

S. Duan
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MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. J. Lee Rankin

SUBJECT: ^o Actions of Silvia DURAN after her
first interrogation passed to
the Warren Commission

1. Reference is made to the attachments to my memoranda dated 31 January 1964 and 21 February 1964, both of which report information on Silvia DURAN, a Mexican citizen employed at the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City. Information on the actions of Silvia DURAN on her return to work at the Cuban Consulate on 25 November 1963, following her first interrogation by the Mexican authorities, is attached to this memorandum. This item may be useful to the Commission in the evaluation of Mrs. DURAN's story.

2. The information contained in this attachment was obtained from sensitive sources. It therefore bears an appropriate sensitivity indicator.

(SIGNED) Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachment

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for FOIA Review on JUN 1978

RECORD COPY

7 Apr 64

Attachment

Subject: Actions of Silvia DURAN, Mexican Citizeness Employed by the Cuban Consulate, Following Her First Interrogation by the Mexican Authorities

1. A reliable and sensitive source, well informed on political personalities and events in the Cuban Embassy and Consulate in Mexico City, had stated that on her return to the Cuban Consulate on 25 November 1963, Silvia DURAN told her colleagues essentially the same story about her official acquaintances with Lee Harvey OSWALD that was published in the Mexico City press. This information, which seems to have been surreptitiously given to the press by certain Mexican authorities, indicated that according to DURAN, OSWALD had visited the Cuban and Soviet Consulates to obtain visas in order to visit these countries, and she had handled his case at the Cuban Consulate.

2. The only new item in the account that Silvia DURAN gave her colleagues was her claim that the Mexican police had threatened to extradite her to the United States for a confrontation with OSWALD. According to the source, Silvia DURAN, an intelligent and quick-witted woman, did not fear such a confrontation.

3. It should be noted that CIA does not know the precise origin of the suggested confrontation. The idea originated, in all probability, with the Mexican authorities involved in the interrogation of DURAN.

4. According to the same source, immediately after and since the assassination the personnel of the Cuban Embassy was shocked and puzzled - no expressions of pleasure at the assassination were heard, and there was little discussion of it. The gossip and official conversations in the Cuban Embassy and Consulate tend to confirm the impression that OSWALD visited the Embassy only to get a visa to visit or to transit the country.