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SILVIA TIRADO BOZAN DE DURAN

Personal information taken from her interrogations on 23 and 28 November 1963:

"Silvia Tirado de DURAN stated she is Mexican by birth, 26 years old, married, no religion, employed, address in Dept. 3, house no. 143 Constituyentes, Mexico City; that she has been married to Horacio DURAN Navarro since 5 November 1958 and that they have a daughter named Patricia three and one-half years old; that in July or August of 1961, she was offered employment as coordinator at the Mexican-Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations, then headed by Lic. Augustin Cue CANOVAS. That since that time she had frequently visited officers of the Cuban Embassy, having personal friendship with Ambassador PORTUONDO, the cultural attaches Teresa PROENZA and Luis ALVERU as well as with other employees. Her contacts were principally with Maricarmen OLAVARRI, Secretary to Consul Eusebio AZCUE, a Spaniard and relative of AZCUE, and who received 500 pesos monthly.

"In December 1961 she and her husband made a trip to Havana by plane. They paid for their own tickets, but all other expenses of their visit to all the islands were paid by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos - ICAP) and the Cultural House.

"She sympathized with the Cuban movement since its beginning; that she was a coordinator of the Mexican-Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations since July or August 1961 and that she studied for the career of an English-Spanish secretary at the Escuela Bancaria. She mastered English, knows some French, and is studying philosophy. She has a leftist ideology, by conviction, and is in accord with communism, but does not belong to any political group nor has she participated in meetings or acts of this nature. That officers of the Cuban Embassy, including the Consul, have been in her home; that she knows almost all the principal leftists in Mexico without being a friend of them; that except for one visit to Brownsville, Texas, she has not been in the United States."

[Memorandum for Mr. J. Lee RANKIN, dated 21 February 1964, from Richard HELMS, Deputy Director for Plans; Subject: Translations of Interrogation Reports of Silvia DURAN.]

"She said she knew Carlos LECHUGA Hevia who was Cuban Ambassador in Mexico and who arrived here when she was working as Coordinator in the Mexican-Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations. She became friendly with this person but she never did any personal work for him. She said that this Ambassador came to her house to visit her on the occasion of a party which she held. She considers him as a friend and she saw him frequently

"She said that while she was working in the aforementioned Institute, and before working as a secretary in the Consulate she went to the Cuban Embassy to help Teresa PROENZA. The help she rendered there consisted of answering the telephones and doing secondary tasks.

The Cultural Attache PROENZA never assigned her any work outside the Embassy. She said that she had know PROENZA before she had been coordinator for the Institute since she was a good friend of Paul FLORES Guerrero, the husband of DURAN's sister-in-law, who died about three and a half years ago. It was through FLORES that DURAN met PROENZA.

"She stated that she has had her present ideology for about five years, and that it is based on conviction and studies. She said she had not belonged nor does she belong to any student groups.

"DURAN indicated she was acquainted with the Leninist Spactacus League (Liga Leninista Espartaco) but that she is not in agreement with it, and that her husband shares her opinion. They admire Jose REVUELTAS as a writer but not as a politician since they are in disagreement with his book entitled "The Headless Proletariat" (Proletariado sin Cabeza) in which he tries to prove the inexistence of the Mexican Communist Party (Partido Comunista Mexicano, PCM) while it is obvious that this party does indeed exist, although it is disorganized. She said that she had not belonged to this organization but that she is friendly with its leaders such as Jose REVUELTAS and the two LIZALDES.

"She disclaimed membership in the PCM, and said she had not tried to joon it because she was in disagreement with it except for its support of Cuba."

[Memorandum for Mr. J. Lee RANKIN, dated 21 February 1964, from Richard HELMS, Deputy Director for Plans; Subject: Translations of Interrogation Reports of Silvia DURAN.]

