

Summary of the testimony of Senor Eusebio Azcue before the HSCA, September 18th, 1978. (HEARINGS - VOLUME III)

NOTE: Members of the HSCA had already interviewed Azcue during their April 1978 visit to Cuba.

Azcue was 67 years old when this testimony was taken. He stated that he had been the Cuban Consul in Mexico City from April 1961 until being replaced by Alfredo Mirabal in late 1963. That he stayed on to train Mirabal to take over as Consul, then returned to Havana on November 18th, 1963.

Azcue tends to believe, but is not certain, that the first two visits to the consulate by the man calling himself Lee Harvey Oswald occurred on September 27th 1963, the same date listed on his application for a transit visa thru Cuba to the Soviet Union. When pressed about the date, he answers: "That is very correct."

He states that he is not certain whether a telephone call he took from the Soviet Embassy came on that same day, or the following day. "But my private opinion, the first two visits took place on the 27th, and the last one, after my conversation with the Soviet Consul, was on the following day and that is to say September 28. I believe this would be the most reasonable thing if one were to analyse it."

As for his direct conversation with "Oswald", he confirms Duran's assertion that this took place on the third visit and he further confirms Duran's version of the tone and content of that conversation. He doesn't have an independent recollection of whether the new consul, Mirabal saw "Oswald" on all three occasions, but feels confident that Mirabal observed this individual on at least one of the three visits.

States "Oswald" could not have been seen by anyone other than himself, Duran and Mirabal.

Says the visa application procedure included the typing of three identical application forms, each having an original and one carbon, a total of 6 copies, each of them signed individually by the applicant with a photo of the applicant stapled to each of the six. (This differs from Duran's version. She stated that she typed only an original and one carbon, and required applicants to provide 4 pictures)

Says that the signing and the affixing of the pictures of the applicants and a stamp over applicants signature was always accomplished by the secretary, in this case, Duran. The balance of the procedure involved the consul receiving the application from the secretary, signing it and forwarding it to Havana in the diplomatic pouch.

p136. states that the photograph attached to the visa application shown to him by committee consul, IS NOT of the same individual whom he spoke with at the embassy in September 1963. Further that in mid-December 1963, he saw coverage of Oswald's murder, and was immediately aware that this was not the same man whom he encountered at the embassy.

"The man who went to the consulate was a man over 30 years of age and very thin, very thin faced. And the individual I saw in the movie was a young man, considerably younger, and a fuller face." Says man at embassy was "dark blond". Identifies Oswald pictured on the application as the man murdered by Ruby. Shown Oswald's passport photo (New Orleans, June 25th 1963) Azcue again states this was not the same man who came to the embassy.

p.139 "I would never have identified him. I believe I can recall with fairly good accuracy the individual in such a way that I could recognize him now in a group of 100, that is better than a photograph of him because obviously during a period of 15 years he might change. I think I could recognize him, and this is not him."

QUESTION: The staff of this committee has had an opportunity to speak to Mrs. Sylvia Duran, and during the interview with her she expressed no doubt about the fact that the person who was killed in Dallas by Jack Ruby was the individual who visited the consul. Do you have any reason to question her (Duran's) memory or the reason that her memory might differ from yours?

ANSWER: Categorically, I could not affirm it without any doubt. However, it is possible that she might be more susceptible to impression or more impressionable than I.

I remember what I saw on TV later or maybe before. I remember that moment when he was killed and I remember I did not recognize him. I did not have any prejudices or preconceptions. I wanted to recognize, however, only 2 months had gone by. It was between September and November. At that time I was much younger. That was 15 years ago, and I think that because of my own profession I probably had better eyes. And because of the impression that was made by this person who visited the consulate, for these reasons, maybe my version is correct or more correct.

p.141 Azcue gives an explanation for why one of the copies of Oswald's visa application had the date October 10th stamped on the side, about half way down. Theorizes that this was placed there by one of the agencies in Cuba who received one of the six copies, to identify when it was received in that office. Has no other explanation.

The proposed date for Oswald's arrival in Cuba is listed on the visa application as *September 30th, 1963*.

(Dorff's note: This is contrary to the oft repeated assertion that Oswald intended to flee to Cuba after he assassinated President Kennedy. If a conspiracy to frame Oswald was the motivation for the Mexico City episode, the significance of the *desired date for the arrival in Cuba would more likely be to show that Oswald assassinated Kennedy after a visit to Cuba. It would also explain the frustration which "Oswald" exhibited when informed that he would be unable to get the transit visa on the date he requested. The person\persons behind trying to frame Oswald for the President's murder must have impressed this individual with the urgency of getting approval for the requested date for arrival in order to make the case they sought to achieve more believable.*

p.143 QUESTION: In the visa application photos and in the passport photo, Oswald appears to have on a tie and a sweater. How was he dressed when he came to the consulate?

AZCUE: I always imagine him or visualize him as wearing a suit, a coat and pants, trouser, with a pattern of crossed lines, not very clear design. Blue, some reddish. I never conceived of him or visualized him wearing a light sweater. When I saw this photograph in April of this year, I also noticed that the clothing he was wearing was not the same. I am almost in a position to assure that.

Azcue goes on to state that he didn't see the photograph on the visa application until April 1978., i.e. never compared the individual he talked with to the photo on the application.

Did he ever see a photograph of the man who appeared at the consulate?

"Never". Goes on to describe having inspected album of photographs shown to him by committee staffers. These were photos taken of people going in and out of both the Cuban and Soviet consulates taken by the CIA.

Confronted with the Comer Clark newspaper article, in which that author describes a conversation with Fidel Castro indicating that the Cuban leader knew about threatening statements (to kill JFK) at the time of the "Oswald" visit to the consulate, Azcue points out that this had to be false. Neither Duran, Mirabal or himself ever heard such statements and since they were the only persons "Oswald" conversed with it would be impossible for Castro to have received such a report.

While acknowledging that he sometimes went to parties at the Duran house, Azcue categorically denied the assertion of Elena Garro de Paz relating to having overheard (at one of these parties) a conversation between Azcue and a Mexican writer, named Emilio Cabellido, which included statements that Kennedy would have to be murdered. He also denied having been at any party which Oswald attended.

p.152. AZCUE: The image I had of the individual who showed up at the consulate was the man in his thirties, maybe 35 years old, and with the very thin face. You will recall that he had very natural lines, very thin straight nose, except for all of the items I mentioned, and this gentleman appeared to me to be much younger and with a much fuller face. That is the evaluation I have with absolute certainty. It is my truth.

p154. Azcue claims that after viewing the movie of Oswald's murder he reported this to some of his friends in the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs. Says he reaffirmed this view to D.A. Jim Garrison. Names Mr. Lechuga and Mr. Otero as two persons he reported this to. When asked why the Cuban government took no action on such a startling revelation, Azcue claims he doesn't know, but possibly because they didn't believe him. Azcue states he also gave Commandante Pineiro an oral report immediately following news of the assassination and that this was reflected in a speech by Fidel Castro on November 27th. Azcue is unaware of any written record of any of the reports he made to Cuban officials.