup> to the WC state that Duran had described Oswald as blonde + short.

2. Sylvia Duran's original statement to the Mexican officials it appears that Oswald may have had the argument with the Consul on his first visit to the Consulate and <sup>then that afternoon</sup> that later he returned

Explanation: This can be explained ~~in terms~~<sup>by</sup> of the ~~way~~<sup>manner</sup> the original is written. It is just statements and is not in any chronological order. (This question will be explained when we question her in Mexico City.)

3. The only aid she could give Oswald was advising him to go to the Soviet Consul. (Blind Memo re Lee Harvey Oswald + Sylvia Dusan 12/26/63, CIA # 473)

Explanation: In Warren Commission exhibit 2121, received from the Mexican government, it appears that the Consul flatly rejected Oswald's visa application and never offered him any advice.

4. Although not in Mrs. Dusan's <sup>signed</sup> statement <sup>as in WC 2121</sup> nor a <sup>cable</sup> ~~message~~ disseminated to the FBI, State Department and the White House, Headquarters quotes from the Mexican police report of Dusan's <sup>in WC 2121</sup> ~~interview~~ <sup>interview</sup>: "The Consul then spoke by telephone to the person in charge of that office, and was informed that the case would have to be referred to Moscow and that there would be a four month delay. (Cable Headquarters to <sup>FBI</sup> ~~State~~ <sup>State</sup> White House, <sup>11/23, 1963,</sup> DIR 85758.) The message above was verified by an interview <sup>of Dusan's agent</sup> conducted by the HSCA.



