

SUMMARY OF THE TESTIMONY OF SENOR ALFREDO MIRABAL
TAKEN FROM VOLUME III HSCA

Mirabal who succeeded Azcue as the Cuban Consul claimed that he saw Oswald twice. On both occasions, Azcue was there and spoke to Oswald both times.

"From inside my private office I could hear loud voices, and I came out of my office severaql times to see what was happening in the area where the secretary worked. I asked my colleague, Azcue, who was taking care of the visitor, I did not know who the visitor was. But my colleague told me of an urgent visa, that he was in a great hurry to travel to Cuba. However, as our own procedures dictated, and as our instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Relations provided, we were not authorized to issue a visa, and therefore the visa was not issued. He continued in this discussion."

QUESTION: Did Mr. Oswald get involved in arguments with Mr. Azcue on both occasions that he, Oswald, visited the consulate?

ANSWER: Yes; on both occasions there were discussions or arguments to such an extent that from the very first moment it appeared to me as of this instance could be a case of a provocation. I sensed that there was an intent to create some kind of a scandal, of a disturbance. That was my feeling.

QUESTION: Approximately how long did these arguments last?

ANSWER: Today I could not be exact or precise; 15 years have gone by since then. Some time, 15, 20 minutes.

QUESTION; And you had occasion to see Mr. Oswald on both of these occasions?

ANSWER: Yes. I had an opportunity to see him. But it was from my private office where I stuck my head over and had a look at him from that vantage point.

QUESTION: How far away from you was Mr. Oswald during these two visits?

ANSWER: About 4 meters away.

QUESTION: Mr. Mirabal, please look at the picture that appears in that application. Is the person whose picture appears in this visa application the same Lee Harvey Oswald who visited the Cuban consulate requesting a visa?

ANSWER: I really did not observe him with any great deal of interest. He for me was one of many who visited the consulate. The image that I have of him, I believe that the answer is yes, that he is the same person.

QUESTION: Mr. Mirabal, after the assassination of President Kennedy, was there ever any discussion at the Cuban consulate or Embassy concerning whether the Oswald arrested in Dallas was actually the same person identified as Oswald who visited your consulate requesting a visa in September 1963?

ANSWER: Yes; on the day following the assassination it is my own secretary that communicates this information to me in the morning when I arrive at the consulate. At that point, she advises me of the fact that the assassination has occurred. Later, and I cannot recall exactly how late or how soon thereafter, she communicates to me the fact that the alleged assassin is the same person that came to the consulate.

Mirabal goes on to deny the validity of the Comer Clark newspaper account about Castro knowing of Oswald's intention to murder Kennedy, voiced while he was visiting the consulate. Calls it completely false; a lie.

Says at no point did he verify whether the photo on the application matched the individual he saw. However he knows that a photo was affixed at the time he (Mirabal) signed it.

Remembers that Communist Party Membership Card which Oswald showed them, looked brand new. Thought this was silly because Party members never carried these cards.

Talked with the Soviet Consul and recalls being told that it would take 4 months to obtain a response. He included this information in the footnote on Oswald's application.

QUESTION: Were there every any occasions when an application form would be signed in blank?

ANSWER: During the 11 months that I was there, that was never done.

QUESTION: And under the procedure as you knew it, were applicants ever permitted to take the application forms out of the consular office?

ANSWER: To my knowledge, no. The ministry did not allow that to be done. I could not authorize it, and as far as I know, it was never done.

His description of Oswald:

"He was a rather small man, medium height or somewhat less, narrow shoulders. I believe he was wearing a coat, short hair. I do not recall him having a moustache. He did have a serious expression on his face. He appeared hard or tough, someone who is upset or unhappy. That is the image I retain of him."

CLOSING COMMENTS:

"I would like to state to the members of the committee that in connection with this entire process of the two visits that he made to the consulate, my impression from the very first moment was that it was in fact a provocation. He insisted on the urgency of his need for a visa. He indicated that he was being persecuted. He indicated that he could not stay long in Mexico, that he had an urgent need to travel to Cuba and therefrom to go to the Soviet Union.

On the first day he was not given the visa because he did not fulfill the necessary requirements, requirements that are asked of all individuals who are visa applicants.

On the second time he came to file the application, and yet he insisted that he needed to have it processed rapidly with great urgency. It was because of these demands of his that the argument with Mr. Azcue and with the secretary followed, and in fact during the argument he accused us all of not being revolutionaries, of not being sensitive to the fact that he was being persecuted.

I must say that from the very beginning I considered this a provocation, and I assured that in the manner in which we handled the case we followed the directives of The Foreign Ministry in the sense that all individuals have to follow certain procedures in order to obtain a visa.