

Chapter 2

Epilogue

extra space

Long after this draft was completed, In July, 1995, my friend Andy Winiarczyk thoughtfully gave me a copy of the only recently printed In the Eye of the Storm: Castro, Khrushchev, Kennedy and the Missile Crisis. That important book is the memoir of the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations at the time of that crisis and for some time thereafter, Carlos Lechuga. He was Castro's representative in negotiations with John Kennedy as each sought in his own way to defuse the ⁴situation that continued and continued to be dangerous.

There was no interest in the United States in publishing any book not in accord with the official ^{Cuba} mythology. It was printed and published in Australia in 1995, by Ocean Press. Distribution elsewhere ~~was~~ had to be outside of the major systems for distributing books. The publisher says of ^{Lechuga:} ~~him~~.

Carlos Lechuga Hevia was Cuba's ambassador to the United Nations at the time of the Missile Crisis and took an active part in some of the negotiation and statements in that world forum.

After the crisis, he participated in the contacts Kennedy made with Fidel Castro — which many analysts consider were aimed at opening up channels for détente in U.S. relations with Cuba and which may have been one of the reasons for Kennedy's assassination.

Lechuga has carried out many diplomatic missions and has represented Cuba in numerous international conferences and activities.

He was Cuba's last ambassador to the Organization of American States and also served as ambassador to Chile, Mexico and Portugal.

Lechuga represented Cuba in several United Nations specialized agencies in Geneva in 1971-78 and 1984-89. He has served as Vice-Chairman of the Human Rights Commissions, Deputy Chairman of the First Commission of the General Assembly, President of the Disarmament Conference, elected President of the Negotiating Group on Radiological Weapons, member of the Consultative Board of Disarmament Studies (twice, under UN Secretaries-General Kurt Waldheim and Javier Pérez de Cuéllar), and member of the Group of Governmental Experts on Constitutional Disarmament Arrangements.

In 1994, he was reelected a member of the Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and was elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

He was Coordinator of two UNCTADs of the Group of 77, in Manila and Geneva.

He was President of the National Council of Culture and, as such, a member of the Cuban Council of Ministers.

Journalist, diplomat and writer, his work has been published in Cuba, other Latin American countries and the United States. His book *Itinerario de una farsa* [Itinerary of a farce] won the 1992 critics award in Cuba.

Lechuga was also the victim of assassination mythologies invented on the one ~~extreme~~ extreme by anti-Castros in the United States ^{and on} to the opposite extreme ^{by} John Newman's Oswald and the CIA (New York, Carroll & Graf, 1995). ^{in his} Despite the title, Newman makes no Oswald-CIA connection of any kind in six hundred and twenty-seven pages other than with childish fairy tales. I address the Newman mythology ^{at length} in the manuscript I completed after completing this one and other writing, ^{it is} tentatively titled Travesty and and Tragedy: John Newman and Oswald and the CIA.

Newman teaches history at the University of Maryland at College Park. He served for twenty years in Army intelligence. ^{He retired as a major.}

This Newman nonsense begins with his subchapter "The Duran-Lechuga affair" of his chapter "The Unworthy Oswald" (pages 279-8. Other references to it are on pages 385 and 389). Silvia Duran was a ^{woman} Mexican employed by the Cuban embassy. In Newman's version of two unhappy marriages, "The [Cuban] embassy used" Duran's "sexual services" to alienate Lechuga from his wife (page 279). As Newman acknowledges, ^{Lechuga and Duran} both wanted divorces and neither could get one (pages 279, 281-2). They wanted to get married and could not. Newman says this "became relevant two years later when the story of an affair between Oswald and Duran surfaced." (^{page} ~~page~~ 282).

But Newman does not say how that story "surfaced" although the CIA's documents he uses as his source material are clear on that. ^{It was invented.}

After the assassination the CIA Mexico City station had the Mexican police arrest Duran, who had committed no ^T crime, and beat her up to get a confession of having had an affair with Oswald from her. There was no basis for any such belief. When she did ^{on first beating} not confess, the CIA's Mexico City station had the police arrest her again, beat her again, and keep beating her until she "confessed" to the affair with Oswald she did not have and there was no reason even to suspect that she had. This "confession" that was beaten from her is the sole basis of Newman's saying that Cuba was "implicated" in the

He does seek to support it with the transference of Sr. Elena Gorno de Paz

JFK assassination.) But even if both of these stories had been true, Newman does not show how that could "implicate" Cuba in the assassination. It is all silly argument:

...Duran's sexual services had already been used by the Cuban government. [On Lechuga] Sexual ~~services~~ entrapment was then [sic] a commonly employed and highly successful espionage technique. Thus, on the surface the story implicates the Castro regime in the Kennedy assassination" (page 377).

As soon as she was out of the police hands Duran denied having had any kind of an affair with Oswald and she has steadfastly denied it ever since then.

How much Castro felt he had to take special steps to keep Lechuga in camp is reflected by his selecting Lechuga, of all the Cubans in his government or available to him, to be his ambassador to the United States when he knew there would be what there was the Cuba missile crisis of October 1962. He did ^{send} ~~have~~ Lechuga ^{to be} ~~as~~ his UN ambassador without Duran to keep him in line. He continued to have complete faith in Lechuga and used him as his agent in his 1963 negot negotiations with Kennedy, who used his ambassador, William ~~Stow~~ Attwood, in those negotiations ^{for Kennedy.} Attwood initiated.

~~Without any Duran.~~

Lechuga's account of those negotiations is in his tenth and last chapter, "The unknown" (pages 195 ff).

~~Lechuga~~ Lechuga recounts what was well known and widely reported, that Kennedy also use the French ~~corresp~~ reporter Jean Daniel as an informal ~~ambass~~ instrument when he knew Daniel was to see Castro. There is no need here to recount all of that or to list all the names of those Kennedy had involved in his negotiations with Castro that Kennedy initiated. Here we ~~we~~ use only Lechuga's chapter's conclusions (pages 2040-11):