At the time of her arrest on 23 November 1963, DURAN had been employed by the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City as a temporary replacement for Maricarmen OLIVARRI upon the latter's death in July 1963. Maricarmen OLAVARRI had served as secretary to the Cuban Consul Eusebio AZCUE, who left Mexico on 18 November 1963 after having been replaced by Alfredo MIRAVAL Y DIAZ.

DURAN's duties included the preparation of visas and the handling of visa applications which were forwarded to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval.

[MEXI-7065 (IN 67737), 25 November 1963; FBI Report, dated 18 May 1964.]

Horacio DURAN Navarro - Mexican by birth; an industrial designer, forty years old, and lives in Mexico City at Constituyentes, Dept. 3. He lived the first eight years of his life in Los Angeles, California; he then lived in Chile for one and a half years before returning to Meixco. He received a degree from the Escuela Nacional de Artes Plasticas. Formerly married to Lucille DEJARDIN, but divorced her on 5 November 1958 after six years of marriage. He then married his present wife Silvia Tirado de DURAN.

[DIR 85668, 29 November 1963.]

26 November 1962 : (Date of dissemination)

A usually reliable and sensitive source in Mexico City reported that on 26 November 1962 Gladys LECHUGA, wife of Carlos LECHUGA, Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations, formerly Cuban Ambassador to Mexico, said that she had received two letters from her husband in New York. He asked for separation and said that the person in whom he is interested is Silvia T. de DURAN; that she is "of his ideas" and was willing to go to Cuba. According to source, Teresa PROENZA, Cultural Attache at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City said that DURAN had never been a Marxist or a communist.

Another usually reliable source with good contacts in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City reported in November 1962 that LECHUGA and DURAN did have an affair. The Cuban Embassy was aware of it, but efforts were made to keep it from becoming known.

Information from a source whose reliability could not be judged reported that LECHUGA had offered to marry DURAN, a Mexican married woman, after divorcing his wife, since she (Silvia DURAN) was ready to accompany him to Cuba.

[DIR 84950, 25 November 1963; dissemination to the FBI.]

27 September 1963 :

In mid-afternoon, Silvia DURAN informed the Soviet Embassy that a male American citizen had requested a visa to transit Cuba on his way to the Soviet Union. She wanted to know who the American had talked with at the Soviet Consulate. Also, she indicated that the Cuban Consulate could grant him the visa and arrange immigration details if the concession of a Soviet visa were assured.

[Memorandum for Mr. J. Lee RANKIN, dated 31 January 1964, from Richard HELMS, Deputy Director for Plans; Subject: Information Developed by CIA on the Activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico City, 28 September - 3 October 1963.]

27 September 1963 :

At 1605 hours (Mexico time) on Friday, 27 September 1963, Silvia DURAN, a Mexican national, a local employee of the Cuban Embassy, Consular Section, a receptionist [sic] speaks with an unknown male at the Soviet Embassy. Silvia DURAN tells the man that the American citizen was there, the one who wants a visa for Cuba on his way to the Soviet Union, and he wants to know with whom he was talking there because she (Silvia DURAN) had sent him to the Soviet Embassy saying that if they accepted him and gave him a visa, then the Cubans (Embassy) would also give him a visa without further paper work, only advising immigration in Cuba. The American, she says, wants to know with whom he had talked there because he says he was told there would be no problem. The man in the Soviet Embassy says to wait a moment. A different Soviet speaks, and Silvia DURAN explains the same thing to him. This man says to leave a name and telephone number and says he will call back. Silvia DURAN gives the telephone number 11-28-47 (Cuban Consulate). She also takes advantage of the conversation and stated she has moved and wants to advise the Soviet Embassy of her change of address so that she can receive the Soviet Embassy's bulletin. The man says to call KOUKHARENKO to give her new address, then

he asks the name of the Consul or Cultural Attache. Silvia DURAN says the name is Teresa PROENZA and the telephone number is 14-13-26. The man says thanks.

