

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Coleman-Slawson

SUBJECT: Statement of Pedro Gutierrez Valencia

In a letter to President Johnson dated December 2, 1963 and in three statements summarized by the FBI in Commission Nos 564, 566, and 663, Gutierrez has stated that on September 30, 1963 or on October 1, 1963, probably the latter, he saw a Cuban give money to an American, just outside the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, and he claims now to identify the American now as Oswald. He fixes the time of the event as approximately 10:50 a.m.

The Mexican police check of Gutierrez shows him to be a responsible and respected person, and a car answering the description of the one he claims to have seen the American and Cuban enter has been found to have been registered during the years 1963-64 under what is probably a fictitious name. His statements must therefore be given serious consideration.

The following inquiries might be worthwhile:

1. Gutierrez says that the woman whose credit he checked showed him a card which identified her as a "second counselor" of the Cuban Embassy. (Commission No. 564, page 4.) Perhaps CIA or FBI or some other source has a way of finding

out what person or persons carried the title of "second counselor" at this time. Gutierrez has also suggested that the name of the person may have been Maria Luisa Calderon. (Commission No. 566, page 10.) He should be asked how he got this name and, in addition, it should be a rather easy matter to check to see whether any person with this name was listed in the Mexico City telephone directory or in the official Mexican records of employees of the Cuban Embassy, etc.

2. One of the essential aspects of Gutierrez' story is that he noticed considerable detail because he was immediately alarmed by what he saw, since it appeared sinister and illegal, and because he is a staunch anti-communist and was therefore especially alert to something which appeared to be a communist plot. For these reasons, he says he tried his best to overhear the conversation and observe as much as he could and even to follow the Cuban and American car in his own car. The obvious question is why, if he felt so alarmed about the whole thing, he did not report it immediately to the responsible Mexican authorities. His answer to this question may shed considerable ^{light} on whether he is making ^{up} the whole affair.

3. The CIA has reported to the Commission that Oswald was observed in "mid-morning" at the office of the Soviet Military Attache in Mexico City. CIA has also reported

that Oswald was told by the Military Attache that he should inquiry at the Soviet Embassy, since the Military Attache knew nothing about his problem, and that Oswald did in fact then go to the Russian Embassy and spoke with the guard there.

Since Gutierrez now fixes the time of Oswald's appearance at the Cuban Embassy as 10:50 a.m. on October 1, the same day as the CIA's very reliable source states he was at the Soviet Military Attache and the Soviet Embassy, the possibility of conflict as to the times should be explored.

4. The automobile in which the payoff was supposedly to have occurred has been traced, possibly, to a certain "Arturo Gaona Elias," who may or may not be the same person as the man of the same name who is in the bug-spray business and who lives in Sonora, Mexico. It should not be too difficult to establish by checking of the man in Sonora's employers, etc. whether he could have been in Mexico City at the time in question. I assume, however, that this kind of follow-up is already under way.

5. If Oswald received any large amounts of money he certainly did not have them in his possession when he was arrested in Dallas. It certainly would seem worthwhile that a routine check of the bank accounts and safety deposit boxes throughout the Mexico City area should be made for Oswald and

his known aliases. This kind of check probably ought to be made on general principles, quite apart from the Gutierrez assertions.

4
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