



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
April 13, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.



LEE HARVEY OSWALD

A confidential source abroad has advised as follows:

On March 7, 1964, Attorney ~~RENE NUCAMENDI~~, an official of the Mexican Federal Automobile Registration Bureau (MFARB), Mexico, D. F., advised that MFARB file No. 193630 contains the following information concerning ARTURO GAONA ELIAS and a 1959 Renault automobile registered to this individual:

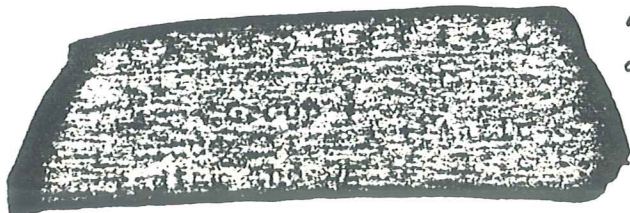
A 1959 Renault "Dauphine" four-door sedan, motor No. 744492, serial No. 5401098, was assembled in Mexico by the automobile assembly factory known as "Autos Franceses, S. A. (incorporated)," Avenida Cuauhtemoc No. 393, Mexico, D. F.

This vehicle, a model No. 1090, was sold in 1959 to an automobile distribution company known as "Distribuidores Sonorenses de Autos Franceses, S. A." (French Automobile Distributors of Sonora, Inc.), located at Avenida Miguel Aleman No. 242, Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mexico.

According to the MFARB file, this vehicle was sold by the afore-mentioned automobile distributor in Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, on December 5, 1959, to ARTURO GAONA ELIAS, Calle Tolteca No. 53, Mexico, D. F.

Attorney NUCAMENDI stated that the MFARB file on this vehicle shows no transfer of registration from GAONA to any other individual, but that such a transfer without notification to the MFARB is not an uncommon occurrence in Mexico.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF *Challenger's letter*  
DATE *4/13/64*  
*H. J. [unclear]*



*Declassified  
2040 on 4/15/1  
AHL*

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Attorney NUCAMENDI advised that the bill of sale of record for the 1959 Renault reflects that as of December 5, 1959, GAONA ELIAS was residing at Nuevo Leon No. 743 Norte, Ciudad Obregon, Sonora.

On March 7, 1964, and March 11, 1964, a second source abroad, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that he had conducted investigation along two additional streets named "Calle Tolteca" in Mexico, D. F., in an unsuccessful effort to locate ARTURO GAONA ELIAS and the 1959 Renault automobile registered to his name with the Calle Tolteca No. 53 address.

It was ascertained by this source that No. 53 is nonexistent on Calle Tolteca in Colonia Ixtapalapa, Mexico, D. F., and it was observed that the street is unpaved and in a very poor section of the city. The only numbers which could be located along the very narrow street were No. 45, the address of a barroom, and No. 105, which was identified as a mud-walled dwelling.

Source located a Calle Tolteca in the Colonia San Pedro de los Pinos area of Mexico City and was unable to locate a No. 53 on that street. According to source, with the foregoing investigation, he had conducted intensive inquiries to locate GAONA ELIAS on all five streets carrying the name "Tolteca" in Mexico, D. F., without locating or identifying him in connection with any of them.

A third source abroad, who has furnished reliable information in the past, reported that on March 11, 1964, ARTURO GAONA ELIAS was located at Calle Nuevo Leon No. 743 Norte, Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, and advised that he had sold the 1959 Renault automobile, motor No. 744492, to REYNALDO ROMERO FELIX, a resident at Calle Sinaloa No. 234 Sur, Ciudad Obregon.

MEXICO

"El Rey"

mexico

The source advised that on March 11, 1964, REYNALDO ROMERO FELIX was located at Ciudad Obregon, and at that time ROMERO advised he had sold the above-mentioned Renault automobile in July, 1961, to CLAUDIO OLIVEROS of Mexico, D. F., who is considered to have a questionable reputation as an automobile dealer. He stated OLIVEROS subsequently took the vehicle to Mexico, D. F., where he was to have turned it over to ERNESTO MITRANI, believed to be a Cuban who is in the automobile business. He advised that ERNESTO MITRANI has a brother by the name of ISAAC MITRANI, who is believed to be a purchaser of automobiles.

mexico

According to ROMERO, this automobile was to have been sold by ERNESTO MITRANI at Mexico, D. F., or to have been sent to an American by the name of GUILLERMO WILLY, who sells automobiles at Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico.

mexico calif

On March 13, 1964, MARGARITA MUNGUIA, Visa Section, United States Embassy, Mexico, D. F., made available visa file data concerning ERNESTO MITRANI LEVY, reflecting his date of birth as December 29, 1936, at Havana, Cuba, and that he is holder of Cuban Passport No. 26367, issued in December, 1959, with expiration date in 1964.

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MITRANI secured a one-entry B-2 visa on January 27, 1961, valid through April 27, 1961, for the alleged purpose of a pleasure trip to Los Angeles, California.