[Memorandum for Deputy Chief, Operations Staff, dated 2 May 1975, from Raymond G. ROCCA; Subject: Review of Agency Holdings Regarding Photograph of Unidentified Individual in Mexico City Published by the Warren Commission.]

27 September 1963 :

Pursuant to her inquiry, Silvia DURAN received a confirmation from the Soviet Embassy that the American had been to the USSR installation. He had shown them a letter from the Soviet Consulate in Washington indicating that he had been long awaiting a visa for himself and his wife to go to the USSR. No answer had come from Washington; however, the waiting period was sometimes four or five months. The American also had a letter attesting that he was a member of a pro-Cuban organization but he had claimed that the Cubans would not give him a visa unless he had already received a Russian visa.

Although the American was still at the Cuban Consulate, Silvia DURAN repeated that she could not give him a transit visa unless a Soviet visa was forthcoming, notwithstanding the American's wish to go to Cuba to wait there for his Soviet visa. According to DURAN, the American knew no one in Cuba and she intended to annotate appropriately the American's card. The Soviet official echoed her statement that the American was not known.

[Memorandum for Mr. J. Lee RANKIN, dated 31 January 1964, from Richard HELMS, Deputy Director for Plans; Subject: Information Developed by CIA on the Activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico City, 28 September - 3 October 1963.]

27 September 1963 :

At 1626 hours (Mexico time) on Friday, 27 September 1963, an unidentified male, a Soviet, calls the Cuban Consulate, asks Silvia DURAN if the American had been there. Silvia DURAN says he is there now. The Soviet says the

American showed papers from the Consulate in Washington, that he wants to go to the Soviet Union and be there for a long time with his wife, who is Russian, but the answer has not come from Washington in respect to this problem, and according to this procedure it takes four to five months, but without permission from the Soviet Union they should ask, or better said, they cannot issue a visa there without asking Washington. However, according to this man, he showed a letter indicating he was a member of an organization in favor of Cuba and that the Cubans said that they cannot issue a visa without his having a visa for the Soviet Union, and now he (the Soviet) does not know what to do with him (the American), because they have to wait for an answer from Washington.

Silvia DURAN agrees the same problem exists with the Cubans, that the problem with him (the American) is that he does not know anyone in Cuba and therefore if that is true it will be difficult for him to get a visa for Cuba, because he was thinking of processing his visa (for the Soviet Union), because he knew it would require waiting a long time for his visa to the Soviet Union while in Cuba, and from there go to the Soviet Union. The Soviet said the thing is that if his wife right now were in Washington she would receive her visa right now, or permission, from the Soviet Union, to return to her country, she is going to receive her visa in Washington but having this visa, she could communicate to any place this permission, for example here or any place she could receive it (visa or permission), but right now they do not have them. Silvia DURAN says certainly and they cannot give a letter either because they do not know if the visa will be approved. The Soviet says he cannot give a letter or recommendation either because he does not know him (the American) and asks to be excused for bothering her. Silvia says that's all right and many thanks.

[Memorandum for Deputy Chief, Operations Staff, dated 2 May 1975, from Raymond ROCCA; Subject: Review of Agency Holdings

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Regarding Photograph of Unidentified Individual in Mexico City Published by the Warren Commission.]

28 September 1963 :

Silvia DURAN was again visited at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City by the American seeking a Cuban transit visa. Mrs. DURAN contacted at least two members of the Soviet Embassy and facilitated a direct conversation between one of the Soviets and the American. Conversing in poor Russian, the American stated that he already had been to the Soviet Consulate and had left an address. The Soviet official replied that he was aware of that. The American suggested that he had not known his address then, and he had gone to the Cuban Embassy to ask for the address, because they had it. The American then acceded to the Soviet official's invitation to come by and give them the address.

[Memorandum for Mr. J. Lee RANKIN, dated 31 January 1964, from Richard HELMS, Deputy Director for Plans; Subject: Information Developed by CIA on the Activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico City, 28 September - 3 October 1963.]

