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FM CIA

TO WHITE HOUSE ATTN: MCGEORGE BUNDY 021064

DEPARTMENT OF STATE ATTN: MR. U. ALEXIS JOHNSON

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AMBASSADOR MANN ASKS THAT FOLLOWING BE PASSED TO SECRETARY RUSK.

"FOR SECRETARY RUSK. SINCE MY CABLE OF YESTERDAY THERE HAVE BEEN THREE PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS:

1. AMBASSADOR JOAQUIN HERNANDEZ ARMAS CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO AT 1839 HRS LAST EVENING TELEPHONED PRESIDENT DORTICOS OF CUBA. IN THIS CONVERSATION, WHICH LIKE THE FIRST IS TAPED, DORTICOS EXPRESSED CONTINUED CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MEXICAN POLICE HAD INTERROGATED SILVIA DURAN ABOUT MONEY.
2. GILBERTO ALVARADO URGARTE, THE NICARAGUAN, WAS QUESTIONED BY CAS OFFICER UNTIL TWO A. M. THIS MORNING. THIS OFFICER WAS IMPRESSED BY ALVARADO WHO HAS OFFERED MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE AS A WITNESS AND WHO IS NOW HIDING IN A PLACE PROVIDED BY CAS. WE CANNOT GUARANTEE ALVARADO'S SAFETY. IT WILL NOT HAVE ESCAPED YOUR ATTENTION THAT THE WEALTH OF DETAIL ALVARADO GIVES ABOUT EVENTS AND PERSONALITIES INVOLVED WITH OSWALD IN CUBAN EMBASSY IS STRIKING.

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*u/p 8/18/83*

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By JW, NARA. Date 6-24-98

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3. AT 1215HRS MEXICAN TIME 27 NOVEMBER CAS OFFICER WAS ADVISED OVER TELEPHONE BY LIC. LUIS ECHEVARRIA, ACTING MINISTER OF GOBERNACION, THAT HE HAD REARRESTED SILVIA DURAN TODAY BECAUSE HE LEARNED SHE WAS ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE MEXICO FOR HAVANA. HOWEVER, ECHEVARRIA LATER TOLD LEGAL ATTACHE THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO REARREST SILVIA DURAN TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY SHE MIGHT ESCAPE TO CUBA AND LATER BE UNAVAILABLE AS A WITNESS. SINCE WE HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY TO YESTERDAY'S TELEGRAM WE HAVE NOT REQUESTED MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST SILVIA DURAN EXCEPT TO MAINTAIN INCREASED SURVEILLANCE OF HER ACTIVITIES. ECHEVARRIA LATER DENIED TO LEGAL ATTACHE THAT HE HAD ANY SPECIFIC CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT SHE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR CUBA. WE DO NOT KNOW WHICH ECHEVARRIA STATEMENTS ARE ACCURATE. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE, AND EVEN PROBABLE, THAT CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS MADE BY ECHEVARRIA ARE EXPLAINED BY DESIRE OF GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO TO PLAY DOWN IMPORTANCE OF OSWALD VISIT HERE. MEXICAN LINE STILL IS THAT OSWALD VISIT RELATED SOLELY TO VISA QUESTION. CONSISTENT WITH THIS, ECHEVARRIA STATED TO LEGAL ATTACHE THAT DORTICOS ONLY INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT WHETHER MEXICAN AUTHORITIES TRIED TO BUY A STORY FROM SILVIA DURAN. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY INCORRECT INTERPRETATION. NEITHER LOPEZ MATEOS NOR ECHEVARRIA KNOW OF ALVARADO'S STORY. PLEASE NOTE THAT ACCORDING ECHEVARRIA DURAN IS BEING TAKEN TO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO WHICH MEXICAN PRESS HAS EASY ACCESS. POSSIBILITY OF HABEAS CORPUS CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED.

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4. WE HAVE AS YET FOUND NO TRACE OF THE RED HEADED CUBAN NEGRO DESCRIBED BY ALVARADO, BUT ARE CONTINUING OUR SEARCH FOR HIM.

5. IN ADDITION TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN YESTERDAY'S TELEGRAM WASHINGTON SHOULD URGENTLY CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF REQUESTING MEXICAN AUTHORITIES TO ARREST FOR INTERROGATION: EUSEBIO AZCUE; LUISA CALDERON AND ALFREDO MIRABAL. THE TWO MEN ARE CUBAN NATIONALS AND CUBAN CONSULAR OFFICERS. LUISA CALDERON IS A SECRETARY IN CUBAN CONSULATE HERE. IN THIS CONNECTION ARTICLE II OF CONSULAR CONVENTION BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND MEXICO EXEMPTS FROM ARREST "CONSULAR OFFICERS, NATIONALS OF THE STATE BY WHICH THEY ARE APPOINTED, AND NOT ENGAGED IN ANY PRIVATE OCCUPATION FOR "GAIN" EXCEPT REPEAT EXCEPT "WHEN CHARGED WITH THE COMMISSION OF AN ACT DESIGNATED BY LOCAL LEGISLATION AS CRIME OTHER THAN MISDEMEANOR AND SUBJECTING THE INDIVIDUAL GUILTY THEREOF TO PUNISHMENT BY IMPRISONMENT." WE ARE CHECKING TO SEE WHETHER ALL OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE ON CURRENT CONSULAR LIST. EVEN ASSUMING THEY ARE, AND ASSUMING ALSO THAT CUBAN-MEXICAN CONSULAR CONVENTION IS SIMILAR TO OURS, THEY WOULD ALL SEEM TO BE SUBJECT TO ARREST, PROVIDED MEXICAN LAW DEFINES THEIR APPARENT CONSPIRACY WITH OSWALD AS A CRIME AND NOT A MISDEMEANOR. THEY MAY ALL QUICKLY BE RETURNED TO HAVANA IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT MEXICAN GOVERNMENT COULD USE THEM AS WITNESSES. WE KNOW THAT AZCUE WENT TO HAVANA ON NOVEMBER 18 AND WE ARE NOT NOW CERTAIN THAT HE OR OTHERS ARE IN MEXICO AT THE PRESENT TIME.

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6. WHILE I REALIZE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTY IN GIVING US INSTRUCTIONS, I NEVERTHELESS FEEL OBLIGED TO POINT OUT AGAIN THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE HERE. MANN"

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