

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

TAPE 2

Name Silvia Tirado (Duran) Date June 6, 1978 Time _____Address _____ Place _____

Interview:

Cornwell: You told us previously when we discussed informally with you that you were sympathetic towards the Cuban Revolution during the early 1960's--

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you ever overhear any conversation either in the Consulate or among any of the people you may have associated with concerning the possibility of killing the President?

Tirado: No, because I think the people I used to know during that time, they think like me, and I think the death of a man doesn't make anything good, I mean, you have to change the structures, I mean, it's just like a building, no? The President is like, I mean, for instance, a roof--not the top, but if you take the top, the building still stands. You have to destroy the whole building, not one man. If you kill the man, you make a hero. So, is no good.

Cornwell: What were your own feelings towards President Kennedy?

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature Gary Cornwell

Date transcribed 6-26-78

By: br Form #4-A

Tirado: Well, I like him. I mean, he was very nice, he was very intelligent. And I think of the relations with Mexico, as I remember now, they were very good in the commercial area, the cultural area. He came to Mexico and he was very acclamation. They loved him. They liked him very much.

Cornwell: And, what you're saying is, you're describing what you understood to be the basic reaction of the Mexican people? Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Was that feeling the same even among the part of the Mexican people who were sympathetic towards the Cuban Revolution?

Tirado: Uh, translate, please, Ed. I want to be sure of the question.

Lopez: Would you repeat the question, please?

Cornwell: Was the feeling that you just described as being that of the Mexican people?

Lopez: (Translated question.)

Tirado: In general.

Cornwell: The same with respect to that part of the Mexican people like yourself who were sympathetic to the Cuban Revolution?

Lopez: (Translated.)

Tirado: Well, yes, more or less. Because I mean, if you're uh, how can I explain this, uh, if you're a President

of a country that is against uh, against Latin America, undeveloped countries, you don't love them, of course, but you may see that is different, that he has been a good President, that he was, I think he was ingenious with his Alliance for Progress, that he tried to have more friends, not like Dulles who said we don't have friends, we have interests, things like that. Do you know that phrase?

Cornwell: One more time.

Lopez: . (Speaks to Tirado in Spanish.) Dulles.

Tirado: He said once the United States has no friends, they have interests. (Speaks in Spanish.) And Kennedy tried to destroy that phrase, saying we want to have friends. And he was changing the politics of Latin America, Kennedy.

Cornwell: So, you're saying that because of President Kennedy's policies towards Latin America, that even the part of the Mexican people who were sympathetic to the Cuban Revolution, they also very much liked President Kennedy?

Tirado: I think so. Now, I'm not sure, I mean I--

Cornwell: At least--

Tirado: Yeah, but you make difference with one President and another.

Cornwell: I understood your answer to my question a moment ago but let me ask it one more time, nevertheless.

I asked you if at any time during the early 1960's you had overheard any conversations among people who were in favor of the Cuban Revolution to the effect that they would consider killing the President, and you answered with a statement on the logic of the situation, that you don't change the system by changing the President. Nevertheless, let me ask you again, more pointedly. Did you, nevertheless, ever overhear any such conversations?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did you ever overhear them within the Cuban Consulate or outside it?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: I'm sorry, go ahead.

Tirado: No, but I'm Mexican and I was in Mexico and I was working there and you have to see that uh, even though the Cuban people know I was a friend, they would not say things like that in front of me, of course, no?

Cornwell: When the news came over the television and in the newspapers that President Kennedy had been killed, and then you heard the name Lee Harvey Oswald, and saw the picture, I guess you immediately reflected back on your contact, correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: At that time, did anything come into your mind

in connection with those contacts that you could have read as foreknowledge, in other words, did it totally surprise you that that was the alleged assassin, or was there anything about your contact with him which him it understandable?

Tirado: No. No, even now I don't think that he would have done it.

Cornwell: You still don't think that he killed him?

Tirado: No, because I think that he was a weak man. I saw that he could get angry, but uh, for me, he was not a man that could kill the President, because even when I saw him on television and he said all the time, "I'm innocent" and if I kill someone very important, I would be proud. I mean, because even if I'm with police I know that I'm going to be killed or die or something like that, I'd say, "Yes, I killed the President" and I don't think so.

Cornwell: So based on all of your contacts with him, you do not think that he killed the President?

Tirado: I don't think so.

Cornwell: Let me ask you just some miscellaneous questions about the nature of your contact with him. Was there ever any conversations or indications about money problems that he had? Was that ever the sub-

ject of a conversation?

Tirado: No. The thing that I remember only that he was very in a hurry because his visa was finished and I think he said, he mentioned that he only had three days to stay here in Mexico City.

Cornwell: Did he ever indicate that he hoped the Cuban Government would finance his trip?

Tirado: I don't think so.

Cornwell: Had you ever done that before? Had the Consulate ever done that sort of thing?

Tirado: No, no. We used to do that but they were visitors and we had instructions from Cuba, from the Cuban Government.

Cornwell: Only visitors from Cuba, is that what you mean?

Tirado: No, no. For instance, your--the Cuban Revolutionary Anniversary, they invite people, they do have everything paid.

Cornwell: In other words, it was persons that had been invited to go to Cuba by the Cuban Government?

Tirado: Yes, yes.

Cornwell: Well, even though, then you would not, or the Cuban Government would not have financed this trip, did he ask for such assistance?

Tirado: At the time that I was working there, it never happens.

Cornwell: Specifically Oswald.

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did he ask for monetary assistance?

Tirado: I don't remember. I don't think so. But I don't remember.

Cornwell: Did he ever say anything or did you ever observe anything to indicate that he had travelling companions in Mexico City?

Tirado: No, he didn't mention it.

Cornwell: Did he ever say anything or do anything that indicated that he knew other people in Mexico City?

Tirado: I don't know. I don't remember.