28 September 1963 :

At 1151 hours (Mexico time) on Saturday, 28 September 1963, Silvia DURAN calls the USSR Embassy and talks to an unidentified Soviet. She says that in the Cuban Embassy there is a North American who was at the Soviet Embassy. The Soviet says wait a minute. Silvia DURAN speaks English with someone - and comments in Spanish that they gave APARICIO telephone number 14-12-99 and to take the number down - Silvia DURAN then says the American citizen is going to talk with you, i.e., the Soviet. The American first speaks Russian and the Soviet speaks English. They continue in English. The American talks broken Russian and says I was in your Embassy and spoke to your Consul. Just a minute. A Soviet takes the phone and asks the American in English what does he want. The American says please speak Russian. The Russian says what else do you want? The American says I was just now at



your Embassy and they took my address. The Soviet says I know that. The American, in hardly recognizable Russian, says I did not know it then. I went to the Cuban Embassy to ask them for my address, because they have it. The Soviet says why don't you come again and leave your address with us, it is not far from the Cuban Embassy. The American says I'll be there right away.

[Memorandum for Deputy Chief, Operations Staff, dated 2 May 1975, from Raymond G. ROCCA; Subject: Review of Agency Holdings Regarding Photograph of Unidentified Individual in Mexico City Published by the Warren Commission.]

23 November 1963 :

Mexico Station suggests to the Ministry of Gobernacion that Silvia DURAN, who is a Mexican employee at the Cuban Embassy and who put Lee OSWALD on the telephone from the Cuban Embassy to talk to the Soviet Embassy on 28 September, be arrested immediately and held incommunicado until she gives all details relating to OSWALD known to her.

[MEXI-7029 (IN ), 23 November 1963.]

23 November 1963 :

LIC. Luis ECHEVARRIA informed the Chief of Station at 1800 Mexico time that Silvia DURAN and her husband had already been arrested. They are presently under interrogation by Gobernacion authorities. The Chief of Station asked ECHEVARRIA to take measures requested in DIR 84916 [see below]. ECHEVARRIA promised to try to keep arrest secret. He definitely promised all information obtained from DURANS. First report should be ready by 2000 Mexico time. Station added that it will not be possible to keep arrest from her family and from Cuban Embassy very long.

[MEXI-7037 (IN 67236), 24 November 1963.]

23 November 1963 : (Date of dissemination)

Headquarters disseminates to the Federal Bureau of Investigation information regarding Silvia DURAN, arrested

by Mexican authorities before 6:00 p.m. on 23 November 1963 for interrogation.

[DIR 84950, 25 November 1963.]

23 November 1963 :

Headquarters tells Mexico City Station that the arrest of Silvia DURAN is an extremely serious matter which could prejudice United States Government freedom of action on the entire question of Cuban responsibility. With full regard for Mexican interests, Headquarters requests the Station to ensure that her arrest is kept absolutely secret, that no information from her is published or leaked, that all such information is cabled to Headquarters, and that the fact of her arrest and her statements are not spread to leftist or disloyal circles in the Mexican Government.

[DIR 84916, 23 November 1963.]

23 November 1963 :

At 1915 hours (Mexico time), the Mexico City Station advised the Legal Attache of Silvia DURAN's arrest and of Headquarters' desire for secrecy. The Legal Attache had not heard of the arrest although he had talked to Gobernacion contacts several times during the last hour. The Station indicated that it had also informed the Ambassador.

[MEXI-7042 (IN ), 23 November 1963.]

23 November 1963 :

Silvia DURAN was arrested at home with her husband and members of the family who were having a party. All were taken to jail. Since she had told not only her husband but other members of the family about OSWALD's visits after she read the name and saw his picture on television, she attributed her arrest to a denunciation by a cousin whom she does not like. The Station then indicates that the source of the Mexican Government's knowledge (of her contact with OSWALD) has not been revealed to her.

[MEXI-7054 (IN 67378), 24 November 1963.]

