

SUMMARY OF THE DEPOSITION OF SYLVIA DURAN, TAKEN 6/6/78
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Salient Points:

Claims Oswald's three visits to the embassy all occurred on the same day, Friday, September 27th. Spoke only in English.

Says on the first visit he left with the transit visa application, after being told he must have 4 photographs. Returned with photographs which as she recalls pictured Oswald wearing the same clothes he had on at the time.

Stated it was not uncommon for the blank applications to be given to anyone who asked for one.

She then typed the necessary information on the application. (Consisted of an original and one carbon copy. Original sent to Cuba, carbon placed in file)

Claims she saw Oswald sign the application right then. Common procedure to stamp over the signature

Claims Oswald left again - to get a visa from Soviet Consulate.

Returned again, saying he now had the visa from the Soviets, but didn't produce it. Duran called Soviet Embassy and advised processing time for application would be three or four months. Claims this call was the only call made to the Soviet Embassy.

Oswald became angry. Duran apprised Consul Azcue who came and explained situation to Oswald. Oswald's anger increased and Azcue lost patience with him and told him to leave. Duran claimed Oswald looked "desperate".

Claims gave Oswald her telephone number. This, she did for many applicants, in order to avoid them having to come back in person.

Shown book of photographs, she selects Oswald's picture.

Reminded by Cornwell that on a previous occasion, when shown picture of Oswald, she said he "had blue or green eyes and blond hair".

Claims on 11/22/63, when she first heard Oswald's name on news broadcasts, and that he had a Russian wife, she made the association with Oswald visits to the embassy.

Claims that the morning following the assassination she saw a photo of Oswald in the newspaper. Told her husband this was the same man who had visited her in the embassy. Took newspaper photo to the embassy, pulled out Oswald's visa application and confirmed this was the same man pictured in the newspaper.

Recited story of her arrest and detention by Mexican authorities on pages 81 thru 93.

p.103-4 Duran gives description of Oswald. Short, (about her own height, 5'-3") 160 pounds, skinny, same as Lopez (who then weighed 119 pounds), with stronger shoulders than Lopez. "Small eyes, he didn't have much hair". "Elongated face, didn't have a long chin."

p106. Oswald only spoke in English.

p110. Claims she never knew anyone named Guillermo Ruiz. (NOTE: This is the name of Tony Veciana's cousin, a Castro intelligence agent who reportedly worked out of the embassy. This is the one who "Maurice Bishop" asked Veciana to contact. "We'll pay him any amount of money to say that Oswald was with him in Mexico City.")

110-111 Claims she was arrested 3PM, Saturday, November 23rd. and given lengthy interrogation which was tape recorded and typewritten. Claims she refused to sign it because some of what was written wasn't what she said. "most was what I said but they refused to change anything."

p112. Claims was certain when she saw Oswald's picture in the newspaper (11/23/89) and before she checked the visa records, that this was the same man who had come to the embassy.

Says never attended a party at which Oswald was present. (NOTE: This contradicts Elena Garro's assertion that she was present at a party in Duran's home which was attended by Azcue, Oswald, and two other Americans.)

Duran claims that within 3 days or so after her arrest, Mirabal sent Castro a report about Duran's detention and questioning by the Mexican authorities. Cuba protested to the Mexican Ambassador about the treatment of Duran. Further, that when the television coverage of Oswald's murder was shown, Azcue "was not here".

QUESTION: I know, but I mean when you talked to him (Azcue) two or three years later. Did he say anything about that?

ANSWER: No. I don't remember.

QUESTION: Do you think for sure that the man who was on television was the man who came to the Consulate?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION: The man who was killed by Jack Ruby?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION: Did you see him being killed by Ruby on television?

ANSWER: Yes., yes.

QUESTION: Was there anything about him that looked different to you?

ANSWER: No. It was black and white. So I couldn't see the color.. But he looks like the one that I met.