

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

CD 426  
21 FEB 1964

*WAO + Mexico*

*Did SD describe  
the Oswald case  
see report with*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

SUBJECT: Translations of Interrogation  
Reports of Silvia DURAN

*Was this  
description  
withheld  
Chas. J. Hagan Report  
HJ*

This is responsive to numbered paragraph two, in your letter to this Agency dated February 10, 1964 and is further to my reply of February 19, 1964.

There are attached translations, from the Spanish, of the results of interrogations of Silvia DURAN and her husband in Mexico City during the period 23 to 28 November 1963.

These interrogations were conducted by the Mexican police in the course of their follow-up of the OSWALD case after the assassination.

*Richard Helms*

Richard Helms  
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachments - 2

*SEARCHED INDEXED  
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FBI - MEMPHIS*

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2. He entered the Escuela Nacional De Agricultura De Chapingo, where he studied agricultural engineering for five years and as such had practiced at the Academia De San Carlos; he chose to continue to study this art, which served as a base for specializing in industrial design which he now practices, being head of that subject at the Escuela De Artes Plasticas De La U. N. A. M., dedicating his free time to private work as a designer, for which he obtains an income of approximately 5000.00 pesos monthly.

3. In 1950 he married Lucille DEJARDIN, French, and they have one son named Paul DURAN Dejarain, who is now ten years old. The marriage lasted about six years after which he was divorced on 5 November 1958.

4. He then married his present wife Silvia DURAN by whom a child was born, a daughter named Patricia age three and one-half years. When he met his present wife she was working as a secretary at Galeria Portes and she later began to meet other people, among them Professor Agustin Cue CANOVAS, the cultural attaches of the Cuban Embassy and others. She has served as coordinator of the Mexican-Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations, Jose MARTI, and for the last four months has worked for Consul Eusebio AZCUE and now with MIRABAL receiving a monthly salary of 1500.00 pesos. He admitted that his ideology is leftist and that he is sympathetic to the Cuban revolution giving this as a reason why he permitted his wife to engage in the activities which it promotes.

5. He stated that in talking to his wife about the assassination of President Kennedy she recognized the name of the accused Lee Harvey OSWALD and immediately said that she thought that she had dealt with the same individual who in the last days of September or first days of October had been in the Cuban Consulate requesting a visa for Cuba in transit to Russia. That she personally attended to him and gave directions regarding the visa request but indicating that it was necessary to first have a visa from the Russian Consulate and that he should send his request to the Ministerio De Relaciones De Cuba which probably would take several days. OSWALD became very annoyed and Silvia called Consul AZCUE, with whom OSWALD had a heated argument. He stated that he had

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never seen or known Lee Harvey OSWALD personally and that in December 1961, he made a trip to Cuba accompanied by his wife. They paid for their own tickets.

6. 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. Agustin 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 Mari Carmen OLAVARRI, Secretary to Consul Eusebio AZCUE, a Spaniard and relative of AZCUE, and who received 500.00 pesos monthly.

7. 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 (I. C. A. P.), and the Cultural House.

8. She did not know her husband's salary since his income is very irregular - his only fixed income is from the school, 1200.00 pesos monthly. She as well as her husband have automobiles.

9. 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 and 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.

10. With respect to the attempt on President Kennedy, when she heard the news she became depressed and thought that the author was some marine and when she knew that it was an element of "The Fair Play for Cuba", she did not believe it at first. During President Kennedy's visit to Mexico, she did not attend any of the functions that were held in his honor and did not otherwise participate. In talking with her husband when they learned of the assassination she said it could have been done by radicals and when Lee Harvey OSWALD entered into the discussion, she recognized him as the same person that had come to the Cuban Consulate about two months previous to request a transit visa to Russia.

11. She remembered his name because of his unusual characteristics and the circumstances of his visit i. e., he was married to a Russian and said he belonged to the "Fair Play for Cuba"; that she checked his data in the Consulate's archives and she was then sure that it was the same person. That he is blond, short, poorly dressed, that his face gets red when he talks; that he was denied a visa because the Consul told him that in order to obtain one he would first need a visa from the Russian Consulate and this procedure would take about four months and urged OSWALD to leave Mexico. OSWALD became angry and for this reason she had to call the Consul with whom he had an argument. That OSWALD was told that the aid which could be given to him was to advise him to go to the Russian Consulate. 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. That in the afternoon of the same day Lee Harvey OSWALD returned to the Cuban Consulate and that she confirmed that he would only be given a visa when he had one from the Russian Consulate giving him, on a piece of paper, her name Silvia DURAN with the office telephone number but that OSWALD was not given her address since he had no reason to have it. That it was not her place to telephone the Russian Consulate and if she did it was in an official form and to help Lee OSWALD in the interest of performing her duties. That if she gave him her telephone number it was so that he could later ask if the visa had been obtained, but he never called again.

12. It should be mentioned that in the home at which the DURANS were detained, Herodoto No. 14, Dept. "A", house of the brother-in-law of Silvia DURAN, Ruben DURAN Navarro, the persons that were visiting this home were detained; their antecedents follow:

13. Ruben DURAN Navarro stated he is originally from Los Angeles, California, married to Betty SERRATOS, 38 years old, awaiting Mexican citizenship. His job is a decorator and is employed with his brother Horacio DURAN Navarro in an office that the latter has at Veracruz Street

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TRANSLATION

RESULTS OF THE INTERVIEW OF SILVIA TRUJILLO DE DURAN (SILVIA DURAN) ON THE MORNING OF 10 NOVEMBER 1963

1. She said that she knew Carlos LECHUGA Novia 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 he came to be friendly with her husband, but that she had seen him more frequently.