23 November 1963 :

Silvia DURAN had the impression that OSWALD had or believed he had made arrangements in Washington whereby instructions would be sent to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico to issue a Soviet entry visa in a manner which would not require him personally to visit the Soviet Embassy. Failure of his real or imagined instructions to work smoothly caused him to become rude to the Soviets. Her impression was that he was simply a "comrade" who could not live comfortably under the rigors of capitalism and wished to return to his spiritual home in the USSR. If OSWALD talked to anyone else in the Cuban Embassy, she was unaware of it.

[MEXI-7054 (IN 67378), 24 November 1963.]

23 November 1963 :

According to source, the staff meeting at the Cuban Embassy on 23 November was very short and somber. The general impression was one of shock and disbelief.

[MEXI-7115 (IN 69636), 28 November 1963.]

24 November 1963 :

Luis ECHEVARRIA told the Chief of Station that Silvia DURAN was completely cooperative and gave a written statement attesting to two visits by OSWALD. She could not remember the exact dates but said it was the latter part of September. OSWALD showed her a American passport showing a  long stay in the USSR. OSWALD said he was a communist and an admirer of CASTRO. He wanted her help to get a transit visa to Cuba in order to go to the USSR. She said she could only arrange transit through Cuba if he already had a Soviet visa. The Soviets told her that they had further checking to do before they could issue a visa. DURAN did not know why he returned to the United States without a visa. DURAN told Gobernacion that she had recognized OSWALD on the television on 22 November 1963.

The Chief of Station has told the Ambassador of DURAN's arrest and will brief the Legal Attache at 0930, 25 November,

at a meeting in the Ambassador's office.

[MEXI-7046 (IN 67278), 24 November 1963.]

24 November 1963 :

Luis ECHEVARRIA is aware of the United States Government's concern regarding any leaks and has warned Silvia DURAN about talking. He feels, however, that at least the fact of the arrest may well be leaked by other members of her family who were picked up at the same time. The Chief of Station will continue to push the need for secrecy. DURAN and her husband will be released but will be kept under close surveillance.

[MEXI-7054 (IN 67378), 24 November 1963.]

24 November 1963 :

Headquarters asks the Mexico Station that when Lee OSWALD was in Mexico City in late September and early October to get a Soviet visa and a Cuban transit visa, did he want to travel to Cuba right away, alone, or have his wife join him there and then leave later? Although it appears that he was then thinking only about a peaceful change of residence to the Soviet Union, it is also possible that he was getting documented to make a quick escape after assassinating the President.

[DIR 84920, 24 November 1963.]

25 November 1963 :

Headquarters asks that LITAMIL/9 be queried as to his knowledge regarding Lee OSWALD's contacts with the Cuban and Soviet Embassies.

[DIR 84926, 25 November 1963.]

25 November 1963 :

The Mexico City Station responds that LITAMIL/9 was asked this point during the night of 23 November, but he disclaimed any knowledge of OSWALD's visits. The Station has instructed him to report any new facts or significant reactions of his associates.

[MEXI-7065 (IN 67737), 25 November 1963.]

25 November 1963 : (Date of dissemination)

Headquarters disseminates information on Silvia DURAN to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[DIR 84950, 25 November 1963; Subject: Silvia T. DURAN, Mexican Employee of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, Contact with Lee OSWALD.]

25 November 1963 :

Silvia DURAN returned to her office. She seemed quite please with her performance. Her account of the interrogation contained little new except that the police had threatened her with extradition to the United States to face OSWALD. She had no fear of a confrontation with him.

[MEXI-7115 (IN 69636), 28 November 1963.]