The visa card contained a photograph of ERNESTO MITRANI, and he was described on this card in January, 1961, as being 5 feet 7 inches in height, 176 pounds, fair complexion, brown hair, green eyes.

On March 17, 1964, photographs of ERNESTO MITRANI LEVY were exhibited to PEDRO GUTIERREZ VALENCIA.

GUTIERREZ stated that the photographs of MITRANI definitely do not depict the Cuban he claims he saw in the company of an American, whom GUTIERREZ states was OSWALD, at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico, D. F., on or about October 1, 1963.

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GUTIERREZ advised he believes that the Cuban observed by him on or about October 1, 1963, at the Cuban Embassy, Mexico, D. F., was not an employee of that Embassy, because this person had his late model Renault automobile parked on Calle Tacubaya in an area which is used by the general public for parking. He pointed out that many officials and employees of the Cuban Embassy park their cars on Calle Francisco Marquez in an area reserved for their use.

GUTIERREZ stated he believes that he would have no difficulty whatsoever identifying the Cuban if he ever observed a photograph of this person, because he has the appearance of the Cuban better fixed in his mind than the appearance of the American identified by him as OSWALD.

On March 18, 1964, ERNESTO MITRANI LEVY, employee of the Casa Vogue, Calle Madero No. 20, Mexico, D. F., advised that about two years ago he was engaged in the buying and selling of used automobiles in Mexico. He stated, however, he is certain that he did not buy a 1959 Renault sedan from CLAUDIO OLIVEROS. He said that OLIVEROS formerly operated a used car lot in Mexico, D. F., but that due to OLIVEROS' bad character and alleged fraudulent activities, this individual was forced to close down his business and reportedly left Mexico, D. F., for his home in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

MITRANI also stated that he was employed in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico, D. F., up until 1959; however, he was unable to furnish any information concerning any possible employee of the Cuban Embassy who might have had a 1959 beige colored Renault in his possession in October, 1963, or in February, 1964.

MITRANI stated that it is a common practice for persons in Mexico to buy a car and leave the car registered in the name of a prior owner, so as to avoid payment of taxes. He said that the 1959 Renault, accordingly, may have changed hands many times since it was originally purchased by ARTURO GAONA ELIAS of Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, in 1959.

MITRANI, upon recontact on March 24, 1964, advised he had checked the incomplete records he still has for the

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period he was in the used car business and could locate no record of a possible purchase of a 1959 Renault from CLAUDIO OLIVEROS or anyone else. MITRANI advised he had spoken with his brother, ISAAC MITRANI, in an effort to determine whether he might have a record of a transaction involving the afore-mentioned Renault, but his brother likewise could locate no record involving the 1959 Renault automobile.

On March 31, 1964, a fourth source abroad, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that he had ascertained from a check of the records of the Mexico City Traffic Department that the 1959 Renault automobile described above continues to be registered in the name of GAONA ELIAS and appears to have been licensed in the Federal District of Mexico for the years 1964 and 1965 with the same license number that it previously carried for the years 1962 and 1963.

On April 2, 1964, ISAAC MITRANI, a brother of the ERNESTO MITRANI and a resident of Mexico, D. F., advised that he had learned that CLAUDIO OLIVEROS is currently employed as a used car buyer by one ISAAC GOLDBERG, a businessman of Mexico, D. F. ISAAC MITRANI stated that GOLDBERG is a wholesaler of automobiles and does not operate a used car lot.

MITRANI further advised that OLIVEROS has a poor reputation in the used car business; that he has many creditors; and that he, MITRANI, doubted that OLIVEROS would furnish his address to anyone because of his constant efforts to avoid his creditors.

On April 7, 1964, CLAUDIO OLIVEROS was located at a parking lot at Parque Espana No. 5, Mexico, D. F., which is operated by ISAAC GOLDBERG, and OLIVEROS advised as follows:

OLIVEROS stated emphatically that he did not buy a 1959 Renault automobile from REYNALDO ROMERO, a used car dealer of Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, in 1961. OLIVEROS said that during 1961, he was hospitalized in Mexico, D. F., for

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an operation, and during that period he made no trips to the Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, area to buy used cars.

OLIVEROS stated that he could recall having purchased only two Renault cars in the Ciudad Obregon area in the past. One of these cars, he said, was a used Renault which he purchased during 1960 from the Renault car agency in Ciudad Obregon, and the other was a Renault automobile he purchased from an unknown farmer in the Ciudad Obregon area, also during the year 1960.

OLIVEROS claimed that he is well acquainted with REYNALDO ROMERO and that this individual is known locally around Ciudad Obregon by the nickname "El Rey." OLIVEROS advised that REYNALDO ROMERO is mistaken if he said he sold a Renault automobile to OLIVEROS in 1961, because he, OLIVEROS, has never in his life purchased a Renault automobile from REYNALDO ROMERO.