Cornwell: To the best of your knowledge he knew no one, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you know when he left Mexico City?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: By what form of transportation?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did anyone ever call or come by the Consulate on his behalf?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did they ever deliver anything to the Consulate for him?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: There have, let me ask you this--Has any allegation ever been brought to your attention that you met

with Oswald outside of the Consulate?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: On--let me show you two books, one of which is labeled photo ident book and has roughly three inch by five inch pictures in it and the other one which is labeled JFK Document 7549 and has smaller pictures in it, and I'll turn the recorder off for a second and give you a few minutes to look through them and ask us, and I will ask you if you recognize any of the people in these photos.

Recorder turned off.

Cornwell: Okay. We've turned the tape recorder back on and you've had five minutes, maybe ten, I don't know, to look through the two books. In the first book, you only picked out photograph--

Tirado: This looks like Fidel. But not exactly.

Cornwell: Which one: Number 12?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Who does that look like?

Tirado: Fidel but not exactly.

Cornwell: All right. Just a little.

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Okay. And you also I believe pointed to Number 57 when you went through the book.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And who do you think that is?

Tirado: Oswald.

Cornwell: Lee Harvey Oswald. Now, many of the pictures in the book are not that clear, of course. When you saw him the first time in the book, you indicated that that looked like him except that as you recalled him, he had either blue or green eyes and blond hair. Correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: When you say blond hair, what color is that? Is it very light?

Tirado: Light.

Cornwell: Let's see if we can find an example. Looking in the second book--that's all you found in the first book, correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: All right. Looking in the second book, uh, take as an example, Number 266 04 268, would that be basically what you recall to be the color of his hair, blond?

Tirado: Yes. Here it looks very, very light, not that light.

Cornwell: Okay. That would be what you describe as blond but your memory is that it was close but not quite as

light as that?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Okay, but the tape recorder was back away from us so just to make sure we got that answer, you picked out in the first book photograph #57. You stated that it looked like the way you recalled the man who came to the Consulate except that he had blue or green eyes and blond hair. And then we were trying to determine what shade you recall the blond hair being, and I asked you--all these are black and white--if it would be similar to photos #266 and #268 in the book 7549? And you said in those pictures that it looks very light and that it would not have been that light, quite that light to your memory. Is that right?

Tirado: Yes.

(Long break.)

Cornwell: I don't know how, working with black and white photos, we can do much better than that? But--

Tirado: A little lighter than your eyebrows.

Cornwell: A little lighter than my eyebrows? There's another photo. . .In the second book, number 26 or 27. You also pointed to those photos when you went through the book. Would the color of that hair approximate the way you remember it?

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Tirado: No, because he had very light, almost white. . .

Cornwell: Okay, again, it would be not as light as that?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: All right. Then going to the second book, you pointed to photograph #4, when you looked at the book the first time. What is your memory about that?

Tirado: He reminds me of Mirabal, he reminds me but not exactly.

Cornwell: All right. He looks a little like Mirabal?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: If I skip a photograph you remember looking at, let me know, but I jotted down some notes as you came to 'em when you looked at the book. You next pointed to number 26 and 27. Does that appear to you to be the same man?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And who was that?

Tirado: Ernesto Lefel. He used to work with my husband.

Cornwell: Ernesto Lefel. And what's the nature of the association between he and your husband?

Tirado: He was working with him.

Cornwell: In the architectural business?

Tirado: Yes, yes. He's a designer.

Cornwell: He's a designer?

Tirado: He started working with us. He learned some--

Cornwell: Is he a social acquaintance of yours in addition?

Tirado: Is what?

Cornwell: Do you know him on a social basis in addition to his being a business associate of your husband?

Tirado: No business associate. He was working for him, for Horacio.

Cornwell: Okay. That's what I meant. He was an assistant.

Tirado: Assistant.

Cornwell: All right.

Tirado: No social. Sometimes he came to our house to dinner, or something like that.

Cornwell: Next, you I believe pointed to Number 57. Is that correct? Fifty-seven?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Who does that look like?

Tirado: He looks like Gavino Fernandez.

Cornwell: What's the first name?

Tirado: Gavino.

Cornwell: Gavino? And who is he?

Tirado: Well, he's uh, dignitary, and he used to go to the Cuban Institute.

Cornwell: He was a dignitary of what?

Tirado: He was working for the Social Security and he was working, not in this Government period, in the last

one, and he was working even with the President.

Cornwell: I see, so he was a dignitary of the Mexican Government.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Okay.

Tirado: But when he was going to the Cuban Institute, no, he didn't?

Cornwell: You also knew him from the Cuban Institute?

Tirado: He's an economist.

Cornwell: He's a what?

Tirado: Economist.

Cornwell: Economist. You then pointed to Number 65.

Tirado: Perhaps.

Cornwell: And that's a face that you're not sure you recognize?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: But looks a little bit like who?

Tirado: Solchi Vargas.

Cornwell: Solchi Vargas?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Okay. And who was she?

Tirado: She's Mexican lady who was married with a journalist, he used to work for the Cuban press, and she used to live in Cuba. And now she's at the Cuban Institute.

Cornwell: I believe you next pointed to Number 111--

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And that's a, sort of a three-quarter shot from behind.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Of a man you think you might recognize, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: I'm sort of trying to recall the way you stated it when you first looked at the photographs, so if I misstated it, just correct me.

Who do you think that man may be?

Tirado: The attache, the Cuban Cultural Attache at that time, Luis Alberu.

Cornwell: Alberu?

Tirado: Alberu.

Cornwell: And then I believe you next indicated that you may recognize Photograph 115?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And who is that?

Tirado: Luis Alberu.

Cornwell: That of course is a front and you can clearly recognize him from that photograph, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Then, you next pointed to Photograph 133. Do you recognize that man?

Tiardo: Yes.

Cornwell: Who is he?

Tirado: The doorman. Now I don't remember the name.

Cornwell: But he's the doorman who left Lee Harvey Oswald
into the Consulate on his third visit?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: That's accurate?

Tirado: Uh? . . .I said yes.

Cornwell: Okay. And then I believe you pointed to photograph
158?

Tirado: Numbers 157 and 158.

Cornwell: 157 and 158. Who was that?

Tirado: I think that he was working at the Consulate in
Vera Cruz?

Cornwell: And do you know what his position was at the Con-
sulate?