25 November 1963 :

The FBI interviewed Salvador DIAZ Verson (on an unknown date) in Miami. The latter stated that while he was in Mexico City from 20 to 29 November 1963, attending the Congress of the International Federation of Professional Newspaper Organization, he was at the offices of the newspaper Excelsior on the night of 25 November 1963. There he learned through the Mexican press that the Mexican Government had arrested one Silvia DURAN; that DURAN allegedly had OSWALD as a guest in her house during his visit to Mexico; that DURAN placed OSWALD in contact with officials of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. DIAZ Verson went on to claim that he was told by Dr. DORRELL Navarros, an exiled Cuban newspaperman employed by Excelsior that OSWALD and DURAN on the day following OSWALD's arrival in Mexico City went to a restaurant called the Caballo Blanco or possibly the Caballo Bayo where they met an official of the Cuban Embassy. DIAZ Verson claimed he knows nothing about OSWALD and the Cuban official leaving the restaurant together in a car.

(NB: DIAZ Verson was interviewed by the FBI sometime before 11 January 1964.)

[Memorandum to Mr. Clarence A. BOONSTRA, Charge d'affaires

ad interim, dated 29 January 1964, from Clark D. ANDERSON, Legal Attache; Subject: Lee Harvey OSWALD. Copy to Winston M. SCOTT.]

26 November 1963 :

Mexico City Station forwards to Headquarters a translation of a conversation between Cuban President DORTICOS in Havana and Ambassador Joaquin HERNANDEZ Armas in Mexico City at 0924 hours on 26 November 1963.

DORTICOS was concerned whether the Mexicans had questioned Silvia DURAN about the passage of money to the "American". The Ambassador responded that she had not been asked about money.

[MEXI-7068 (IN ), 26 November 1963.]

26 November 1963 :

The Cuban Government passes a note to the Mexican Ambassador to Cuba, Gilberto BOSQUES, protesting the action of the Mexican police in questioning an employee of the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City about OSWALD's reported application for a Cuban transit visa during his visit.

In its note, the Cuban Government had charged that its Consulate's employee, Senora Silvia DURAN, had been detained by the police on 23 November, held in prison until midnight, physically mistreated, and subjected to insinuations about alleged "intimate relations" with OSWALD. The Cuban note said that this "illegal" investigation corresponded to the plan of reactionaries in the United States who were using President Kennedy's assassination to promote a war policy on the bases of accusations against Cuba and the Soviet Union. Alleging that the Mexican police actions had disregarded the minimum guarantees owed to employees of a consular office, the Cuban note concluded that the incident had damaged the friendly relations between the two countries.

[U. S. Embassy Despatch, Mexico City, dated 2 December 1963, despatch no. illegible.]

26 November 1963 :

Mexico City Station forwards Ambassador's message for passing to the Secretary of State, Mr. McCONE, and Mr. HOOVER.

In his message, the Ambassador suggested that the Mexicans should rearrest and interrogate Silvia Tirado de DURAN along the following lines:

"a. Confront Silvia DURAN again with Nicaraguan and have Nicaraguan inform her of details of his statement to us.

"b. Tell Silvia DURAN that she is the only living non-Cuban who knows the full story and hence she is in the same position as OSWALD was prior to his assassination; her only chance for survival is to come clean with the whole story and to cooperate completely with the Mexican Government in return for Mexican Government protection.

"c. She will not in any case be allowed to leave Mexico."

The Ambassador asks for immediate instructions on whether "we are authorized to request President LOPEZ Mateos to rearrest and take Silvia DURAN into protective custody. Danger of her disappearance or murder may be immediate and great."

[MEXI-7072 (IN ), 26 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 :

Headquarters suggests to the Mexico Station that in lieu of arresting Silvia DURAN, she be placed under close surveillance by CIA or by Mexican authorities.

[DIR 85198, 27 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 : (date of dissemination)

Headquarters disseminates information obtained from Silvia Tirado de DURAN to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The dissemination is based upon MEXI-7054 (IN 67378) and MEXI-7065 (IN 67737)..

[DIR 85222, 27 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 :

At 1215 hours (Mexico time), Luis ECHEVARRIA, acting Minister of Gobernacion, informed the Chief of Station that Silvia DURAN had been rearrested because she was attempting

[REDACTED]

to leave Mexico for Cuba.