2. Upon being asked if she knew Carlos SOLES, Thomas L. ROSS, Richard F. ARMIDA, Harry Lee Ellis and Ramon Ramos FLORES, she answered that neither did she know them nor had she heard speak of them except for the last one, whom she does not know but does know of him and of the activities to which he is dedicated. Neither does she know Patricio NOVIEDA.

3. 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 FLORES. The help she rendered there consisted of answering the telephones and doing secondary tasks. The Cultural Attache FLORES never assigned her any work outside the Embassy. She said that she had known FLORES before she had been coordinator for the Institute since she was a good friend of Paul FRANCIS 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 FROST. She said that the in-law referred to was a teacher and a writer.

4. 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.

5. DURAN indicated she was acquainted with the Leninist Students League (Liga Leninista Estudiantil) but that she is not in agreement with it, and that her husband shared her opinion. They admire Jose MARTI.

*C. G. A. [unclear] 10/11/63*

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as a writer but not as a political writer. She was in disagreement with all his book entitled "The Mexican Proletariat" (Proletariado en Mexico) 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 she had not belonged to this organization but that she is friendly with its leaders such as Jose BRAUER and the two LIZALES.

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

7. DUMAN went on to say that her beginning salary in the Consulate was \$1,500 (Mexican pesos) per month, and she continues to receive this amount. She said she has no other income nor does she receive any overtime pay or commissions because in Cuba this is called voluntary work and is not remunerated. When she explained her problem to the Ambassador--that she had been arrested--he indicated to her that he did not believe that it would be necessary for him to intervene but he told her that he would make a protest. She said when she was arrested, the Cuban Consulate never gave her any other kind of help nor did they offer to have her go to Cuba or become a Cuban citizen because it has always been well established that she and her husband are Mexicans and they have not wanted to go to Cuba. On one occasion when it was learned that her husband was a designer, and sketched an idea for the construction of a school in Cuba, they asked him to go and do it or design it. He did not accept because he is first and foremost a Mexican.

8. She said that the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos, ICAFP) is a coordinating institution wherein are concentrated the invitations made by diverse groups who pay expenses of the guests through ICAFP. Those invited to Cuba by ICAFP are not necessarily young people. She is grateful to that institution because she received good treatment and was very pleased when she went to Cuba. She has not kept in touch with the institution nor does she have any more to do with it. She cannot facilitate travel for other persons as she lacks contact with the Cubans.\* The visas which are requested by ICAFP are processed directly by the Embassy as is done with all of those invited to Cuba. This type of courtesy or special visas do not go through the Consulate. The Consulate is limited to dealing with paid visas. She has no contact with anyone in the Soviet Embassy and has been there only twice; once for the reception for TERESKOVA and GIKHMAN.

\*Translator's footnote: The meaning of this phrase is not as clear as...

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and in the morning of the revolution of the USSR. On the latter occasion she was because the Consul did not have a car and he asked her to go with him. She stayed only 20 minutes.

9. DURAN added that she does know Maria Belores de La HORA who must be about 27 years old and is a newspaper woman. She met her in the Cuban Embassy on the occasion of the October crisis, and she has only seen her two or three times since. DURAN described La HORA as very nice and a person with whom she struck up a friendly attraction from the moment they met. She saw her once in the Mexico-Cuba Institute and has conversed with her some. DURAN has not been to La HORA's house nor has she been to DURAN's, but they have seen one another in the Consulate. DURAN knows that La HORA belongs to an aristocratic family, is not reactionary, and that she does not go to the Embassy very much. At least, DURAN has not seen her there. According to DURAN, she is pretty.

10. DURAN stated that she knows Luisa GONZALEZ, the secretary to the Commercial Delegation in the Cuban Embassy who was always working there when DURAN began to work in the Consulate. GONZALEZ is unmarried and DURAN considers her a friend although they see one another infrequently. She is a white person, about 22 or 23 years old, and DURAN does not know exactly what her work involves. She may be First, Second or Third Secretary of the Commercial Delegation. Luisa has been to DURAN's home, and she was there on DURAN's birthday. She lives with her mother. Two weeks ago she went to Cuba because her father was ill. DURAN and Luisa went to the movies once.

11. In answer to special questions, DURAN said that only she and the Consul are in the Consulate. She said that the first time that Leo Harvey OSWALD was in the Consulate in the morning, to request information about getting to Cuba, she did not observe him very well. In the afternoon, however, when he had the argument with the Consul, she did observe him closely and is sure that he was not wearing glasses.

12. There is no red-headed negro of that description in the Embassy. Lately, no new person has arrived at the Embassy.

13. She has had no further contacts with Carlos LENCINI by mail, by telegram or through any third person.

14. When she spoke with the Ambassador about her arrest, no insinuation was made to her that she might be taken to Cuba, and she reiterates that she knows no one from the Soviet Embassy.

15. She said the following regarding her trip to Cuba where she spent two weeks with her husband.

a. During the last days of November 1961, I went voluntarily to Cuba and paid my own expenses.

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