Tirado: I think he was Vice Consul but I'm not really sure.

Cornwell: And which Consulate is that?

Tirado: In Vera Cruz, Cuban, the Cuban Consulate.

Cornwell: The Cuban Consulate in Vera Cruz.

And I believe finally you recognized possibly the
center man in the group photograph labeled 275.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And who do you think he is?

Tirado: An American.

Cornwell: Do you remember anything more about him?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you remember where you saw him?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you think you recognized the photo from a personal contact or from a picture?

Tirado: From a picture I think. I think he was an American Ambassador.

Cornwell: American Ambassador?

Tirado: Or something like that.

Cornwell: All right. And you don't have any memory what his name might be?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Okay. Uh. . .

Tirado: But tell me, who is it? (Laughter.) For a change.

Cornwell: Do you recognize the man in photo 266? Yes, that's the one I want. 266?

Tirado: No. He looks like Russian.

Cornwell: Do you recognize the man in 265?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you recognize the man in 213?

Tirado: No. You're not going to tell me who's that man?

Cornwell: Not right now. (Laughter.) But maybe later.

When the assassination occurred, do you remember where you were, when you first heard the news reports?

Tirado: At the Consulate.

Cornwell: And do you know what you did at that time?

Tirado: No, it was almost noon, I mean the lunch hour, about two o'clock, or near two o'clock, and somebody came and said Kennedy was killed, and all was confusion and, uh, well, we were really sorry. Everybody came in and went out and there was confusion. All over. And then I went home to have lunch.

Cornwell: Did you speak to Horatio or anyone else prior to going home?

Tirado: I don't remember, really.

Cornwell: When you went home was he at home?

Tirado: We used to have lunch.

Cornwell: And? As you recall he was there on that day?

Tirado: It was my birthday so he has to be there. (Laughter.)

Cornwell: What if any conversation do you recall having with him at that time about the assassination?

Tirado: No, I don't remember. I only remember at night.

Cornwell: All right. You had a birthday party planned that night. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: During the day, prior to the birthday party, had you received or heard as part of the news broadcast the name Lee Harvey Oswald?

Tirado: No, only in the afternoon.

Cornwell: In the afternoon, after lunch?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: After you returned to the Consulate, is that correct?

Tirado: Perhaps.

Cornwell: And at that time, did you think you remembered the name?

Tirado: It was, I think, at night, because, it was in the afternoon, perhaps when they start saying about Oswald. Right? And, it was at night and uh, I don't know if I call my husband or we were in the kitchen mixing some drinks or food, I don't know, but we were in the kitchen and I told him, I think this man went to the Embassy to ask for a visa.

Cornwell: And at that time, had you heard his name?

Tirado: His name?

Cornwell: His name, seen his picture, or both?

Tirado: No, no. The picture was in the newspapers the next day.

Cornwell: Okay. So you only thought that you might have recalled the name. Is that correct?

Tirado: No, not the name, but when they say Lee Harvey Oswald, married to the Russian woman and he live in Russia, and things like that.

Cornwell: Okay. Did you have any other discussion that you can recall with him about it? Based on that news

report? About your contact?

Tirado: With my husband?

Cornwell: Yes.

Tirado: I only told him, I think this man came to the Embassy.

Cornwell: Then, the next morning you saw a newspaper.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Were you sure at that time that that was the man?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you remember who was at the birthday party that night? Do you remember whether or not you discussed these events with any one else at the party?

Tirado: Yes, we were talking about it.

Cornwell: Whoever was at the party.

Tirado: The whole night, yes.

Cornwell: What was the tone of the party?

Tirado: Sorrow. And speculation, what's going on? Because with Kennedy we knew what was going on, but now, what will happen?

Cornwell: The next morning what did you do?

Tirado: I show the paper to Horatio and told him this is the man that went to the Embassy and I went to the Consulate and I look in the Archivos and I saw the application, I saw that it was the man and I went to the Embassy and I talked to the Ambassador and I told him that this

Cornwell: What was the nature of your conversation with the Ambassador? Just to tell him that that was the man?

Tirado: Yes, I think so.

Cornwell: What was his name?

Tirado: Fernandez Armes (or Hernandez).

Cornwell: And, did you do anything else? Did you pull the file on him or make any other attempts to put the facts together?

Tirado: I think I leave the file with him.

Cornwell: Pulled the file and left it with the Ambassador?

Tirado: Yeah, the whole bunch.

Cornwell: What would have been in the file besides the application, if anything?

Tirado: Another applications.

Cornwell: I see, you pulled the whole file which included his application?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did anything else happen that morning at work?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Then, did you go home for lunch again?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And what occurred at that time?

Tirado: Uh, my brothers-in-law, servant, maid came and when she saw me, she cried, she started crying, and she said "You're alive?" And I say "why?," "because some man

came to the house and says that uh, you had an accident and you were dead and they take away Senor Ruben to identify you." Then we went to Ruben's house and it was full of men and they catch me.

Cornwell: They caught you. Okay. And the men were representatives of the Mexican police, is that correct?

Tirado: Yeah, but they never told me.

Cornwell: What happened when you walked into the house, to Ruben's house?

Tirado: I saw my brothers-in-law, wife, and the same thing. She cries, and says "Silvia, you're okay?" "Yes, I'm okay." She was between two men and she couldn't get near to me, but I was walking and I saw in the bedroom, it was Ruben, and full of photographs on the bed and he said the same thing--"Silvia, you're okay, you're all right?" and I say "Yes" and "What happened?" Then I saw the telephone and I try to get the telephone and a man hold my hand and he says you can't call because you are under arrest, and they say, I don't remember, but they say, ah, this is the accomplice of Kennedy. I thought that's what they told but I say I don't remember. They told me, "You're under arrest." I sat down on the bed and I said "You have to show me an order signed by a judge that I am under arrest." Then they hold

me, my hands, and I try to defend myself, and they kicked somebody and they took me--

Cornwell: You were trying to kick them and keep them from taking you with them, right?

Tirado: Yes, yes.

Cornwell: Who were you going to call on the telephone?