[MEXI-7101 (IN 69048), 27 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 :

Headquarters instructs the Mexico Station that, in light of DURAN's second arrest, Mexican authorities should interrogate Silvia DURAN to the extent necessary to clarify outstanding points which have been raised by your cables during the last 48 hours. Headquarters goes on to say that the Station may provide questions to the Mexican interrogators "but we do not want any Americans to confront Silvia DURAN or be in contact with her."

[DIR 85318, 27 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 :

With reference to DIR 85318 (see above entry), Headquarters tells the Mexico Station that it wants to be certain "that there is no misunderstanding between us, we want to insure that neither Sylvia DURAN nor the Cubans gets the impression that the Americans behind her rearrest. In other words, we want Mexican authorities to take responsibility for whole affair."

[DIR 85371, 27 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 : (Date of dissemination)

Headquarters reports Silvia DURAN's second arrest to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the State Department, and the White House. Dissemination based upon MEXI-7101 (IN 69048), 27 November 1963.

[DIR 85471, 27 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 :

Mexico City Station forwards to Headquarters a translation of a second conversation between President DORTICOS and Ambassador HERNANDEZ Armas which took place at 1839 (Mexico time) on 27 November. DORTICOS appeared to be still concerned whether the Mexicans had threatened Silvia DURAN to force her into making a statement to the effect that the



(Cuban) Consulate had given money "to the man . . . that American". The Ambassador responded that at no time had they done such a thing.

[MEXI-7097 (IN ), 27 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 :

LITAMIL/9 reported that after Silvia DURAN's first arrest it was public knowledge that there was a great deal of discussion of this action in the Embassy. LITAMIL/9 described DURAN as being very intelligent and quick witted.

According to source, there was almost no discussion about the assassination in the Embassy, nor did he hear any expressions of pleasure.

[MEXI-7115 (IN 69636), 28 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 :

Headquarters requests Mexico City Station not to take any action to rearrest Silvia DURAN or to arrest others without approval from Washington.

[DIR 85178, 27 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 :

Headquarters suggests to the Mexico City Station that "in lieu of arresting DURAN, she be put under close surveillance by the CIA or by Mexican authorities."

[DIR 85198, 27 November 1963.]

27 November 1963 :

Headquarters informs the Mexico City Station that the Department of Justice is preparing a report on the whole assassination case and will undoubtedly want to include the detailed data on OSWALD's activities in Mexico. Obviously the telephone tap material cannot be used, but the statements of Silvia DURAN which carry essentially the same import could be used without compromising Mexico Station's sources or revealing the nature and extent of your liaison. Therefore request you cable in a translated version of her statements and obtain [official Mexican] permission to use these statements

[ ]

in the official report, which, incidentally will be published.

[DIR 95245, 27 November 1963.]

27 - 29 November 1963 :

Silvia DURAN was arrested for the second time on 27 November, interrogated on the 28th, and released on the 29th of November. The interrogation was based upon questions prepared by the Station and approved by the Legal Attache.

"a. Asked her relations with a number of individuals including some invented names and others registered owners of cars she had been seen in during a January 1963 surveillance. Disclaimed knowledge of all.

"b. Claimed never a member of the Liga Leninista Espartaco or PFM, inasmuch as she did not agree with ideas of neither except for support of Cuba.

"c. Claimed no affiliation with ICAP, nor connection with the Soviet Embassy which only visited twice, once for GAGARIN - TERESKOVA reception and once at anniversary of Revolution.

"d. Remembered OSWALD perfectly and denied he wore glasses. Otherwise no additions to original story.

"e. Knew of no re-daired negro in the Cuban Embassy. No new people arrived at the Embassy around the time of OSWALD's visits.

"f. Admitted to a one two-week trip to Cuba in 1961. No trips since then and does not plan to go. She denied having asked the Ambassador to send her there after her first interrogation."

