

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

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

Interview:

Cornwell: Would you state your name?

Tirado: Silvia Tirado Bazan.

Cornwell: And where's your present home address?

Tirado: Avenida Universidad 1900 Edificio 12 Departamento 402
 Colonia Numero De Terrenos

Cornwell: For the record, my name is Gary Cornwell, and with me here is Ed Lopez, Harold Leap and Dan Hardway. We represent the House Select Committee on Assassinations of the Congress of the United States. Also with us here today representing the Mexican Government is Honorio Escondon, Dr. Alfonso Crozco Contreras. Today is June 6, 1978 and the time is approximately 3:45 in the afternoon.

Would you tell us what your date and place of birth is?

Tirado: 22nd of November, 1937.

Cornwell: You speak English so if you like my questions

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature Gary Cornwell

Date transcribed br 6-19-78

translated we'll be happy to, and likewise, if you'd like to answer in English that would be fine, or if you'd rather answer in Spanish, we'll translate it.

Tirado: I try to speak in English.

Cornwell: All right. If you have any question about the way I phrase something or you don't understand it, simply ask and Mr. Lopez will translate it for you.

Your name in 1963 was what?

Tirado: Silvia Tirado de Duran.

Cornwell: And your husband at that time was who?

Tirado: Horacio Duran.

Cornwell: Are you presently employed?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Where's that?

Tirado: Social Security.

Cornwell: Prior to that, what jobs did you hold?

Tirado: A long while, Social Security. I used to write.

Cornwell: And any other jobs? Have you held any other jobs?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: At one time you worked for the Cuban Consulate.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Is that the only other job you ever held?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Well, let's say back, since about 1960, could you tell us what the history of your employment is? Have you had many jobs?

Tirado: I don't remember exactly, but uh, I used to work for the Olympic Games. I was a translator for two months. And uh, another three months I used to work for the, I don't know, it was an Exhibit of Hispanic Art that was, I don't know he went all over the World and I helped him to choose the pieces and as translator. I was married in 1960. I separate in '68, July '68 and I start working.

Cornwell: During 1963, did you hold any jobs during that year other than your employment at the Cuban Consulate?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: When did you first obtain the job at the Consulate and how did you obtain it.

Tirado: Well, because I was uh, coordinating the Cuban, the Mexican-Cuban Institute, the cultural Institute in '62, I think, and that's where I met some people. Yes.

Cornwell: That was a private organization, is that correct?

Tirado: It's not exactly private. I don't know because all the countries have--there is the American there is the Russian Institute, Institute, there is the French Institute. It's cultural relations between the countries.

Cornwell: Was that associated with the Mexican Government?

Tirado: I don't know exactly, but I think--you know that. (Asks Orozco)

(Translation) The objective is to present culturally the dif-
of
Orozco ferent embassies and consulates that are here in Mexico.

Cornwell: What was your job with that organization?

Tirado: Coordinator.

Cornwell: And in connection with that, did you know any of the employees at the Cuban Consulate?

Tirado: Yes, at the Cultural Attache.

Cornwell: And what were the names of those persons?

Tirado: Teresa Proenza and Luis Alberu.

Cornwell: And who?

Tirado: Luis Alberu

Cornwell: Did you in any other way know any of the other employees at the Consulate?

Tirado: Yes, well I knew Azcue, Eusebio Azcue who was a consul, and uh, Maria Carman Olivari -- she's dead.

Cornwell: She, in the summer of 1963, was a secretary. Is that correct? (If you nod your head, the recorder will not make any record of what your answer is.)

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Would you then explain to us how it was that you obtained the job at the Consulate?

Tirado: Because my friend Maria Carman, she was dead-- she had an accident, and during the funeral I told Azcue that if he wants me to help him, for some people come from Cuba, just to help him. And of course he says yes. They need some people they can trust, and I'd been working in the Institute. So...

Cornwell: How was it that you knew Eusebio Azcue by this time?

Tirado: I don't remember, because he was uh, he was an Architect and he knew a lot of people, friends of ours, I mean my husband and I.

Cornwell: Had he lived in Mexico for a long period of time?

Tirado: Yes, yes.

Cornwell: And, because of his occupation, he would have known your husband. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yeah, more or less.

Cornwell: Your husband Horacio was also an architect at that time.

Tirado: Industrial designer. Yes, sir.

Cornwell: Approximately when was it that you first obtained the job?

Tirado: The end of July or August, early August. I don't

remember exactly.

Cornwell: And for how long did you continue to work there?

Tirado: Three or four months.

Cornwell: How long after the assassination of President Kennedy did you work there?

Tirado: Only two days.

Cornwell: During that period of time what were the hours of operation of the Consulate?

Tirado: It was about 9:30 or 10:00 to 2:00 and in the afternoon about 5:00 to 8:00 or something. If we have a lot of work, we stayed longer.