Tirado: The police.

(Laughter.)

Tirado: The police, the lawyer, I don't know. And when they took me out of the house and I was crying, "Call the police, call the police!" and they, he covered my mouth, and they took me to stationwagon that was parked at the corner. There was a man there but I didn't know him and I was quiet, and they say, "Don't cry. Scandalous woman." "Scandalous old woman, shut up. Because where we are going we will see what's going to happen to you." So, in that moment, I said quit.

Cornwell: So you were taken to the police station?

Tiardo: No. It's not the police station. The office where the security, that was where the intelligence agencies were in. But I didn't know that because that building belongs to the State Social Security. Not the one I work for.

Cornwell: Then?

Tirado: For government employees.

Cornwell: And who else was taken down there besides you?

Tirado: The whole--my brother-in-law, his wife, my sister-in-law, a friend of hers, another woman that was there, and me, but they were taken in another car.

Cornwell: And, at the police station, what inquiries were made of you? What did they ask?

Tirado: Everything. Everything. They asked me my name, where was I born, my jobs, when I married, my status, everything. They have my finger-prints, photographs of myself, everything. And uh, well, they ask me where I was working, if I had been in Cuba, some people that I saw in Cuba, and what I was doing at the Consulate, that there was a tunnel, that makes me laugh, it was a tunnel from the Cuban Embassy to the Russian Embassy, and uh, well, a lot of foolish questions.

Cornwell: Specifically, what did they allege that you had done?

Tirado: What?

Cornwell: Specifically, what did they allege you had done? What did they accuse you of doing?

Tirado: Nothing. They never said--

Cornwell: During the questioning on all the subject matters that you had mentioned, did they make a verbatim transcript? Did they record the conversation, or transcribe it?

Tirado: They used a little machine. They say it is a stenograph or something like that.

Cornwell: They made a stenograph record.

Tirado: Yeah, and a man was writing.

Cornwell: All the questions and all the answers?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did any of the procedures that we have asked you about cause you to say anything to the police that was not the truth?

Tirado: No, I don't think so. I don't have nothing to hide. So. . .

Cornwell: Everything that you told them was the truth?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: At any time during the questioning did they ever allege that you had met with Oswald outside the Consulate?

Tirado: Yes. A lot of times.

Cornwell: Did they ever ask you any questions about a Negro?

Tirado: I don't remember.

Cornwell: You don't remember anything about that?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did you ever know, during this same period of time, any Negroes?

Tirado: Yes. At the Commercial Attache was a Negro.

Cornwell: Anyone else?

Tirado: The doorman.

Cornwell: Anyone else?

Tirado: The wife of the Commercial Attache. And the children.

Cornwell: Is that all? Did they ask any specific questions about them?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: What was his name?

Tirado: I don't remember. I even don't remember if he was there when Kennedy was shot.

Cornwell: Were they from Cuba?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you know any other Negroes from Cuba outside the Consulate?

Tirado: I don't think so. Well, this man, the boy at Consulado at Vera Cruz. He was a Negro, not completely, but--

Cornwell: The one you showed us in the photograph?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you know any Negroes who had red hair?

None of the ones you described did?

Tirado: No, we used to call "Red" to a boy who was working there but he was like Spanish; I mean he was white and--

Cornwell: Not even very dark skinned?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Remember his name?

Tirado: Rogelio, Rogelio Rodriguez, I think, something like that.

Cornwell: After the questioning, first, how did that terminate? When did they finally release you?

Tirado: About one o'clock.

Cornwell: Did you meet again with your family, your husband?

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Tirado: Yes. Well, they were waiting for me and. . .
we went to have lunch, something to eat because we
haven't had. And well, we talk about it.

Cornwell: Remember where you went?

Tirado: No. Horacio told me we went to Sanborn's.
I don't remember. I even don't remember when I got
home and what happened. Next day everyone know.

Cornwell: Did the officers from the Seguridad Department
ever suggest to you during the questioning that they
had information that you and Oswald had been lovers?

Tirado: Yes, and also that we were Communists and that we
were planning the Revolution and uh, a lot of false
things.

Cornwell: What happened the next day?

Tirado: Well, we stayed home and at night a friend of ours
came and we didn't say anything.

Cornwell: Why was that?

Tirado: Why?

Cornwell: Why did you not say anything?

Tirado: Because these people told me to keep quiet.

Cornwell: The police?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Or the officers?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you then go back over to the Consulate either
Sunday or Monday?

Tirado: On Monday.

Cornwell: Okay. What happened then?

Tirado: When I got there everybody ask me what happened? And I say "Why?" And in the newspaper was the this part of the question that I told you about, Azcue telling Oswald to go away.

Cornwell: It was in the newspapers?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: How did the newspapers get that story?

Tirado: I don't know.

Cornwell: You never had any idea?

Tirado: Well, of course. The police gave it to Excelsior. It was the first government newspaper.

Cornwell: So you just always thought they got it from the police?

Cornwell: But the people at the Consulate said they had read the newspaper and asked you what had happened, right?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you discuss that with anybody that you can remember specifically?

Tirado: With the Ambassador.

Cornwell: And what was the nature of that conversation?

Tirado: I tried to repeat all the questions.

Cornwell: Okay. Uh. . . would that have been a violation of what the police asked you to do? To talk to the

Ambassador about that?

Tirado: Huh?

Cornwell: Was that a violation of what the police asked you to do? Was that. . . .

Tirado: Well, of course. They told me to keep quiet. I never says anything about what happened on Saturday. Never. But when I saw in the papers I couldn't say "Well, nothing happened." It was all in the paper and it was exactly what I said to the police.

Cornwell: What did the Ambassador say to you?

Tirado: That he was going to write a report and he sent it in the plane.

Cornwell: What if anything did you consider doing at the time?

Tirado: What?

Cornwell: Did you consider taking any course of action at the time?

Tirado: Oh. I was going to make a protest to the Mexican Government. We went to, a friend of mine was a daughter of the Chief of Tinetra^(H) and we could reach the President and we were going to ask to explain what happened and you know, there was an illegal (tape stops). . . .

