

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Coleman-Slawson

SUBJECT: Statement of Gilberte Alvarado Ugarte

2/10/64

Our entire file on Gilberte Alvarado Ugarte (here ~~and~~ after "Alvarado") consists of the first CIA report on Mexico (Commission No. 347) and the file received from the United States Department of State on the memoranda and correspondence between Washington and the American Embassy in Mexico City shortly after the assassination, when Ambassador Mann was in charge there (Commission No. 42).

We first learned about Alvarado on November 26, 1963 when he walked into the U. S. Embassy in Mexico City and claimed that he had been in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City on September 18 and saw a man he now realized to have been Oswald given \$6500 in cash to kill someone. CIA has stated that Alvarado is clearly a trained intelligence agent and able to described people and locations well. His story remained unshaken by intensive interrogation, even though it was subsequently pointed out to him that from other evidence we had on Oswald's whereabouts it was extremely unlikely that he could have been in Mexico City on September 18. Under intensive interrogation by the Mexican police Alvarado signed a statement on November 30 that he had fabricated the whole story. However,

when he was released by the Mexicans Alvarado came to the American Embassy again and claimed that the statement was false and had been extorted from him under threat of "extreme duress." CIA and FBI in Mexico City therefore continued the interrogation. Alvarado voluntarily agreed to a lie detector test and therefore a CIA polygraph expert gave him the test. He flunked it. The conclusion of the polygraph expert was that he had fabricated the story about Oswald "in toto".

The CIA points out that when Alvarado first told his story he could have known from newspaper stories in Mexico City that Oswald had visited the Cuban Embassy there and he could also have heard the rumors then current to the effect that Oswald had \$5,000 with him when he returned to the United States. When shown the results of the polygraph test, Alvarado said something to the effect that perhaps the machine was right ^{and} he may have been mistaken.

The second apparent flaw in Alvarado's story is his insistence that he telephoned the American Embassy four times on September 20 and the days immediately following, that he used Embassy Extension 181 and called himself "Jorge Kynaut" (phonetic), and that in each call he was connected with and spoke with a woman. This extension number would be to the Embassy security officer, the same number and the same officer to which Alvarado was referred when he telephoned the Embassy

on November 25. No one at the Embassy seems to remember any such calls. (Commission No. 442, page 17.)

There is also something in the Ambassador Mann file to the effect that Alvarado finally changed his story on the September 18 date when confronted with firm evidence that Oswald could not have been in Mexico City at that time.

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