

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SECRET

TO : Director, FBI (105-82555)

FROM : *[Signature]* Legat, Mexico (105-3702) (P)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

DATE: 4/13/64

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SLIP(S) DATE 4/13/64

ENCLOSURES

Enclosed are twelve (12) copies of a letterhead memorandum, dated and captioned as above.

REFERENCE

Mexico City letter and letterhead memorandum dated 3/6/64.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The enclosed letterhead memorandum deals with the allegation of PEDRO GUTIERREZ VALENCIA, who has alleged that he observed an American, identified by him as OSWALD, in the company of an unidentified Cuban, at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico, D. F., on or about 10/1/63, and that the Cuban and this American departed the area of the Cuban Embassy in a late model, beige colored Renault automobile.

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

ENCLOSURE

- 5 - Bureau (Encs. *SP-115*)
 - (1 - Liaison Section)
 - (2 - Dallas, 100-10461)
- 1 - Mexico City

RET:jhk
(6)

REQ REC'D
DATE FORW: 5/7/64
HOW FORW: 12/3
BY: *[Signature]*

REC-22

105-82555-3300

18 APR 17 1964

SECRET

SOVIET SECTION

3 COPIES DESTROYED

8 MAY 13 1964

100 copies each in 645

200-Pins. Comm
5/1/64 - Liaison
BFR/STH

EXP. PROC.

Classified by
Exempt from GDS Category
Date of Declassification Indefinite

Comp # 224,860 4/20/83
Classified by SP-4 edw/alm
Declassify on: OADR
All source classification per CIA letter dated 4/7/83

2/11/5
2/11/5
70 Dallas 4/22/64
R/S - LCA/STH

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
105-82555 - 3300 pages 2-5

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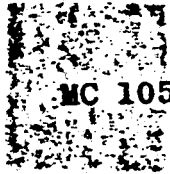
(S)

For the Bureau's information, interviews set out in the enclosed letterhead memorandum were conducted by the following Agents, unless otherwise specified as having been conducted by the sources set out below.

The interview of PEDRO GUTIERREZ VALENCIA conducted on 3/17/64, was by SAs ROLF L. LARSON and ROLAND E. TRENT.

The interviews of ERNESTO MITRANI were conducted by SAs HENRY J. PRATT and ROLAND E. TRENT.

The interview of CLAUDIO OLIVEROS on 4/7/64 was conducted by SAs HENRY J. PRATT and ROLAND E. TRENT.



MC 105-3702



SECRET

SOURCES

The confidential source abroad, mentioned in the enclosed letterhead memorandum, is SA ROLAND E. TRENT, who conducted all investigation which is not otherwise attributed.

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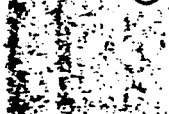
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LEADS

MEXICO CITY OFFICE

At Mexico, D. F.

Will continue efforts to resolve the allegation of PEDRO GUTIERREZ VALENCIA and to locate the current (u)



SECRET

MC 105-3702

SECRET

possessor of a 1959 Renault automobile which in 1963 and still is registered to ARTURO GAONA ELIAS, Calle Tolteca No. 53, Mexico, D. F., but which apparently is now in the possession of an unknown person in Mexico, D. F. Will thoroughly explore the possibility that this may have been the car which was observed by GUTIERREZ VALENCIA on or about 10/1/63, at the Cuban Embassy, Mexico, D. F.,

At Ciudad Obregon, Sonora

Will reinterview REYNALDO ROMERO to determine from documentary evidence, if possible, the disposition he made of a 1959 Renault, motor No. 744492, serial No. 5401098, reportedly sold by ARTURO GAONA ELIAS of Ciudad Obregon, to ROMERO, and reportedly later sold by ROMERO to someone who brought the car to Mexico City. ROMERO had previously stated this vehicle was sold to CLAUDIO OLIVEROS for delivery to ERNESTO MITRANI at Mexico City. However, investigation reported in the enclosed letterhead memorandum has failed to substantiate this information, and it appears that ROMERO may have sold the vehicle to someone other than OLIVEROS.

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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.

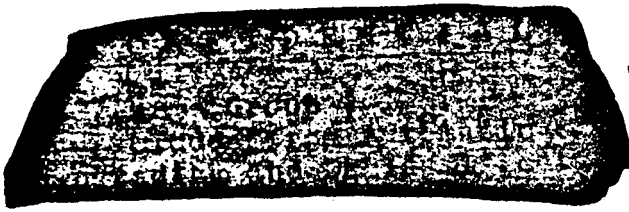
According to the MFARB file, this vehicle was sold by the afore-mentioned automobile distributor in Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, on December 5, 1959, to ARTURO GAONA ELIAS, Calle Tolteca No. 53, Mexico, D. F.

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 SLIP(S) OF
DATE

Handwritten notes:
2/12/64
1/10/64

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Declassified
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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

LEVY
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. OR 1935

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.