Cornwell: Did, in addition to your considering filing formal protest with the Mexican Government, did you also consider taking a trip out of the country?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did you consider going to Cuba?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: What happened after that?

Tirado: Well, I told to the Ambassador all that happened during the questioning and I told him also about the protest that we wanted to make and I asked him, "Don't do anything because we are trying to do something here, against these police." And after that, uh, Tuesday, I went to work and Wednesday morning when I was going to have breakfast the police came again, two agents, and they asked me, very polite, if I want to go with them, just to answer some questions. They wanted to know something. And, uh, it was unnecessary to take my car because they were going to take me and bring me back. So I called uh, the Consulate. That's why I remember I already had the telephone and I said I'm coming in late because I'm going to the police station. Okay, don't worry, we wait for you. And they keep me two days and a half.

Cornwell: And why did they tell you that they kept you this time?

Tirado: Uh, to protect me.

Cornwell: Did they tell you anything in any more detail?
Was there a specific threat?

Tirado: No. They were very rough this time. They were very angry with me, the man that I told you, that I kicked him in his balls. He was very angry, and they repeat the same questions but they were more, how you say, how do you say anticipito?

Lopez: They anticipated her.

Tirado: And they were, wanted to know exactly what I have done in Cuba, the people that I met there, everything. They were asking me questions about all the people that were working in the Embassy and uh, this time I wanted to go to the bathroom and they wouldn't take me and it was longer, because it was about 10:00 from 10:00, I think almost 6:00, they questioned me.

Cornwell: Were you afraid during the two periods they held you?

Tirado: Yes. I don't know exactly what happened but I was uh, I was innocent. So I said, what am I doing here, no? And uh, the only thing that I have, I had the feeling that I was going to die and I said okay, if I'm going to die, I'm going to die, how you say it, with pride, my child will not be shamed. I remember I do anything that--I was very dramatic in those moments. So, sometimes I lost my temper. I never say no bad words or nothing. I cry sometimes, I shout and things like that but then I sat down again.

Cornwell: As I understand it, they tried to scare you, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes. The first time.

Cornwell: The first time. Because of that was there anything that you knew that you simply refused to tell them?

Tirado: That's what they thought. Because all the time they tell me that I was a Communist and I said I'm not a Communist, but do you believe in Socialism? Yes, I believe in Socialism but I'm not a Communist; and they insisted that I was a very important people for the government, the Cuban Government, and that I was the link for the International Communists--the Cuban Communists, the Mexican Communists and the American Communists, and that we were going to kill Kennedy, and I was the link. For them I was very important. Of course, it was not true.

Cornwell: Okay. Even though you were innocent of those charges, you had not conspired to kill the President and were not in the Communist Party.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Because that was what they were interested in, because that was the nature of the allegation, did you withhold any part of your story? Were you afraid that something you had done, although innocent, they might have misconstrued, misunderstood, so did you withhold any information from them because of the very severe accusations they were making?

Tirado: No. I tried to answer it, what they asked me I tried to answer. All the time.

Cornwell: You understand though, the kind of question I'm asking you?

(Tirado spoke to Lopez in Spanish, who asked Cornwell to repeat the question.)

Cornwell: Okay, let me just ask you a hypothetical. Sometimes, a person has done something completely innocent but then they are confronted with a very severe accusation. They may think that their innocent act will be misunderstood by their accusers so they might withhold the innocent act simply to be sure that they don't get into more trouble--

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Simply to be sure they don't get into more trouble than they apparently are already in.

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: There was no thing that you had done or seen or knew about that you withheld because of that?

Tirado: No. No, I explain everything that they wanted to know and uh, I think sometimes they were fools.

Cornwell: They were what?

Lopez: Fools.

Cornwell: Fools.

Tirado: Tonto. Fools.

Cornwell: After they finally released you, they held you for another two, two and a half days. Did you make any

trips out of the country then?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: How long did you continue to be married to Horatio after that?

Tirado: Five years.

Cornwell: Why were you finally divorced?

Tirado: We separate and we divorce perhaps four years after.

Cornwell: Why was that?

Tirado: Why? Why we divorce four years after?

Because we don't like.

Cornwell: Go ahead.

Tirado: Because he did not want to get legal problems and he said that it was a lot of problems to get divorced. He was married once so he said that it was nonsense.

Cornwell: Why were you separated?

Tirado: Because I used to believe in the romantic love, and even we have a very, how you say that, uh, we loved each other very much but it was not the passionate love that I used to believe in, so I thought it better to divorce, get divorced. It is very difficult to explain.

(Tirado speaks to Lopez in Spanish.)

Lopez: They were incompatible, had incompatible characters.

Cornwell: You have not spoken to anybody in the news media or any official investigating body since 1963 about these events, is that correct, except for the

Washington Post and that was approximately a year or so ago, a year and a half ago?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: You indicate that you read some part of the Warren Commission Report recently. Do you recall anything about that that was inaccurate other than what you have already related? The part that you read.

Tirado: What?

Cornwell: Was there any part of that which was inaccurate that you can recall?

Tirado: What I said. That I was exceeding my duties.

Cornwell: Had you either done anything or offered to do anything for Oswald other than what you have already described to us?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: And was that all within the scope of your responsibility?

Tirado: It was. . . .?

Cornwell: Was it all within the scope of your authority?

Tirado: Scope?

(Lopez translates.)

Tirado: Yes.

(Tirado speaks to Lopez in Spanish.)

Cornwell: Did you ever have any of the people at the Cuban Consulate attend parties in your home? Was there

a social relationship with any of them?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Which ones?

Tirado: Azcue, Maria Carmen, I think Luisa, she went once.

Cornwell: Who is that? Luisa?

Tirado: Luisa Caldaron, the one you ask me.

Cornwell: Okay. Azcue, Luisa, and the secretary who was killed,
is that correct?

Tirado: Before, before this, before I used to work at the
Embassy, uh, and before we move to Constitutyentes
we make some parties, for instance, when Armando Hart
(Ph.) was here, he was the Minister of Education, and
with the Ambassador he was in that time and Organa,
who was Director of the Movies Institute. Some people
who came from Cuba. We used to invite.