[MEXI-7364 (IN 79373), 12 December 1963]

28 November 1963 :

Mexico City Station comments that the second pickup of Silvia DURAN, which was made on the Government's initiative without prior consultation with Station or the U. S. Embassy, obviously evidence of a great desire of Mexican authorities to be of service. Immediately after pickup, ECHEVARRIA had received instructions from LITENSOR personally not to release DURAN until Winston SCOTT said so. At Headquarters' request, Chief of Station furnished interrogation questions to ECHEVARRIA night of 27 November.

[MEXI-7118 (IN 69656), 28 November 1963.]

[REDACTED]

28 November 1963 :

The Mexico Station advises Headquarters that it is sending a photostatic copy of a ten-page statement by Silvia DURAN obtained from Luis ECHEVARRIA. Roger T. KINGMAN (P) will carry the document to Washington where he is arriving at Dulles Airport at 0800 on 28 November 1963.

[MEXI-7105 (IN ), 27 November 1963.]

28 November 1963 :

In light of DIR 85371, the Station felt it had no alternative but to inform ECHEVARRIA that neither SCOTT nor the U. S. Government making an official request for DURAN's continued detention. The decision to release her must be theirs (the Mexicans). This was done at 1200 noon (Mexico time) on 28 November.

[MEXI-7118 (IN 69656), 28 November 1963.]

28 November 1963 :

Luis ECHEVARRIA advised the Chief of Station that unless there are significant developments from the present interrogation of Silvia DURAN (based upon questions furnished by the COS on 27 November) or from the interrogation of Gilberto ALVARADO, DURAN will be released during the night of 28 November or early morning 29 November.

[MEXI-7124 (IN 69676), 28 November 1963.]

28 November 1963 :

Luis ECHEVARRIA advised the Chief of Station that the Mexican Government had refused to accept the very rude note of protest handed to the Mexican Ambassador BOSQUES in Havana on 27 November by Raul ROA, the Cuban foreign minister.

[MEXI-7124 (IN 69676), 28 November 1963.]

28 November 1963 :

The Mexican Foreign Minister Manuel TELLO announced on 28 November that the Mexican Ambassador to Cuba, Gilberto BOSQUES, had been instructed to return as "unacceptable" the

[REDACTED]

Cuban Government's note of November 26 which had protested the acton of Mexican police in questioning an employee of the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City about OSWALD's reported application for a Cuban transit visa during his visit.

[Embassy Despatch, Mexico City, dated 2 December 1963; DST 28350.]

29 November 1963 :

ECHEVARRIA advised the Chief of Station early on 29 November that Silvia DURAN had been released again at about 1900 hours (Mexico City time) on 28 November. DURAN is under close surveillane and will be apprehended any time information received warrants such an action. She still appears to the Mexicans to have been involved only in business of possible Cuban and Soviet visas for OSWALD.

[MEXI-7125 (IN 70103), 29 November 1963.]

29 November 1963 : (date of dissemination)

Headquarters disseminates highlights of official Mexican interrogation of Horacio DURAN Navarro and Silvia Tirado de DURAN.

[DIR 85669, 29 November 1963.]

29 November 1963 : (date of dissemination)

Headquarters disseminates to the FBI, State Department, and the White House information relating to Silvia DURAN contained in MEXI-7115 (IN 69636), 28 November 1963.

[DIR 85670, 29 November 1963.]

29 November 1963 :

The Chief of Station passes to the Legal Attache a copy of a ten-page statement of information obtained by the Ministry of Gobernacion during the first detention of Silvia DURAN.

[Memorandum for Mr. Clark D. ANDERSON, Legal Attache, dated 29 November 1963, from Winston M. SCOTT.]

~~29 November 1963~~ :

~~Headquarters states that it wants to be sure that Mexico Station is immediately giving the Legal Attache everything~~

~~the Station receives about~~