Cornwell: Okay. How about Theresa Proenza?

Tirado: Perhaps she came.

Cornwell: Did you ever receive any indication from them that
any of them had ever had a contact with Oswald?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did Elena or Elinita Garro de Paz ever come to those
parties? In your home?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Or in the home of Ruben?

Tirado: Once, but it was, I think it was before that I was in the Cuban Embassy.

Cornwell: Would it have been approximately around '63?

Tirado: I don't know because when they came from France. . .

Cornwell: Approximately 1963?

Tirado: I only, perhaps, I don't know.

Hardway: Did you say that it was when they came from France?

Tirado: Yes.

Hardway: It was after they returned from France that they came to one of the parties?

Tirado: Yeah, to Ruben's house.

Hardway: At Ruben's house.

Tirado: Yeah. That was the whole family there.

I only saw Elena a few times. One was the day that I got married and another time was somewhere else, I think three times I only saw her.

Cornwell: Did you know General Clark Flores?

Tirado: Yeah, but not very well.

Cornwell: Was he ever at those parties?

Tirado: I don't remember. Perhaps once, at Ruben's house but not at my house.

Cornwell: Did you know Emilio Carbillido ?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did he ever attend those parties?

Tirado: I don't remember.

Cornwell: Did Devaci?

Tirado: Devaci. Elena's sister.

Cornwell: Did she attend those parties?

Tirado: No, she went, I think I saw her sometimes at the Embassy.

Cornwell: How about Eunice Odio?

Tirado: No. I know her, I mean I met her sometime. But, no. She was not a close friend.

Cornwell: Over the years, have any of those people ever indicated to you that they had any knowledge of Oswald's trip to Mexico City?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Have they ever professed to have either seen him or heard any stories about any one who did see or meet with him?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Has anyone else ever come to you since 1963 and professed to have knowledge of Oswald's trip to Mexico City?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Would you have any reason to believe that if we spoke to any of those people they could have information of help to us?

Tirado: I don't know.

Cornwell: Have you ever had any association with any intelligence agency of any country, including our own?

Tirado: Once I met a Russian when I was working at the Press Agency but he was from the Russian Press, and they say that he was from the police, the Russian Police but I don't know.

Cornwell: But you just met him one time?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: I don't have any additional questions.

Lopez: I have a few questions of Ms. Duran. As normal procedure, when a person came to the Cuban Consulate, do you explain to them that there are different types of visas?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: So they would normally come to you and ask you for a special type of visa, and then you would get that kind of application?

Tirado: Uh, huh.

Lopez: Okay.

Tirado: The application was the same.

Lopez: Same application. But they were different visas.

Tirado: There were only two visas. Transit visa and normal visa.

Lopez: You didn't normally explain to people whether there were two different types of visas when they came to you until after--

Tirado: Perhaps.

Lopez: Okay. I just wanted to read to you a couple of sections of what was recorded in the Warren Commission Report. What happened was, there was a report given by the Mexican authorities to the Warren Commission and it was published in the report and let me read you one sentence, okay?

The declarant complied with her duties, took down all the information and completed the appropriate application form, and the declarant admittedly, exceeding her responsibilities, informally telephoned the Russian Consulate with the intention of doing what she could to facilitate issuance of the Russian visa to Lee Harvey Oswald.

Is that statement accurate?

Tirado: It's that one and I don't like it. The other one?

Lopez: That part about admittedly exceeding her responsibilities?

Tirado: Uh huh.

Cornwell: That's the part you had reference to earlier when you told us that you had read something--

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: It says here that you telephoned the Russian Consulate.

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: Did he ever telephone you back?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: Okay. And it says here with the intention of doing what she could to facilitate issuance of the Russian visa. Did you ever do anything else to facilitate the issuance of the visa?

Tirado: No, nothing. I couldn't do anything.

Lopez: Did you ever explain to him that in order to get a visa he could have a recommendation letter from a fellow Communist or a fellow Cuban citizen, and then if he had that letter, he could get a visa?

Tirado: Yeah, that was one of the requirements.

Lopez: And then, did you ever send him to anyone, give him the name of anybody?

Tirado: No, never. I mean I never did that.

Lopez: I see. Okay. Then there's another section here that says:

However, they told her (this is the Russian Consulate) that there would be a delay of about four months in processing the case.

Was that the first time that you explained to Lee Harvey Oswald that it would take him about four months to get a visa?

Tirado: Yes, I didn't know it.

Lopez: Was that when he became angry?

Tirado: More or less.

Lopez: More or less. And that would have been on his third visit?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: Okay. Then there's one other section here. It says:

The Consulate who came out and began a heated discussion in English with Oswald, that concluded by Azcue telling him that if it were up to him he would not give him the visa and a person of this type was harming

the Cuban Revolution rather than helping it. It being understood that in the conversation they were talking about the Russian Socialist Revolution and not the Cuban.

Is that correct?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: What is your understanding of that?

Tirado: The conversation that he had with Azcue, was exclusively with the Cuban Revolution.

Lopez: Exclusively with the Cuban Revolution.

I wanted to ask you, in this report here, they don't say how many times Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate. Did you ever tell the Mexican officials how many times he had visited?

Tirado: I think so.

Lopez: And it was probably taken down by a stenographer.

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: Do you consider this report which is about a page long to be completely fair and accurate and complete?

Tirado: No, because about exceeding my duties and about Azcue speaking about the Russian Revolution, that's not true.

Lopez: But, my question is, they interrogated you from about four in the afternoon until about twelve at night, and in that process you spoke to them for eight whole hours and yet the whole conversation, interrogation, has been reduced to one page. Do you consi-

der this accurate? Is it complete?

Tirado: No, of course not. Because they ask me a lot of questions that has not been in the Warren--about my trip to Cuba, about my job at the Institute, the Cuban Institute, about why I have been Communist, as they say, and I say I'm not a Communist, and it takes hours to explain them. And as you explain you are not a Communist, if you are a member of the Communist Party, things like that, and where did you take your beliefs, no? I say at the University, oh, at the University, and then there's a discussion and uh, the classes I take at the University, and things like that.

Lopez: Okay. You do remember telling the Mexican officials when they questioned you how many times Oswald visited the Consulate?

Tirado: I think so. And I, they asked me I don't know how many times, the way that I used to give my name and telephone number and they made me write and they take the paper out and then again, they ask me, how do you do this, and I write it down, and I give the paper. I think I did it five or six times.

Lopez: And did they ever ask you to describe Oswald?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: Would you do me a favor and describe him for me now?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: For example, let's start at the beginning. Was he tall, short?

Tirado: Short.

Lopez: Short. Could you stand up for a minute, Gary?

(Laughter.)

Would you say he was as tall as Gary?

Tirado: Yeah, more or less.

Lopez: Would you say he was taller than Gary?

Tirado: No, I think just the same. He was about my size.

Lopez: About your height?

Tirado: Yeah.

Lopez: Okay. And what's your height?

Tirado: 160. I think 160 or 162.

Lopez: Was he skinny?

Tirado: Yes. Skinny.

Lopez: Could you estimate how much he weighed?

Tirado: About your weight, more or less.

Lopez: About my weight. We already went over. . .

Tirado: He has stronger shoulders, perhaps, than yours.

Lopez: Just for the record, my weight is 119 pounds. You told us before he had a suit on.

Tirado: That I don't remember very well. I think he was wearing a jacket but what I can remember is that he was not wearing nice clothes, expensive clothing.

He was cheap, perhaps.

Lopez: Do you remember what his nose looked like? Was it skinny? Fat?

Tirado: No. He was normal. There was nothing that you may remember. The eyes were small.

Lopez: Small eyes.

Tirado: Smaller than yours.

Lopez: Smaller than mine, for the record. I can't do that.

Tirado: If you describe, you say small eyes.

Cornwell: Okay. In sum, you identified a picture in the book as being as best as you can remember his face and hair. Was there anything about that which in your memory was different from the picture other than the fact that you do remember his eyes being blue or green and his hair being very light colored or blond but not as light as some of the other pictures look.

Tirado: And he has not very much. He was, has few, poco pelo.

Lopez: He didn't have very much hair.

Cornwell: Is there anything else about that picture in the book which does not look like your memory of him?

Tirado: No, but because even when I saw the television when he was shot, I used to remember him. I mean it was the same that I remember.

Lopez: I understand. If you bear with me just a few more minutes--his hair line, was it receding?

Tirado: Yeah, yeah. Quite a bit.

Lopez: Okay. And his cheeks, were they high cheek bones or low cheek bones? Do you remember that?

Tirado: Well, I remember that he was a little, I don't know what you call it (spoke with Lopez in Spanish.)

Lopez: An elongated face.

Tirado: Uh huh.

Lopez: Did he have a long chin?

Tirado: No.

Lopez (To Cornwell): Do you have any more questions about his description?

Lopez (To Duran): Just wanted to ask you a few other questions. Did Luis Aparicio ever attend any of those twist parties that you had, or that Ruben had?

Tirado: No, Ruben never, Ruben never have parties for the people at the Embassy.

Lopez: Did he ever attend?

Tirado: Aparico, he was, I don't remember, where he was, I think he works in the Commercial Office. I don't remember.

Lopez: You don't remember if he went to any parties?

Tirado: No. But he was at the Cuban Embassy.

Lopez: Okay. Do you know a person named Eunice Odio?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: What was your relationship to Eunice Odio?

Tirado: It was not close. I know her because she's a poetess and uh, well, I know a lot of painters, things like that, but just hello and. . perhaps if I meet her now I don't know if I could recognize or even she recognize me.

Lopez: I see. And did she ever attend any of those parties?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: Do you know a person named Ricardo Guerra?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: And what was your relationship to him?

Tirado: Very close.

Lopez: Very close. Could you elaborate?

Tirado: Well, when I was unmarried I had a lot of friends and his sisters were friends of mine, that's when I met him, before I got married. And when I married, we continued our friendship and uh, he got married with a writer, but I admire her very much, and he was a very close friend of mine, and we continue the relation all the time that we were married. Both. And uh, he was professor at the philosophy faculty, he was my teacher also. I mean he was a close friend.

Lopez: I see. He was a professor, you said.

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: Did you ever attend any seminars at the University of Mexico where he was lecturing?

Tirado: No, we used to have in our house.

Lopez: What were those seminars about?

Tirado: Marxism seminar.

Lopez: You never, though, attended any seminars at the University of Mexico?

Tirado: No, he was a teacher and I used to take lessons with him. Existentialism, you know? (Spoke in Spanish.) Only two courses.

Lopez: Do you know if he ever held seminars at the University of Mexico?

Tirado: He had to.

Lopez: By any chance do you remember if he would ever hold seminars on Saturdays?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: No, he did not or no, you do not remember?

Tirado: I don't know, I don't know.

Hardway: I've just got a few questions that if you'll bear with me. . . .

During the three times that you met Oswald, did you ever hear him speak any language other than English?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: In general, in the Consulate's Office, was it common for any other language other than Spanish to be spoken?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Was Russian ever commonly spoken at the Consulate's Office?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Do you remember anyone having spoken Russian in that office?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: At any time?

Tirado: No, I don't think. The only language they speak, it was English, and not everybody, just a few of them.

Hardway: When Oswald came back the third time, did he tell you that he had a Russian visa or that the Russians had told him that there wouldn't be any problem?

Tirado: That he was going to get the Russian visa, that there was no problem.

Hardway: Did he tell you that he was going to get it, or that he already had it?

Tirado: He said I already got it.

Hardway: And he told you that he already had it as opposed to telling you that they had assured him that there was no problem?

Tirado: Yes.

Hardway: Could you tell me what Eusebio Azcue thought about John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President Kennedy?

Tirado: What he thought? About the assassination?

Hardway: No, about President Kennedy.

Tirado: I don't know, I don't remember.

Hardway: Did you ever discuss President Kennedy with
Consul Azcue?

Tirado: No, he was not here when Kennedy was killed.

Hardway: I'm asking not about the assassination but about
Kennedy and his policies and things like that.

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Did you ever hear Azcue discuss it with anyone
else?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Did--

Lopez: Have you seen Azcue since 1963?

Tirado: I don't remember if he came. His son came, and
I don't remember if he came once to Mexico and he
told me about the conversation that he had with
Fidel Castro but I told you the other day what
Fidel says and all of that and the way they write
a protest to Mexico, to the Mexican Government,
but I'm not really sure if he was his son, or if he
was Azcue.

Lopez: Would you have seen Azcue at any time during the last
two years?

Tirado: No, I think that I never saw him again.

His son, he came, I saw him, but, Azcue, I don't remember.

Lopez: Do you know if Eusebio Azcue is still in Cuba?

Tirado: I think so. I don't know.

Hardway: Did you ever discuss with Consul Azcue the policies of United States towards Cuba? Or other Latin American countries?

Tirado: Perhaps we did, but I don't remember.

Hardway: Do you remember by chance what Azcue's views would have been on that? Did you ever discuss Azcue's views on changing that policy?

Tirado: What I remember is that during the Blockade (spoke to Lopez in Spanish.)

Lopez: The Student Economic Bloc of 1968.

The strike, I'm sorry. The economic blockade.

Tirado: What I remember but I don't remember exactly if it was Azcue, the Commercial Attache, the Ambassador, but what I remember, it was all the people, they have expectations and they were how you say, trusting, that with Kennedy, the policy of the American Government was changing. They were hoping. . .

Hardway: Did you or anyone else at the Consulate ever offer Lee Harvey Oswald any aid of any kind?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Did you ever know a person by the name of Guillermo Ruiz?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Just for the record, when you were arrested on that Saturday afternoon, what time that arrest was, approximately?

Tirado: About three o'clock.

Hardway: Was the interrogation that was conducted at that time transcribed or taped?

Tirado: It was written and when I sign I read it.

Hardway: Was it written out in a summary form or was it written out as you said it?

Tirado: They change, because once it was a man with a little machine, and another moment it was a man writing, typing.

Hardway: But most of it was taken down literally, as you said it?

Tirado: And with the typewriter.

Hardway: Did you sign that which was taken down as you said it? Or did you sign a summary of that?

(Lopez translated.)

Tirado: No, no, no. They were typing, all the time. They were typing all the time, even once, I don't know how many times, they told me, slow, because he was writing. But they didn't write exactly what I said sometimes because when I read all of that bunch of papers they say, come on, it's one o'clock, here, sign this. I said, no, I'm not going to sign this if I not read it. And sometimes I said this, I didn't say that. For instance, no? For instance, I'd remember, they say she was very, very glad when Kennedy came. And I say no. I said I like it but I didn't say that I was

very, very glad. Things like that, no?

But almost, it was what I said. But they didn't want to change anything.

Hardway: Okay. Did you ever discuss the allegation that they made that you had been Lee Harvey Oswald's lover with your husband?

Tirado: Well, I told him almost all what happened. He told me what they did to him and I told him what they did to me.

Hardway: Do you remember specifically talking about that specific allegation with your husband?

Tirado: No, it was not important.

Hardway: Going back to when you recognized Oswald, the man whose picture you had seen in the paper as the man who had been at the Embassy three times. Were you certain that the man in the papers was the same man, before you checked your records at the Archives?

Tirado: Yes. Immediately I saw the paper, I told him. This was the man that I want to check.

Hardway: To your knowledge, was Horatio ever a member of the Communist Party?

Tirado: I think that he was, I don't know if he was exactly member, but he was sympathizer and we had a lot of friends that they were members of the Communist Party.

Hardway: Uh, to your knowledge, was Horatio ever a member of any intelligence organization?

Tirado: I don't remember exactly. I think he was working for the, how you say that? I think he was in a campaign. Against the drugs.

Hardway: Do you know when that would have been?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: Do you know when he would have been a sympathizer for, with the Communist Party?

Tirado: I think it was before we got married.

Tirado: Well, I'm completely sure. Being Communist, being policeman. All of that, it was after I meet him.

Hardway: Do you know why--

Tirado: I mean before I meet him.

Hardway: Do you know why they asked you to keep quiet after the first interrogation?

Tirado: No, I don't.

Hardway: Did you ever attend a party where Lee Harvey Oswald was present?

Tirado: The party where Lee, no, I don't know that he attends some parties.

Hardway: The question was, did you ever attend a party where he was present?

Tirado: No.

Hardway: That's all I've got.

Cornwell: Just two brief matters and I promise we will end this very long questioning session.

The questions which were just asked you about which languages he spoke, by Mr. Hardway, when the call was made to the Russian Embassy, what language was spoken there?

Tirado: Spanish.

Cornwell: Did the Russians speak Spanish too?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did at any point in that conversation Russian-speaking people get involved? Did anyone at the Russian Embassy speak Russian to you?

Tirado: I don't speak Russian.

Cornwell: Well. I understand that. Did you at any point put Oswald on the phone and let him talk?

Tirado: No, no.

Cornwell: The reason I'm asking of course is to try to jog your memory. Did he at any point in that transaction speak Russian? Did Oswald speak Russian that you recall?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: The second question, just to be sure that we've got your memory as accurate as we can on it, have you not spoken to Azcue at all since 1963?

Tirado: That's something that I don't exactly remember.
If he came once or if he was with his son, but I
knew all about Fidel's and Azcue's conversations.

Cornwell: So you do remember either talking to Azcue or his
son about the Oswald trip?

Tirado: Not the Oswald trip, the Fidel, what he says. Be-
cause Azcue was called by Fidel Castro in that day
when the Cuban Ambassador sent my report. That's
what I told you the other day. In the same day
they speak to Azcue, Fidel, they spoke, they have a
conversation, and then on the second day, that Sun-
day present, they protest to Mexican Ambassador.

Cornwell: You described to us earlier how the Ambassador filed
a report. Did you ever see the report?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you know what was in it by any other means? To
the best of your knowledge, it would at least have

(Tape ends.)