Cornwell: The hours were 10:00 to 2:00 and then 5:00 to 8:00. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes, that's true.

Cornwell: Was the Consulate open for visitors during both of those sets of hours?

Tirado: No, it was just in the morning.

Cornwell: Would you mind sketching for us what the physical layout of the Consulate looked like at that time? (pause) You have drawn a rectangular shape. What formed the outside of it? Was it a solid wall around the outside? Was the outside of the premises a wall?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: All right. And we'll just mark it the way you

drew it. In the lower left-hand corner, there is a small box you drew. What is that?

Tirado: The consular.

Cornwell: That's the consulate's office?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: All right. We'll just put a one in that box, so we'll know that's the consulate's office. Then, the door was . . . where, on the corner?. . . you remember the name of the streets, still today?

Tirado: This is Tacubayo. This is Francisco Marquez.

You want me to write it down?

Cornwell: If you remember, yes.

Tirado: Here were the houses.

Cornwell: All right. You've labeled three sides of the building with street names and on the fourth side which on the top of the drawing, you said they are houses. Correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: What is in the long triangular shape on the drawing above the Consular office?

Tirado: It was the commercial office.

Cornwell: All right. We'll just put a two in there. That's . . .

Tirado: And here was the cultural office.

Cornwell: And behind that, we'll mark it with a three, was the cultural office. In the center of the drawing

is what?

Tirado: The Embassy.

Cornwell: All right. We'll put a four in that. That's the Embassy. And what's the small box in the lower right-hand corner?

Tirado: I don't know how to say it in English.

Cornwell: An entryway?

Lopez: Housekeeper.

Cornwell: Oh, a housekeeper? Okay. We'll put a five in there.

What is all the rest of the space inside the premises?

Tirado: Garden, it was garden. And here was the entrance for the cars.

Cornwell: And where you indicated there was an entrance for cars, we'll mark that seven. And all the interior space which was garden, we'll mark with an eight.

Tirado: Down here there was a movie room.

Cornwell: Where, behind the. . .?

Tirado: Behind the cultural room?

Cornwell: Want to draw that?

Tirado: No, because this is the first floor.

Cornwell: Oh, it was on the second floor.

Tirado: Yeah. On the first floor was a projection. . . movies.

Cornwell: Were the space which we marked one, two, three and also four, were they all two-story?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Okay. And above the space marked one, what was there?

Tirado: The Consulate.

Cornwell: So it was on two floors.

Tirado: No, there was another floor over here but it was belongs to the commercial. . . Only on the first floor was the Consulate.

Cornwell: I see. What would be behind the Consulate on the first floor? In this area marked two?

Tirado: I don't remember.

Cornwell: You don't remember. So, where we marked two, that was a second story in that area. Correct?

Tirado: Warehouse perhaps.

Cornwell: Just a storage area or something like that, perhaps, in the lower area marked two.

In the space marked number one, which was the Consular's Office, who all occupied that area?

Tirado: Well, Consul, the Vice Consul and the secretary.

Cornwell: Which was you.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: During the time that we're interested in.

The Consul's name of course was Eusebio Azcue.

The Vice Consul's name was what?

Tirado: I don't remember.

Cornwell: All right.

Tirado: This was Consulate.

Cornwell: All right. You have divided the area that we originally marked number one into two units. The smaller unit indicates where the Consul sat and you sat in a larger reception area in the front?

All right. And then, behind the Consul's office, was there another door? You marked that with a heavier area, and that would be where he could walk out into the courtyard. Is that correct? So if you wanted to get into the Consul's office, including the reception area from the courtyard, you needed to walk through the Consul's Office. Is that accurate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Now, what kind of a door was at the corner, the lower left-hand corner here, so that if one were to walk from your office to the street, what kind of door was that? Glass, wood, solid, could you see through it?

Tirado: No, it was solid. I don't remember exactly, but perhaps it was wood. But it was solid.

Cornwell: You don't remember being able to see out on the street?

Tirado: No, no.

Cornwell: Okay.

Lopez: You enter the Consulate right, in here?

Tirado: Uh huh.

Lopez: And your office would be right around here. Right?

Tirado: My desk was here.

Cornwell: You have drawn a small box now inside the larger half of the area we originally marked area number one, that's where your desk was?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: From where you sat to the entrance into the office where you were, where would the entrance into the office be? Not into the whole consulate, but just into your office?

Tirado: It was open.

Lopez: Okay, it was open.

Tirado: You would enter here. Here was the stairs for the second floor, No? -- and here I think there were chairs, or something like that. For the people who were waiting. And the desk was here.

Lopez: Okay. Where would the entrance to your office be?

Tirado: Here, or here.

Lopez: Just to your office, not to the Consul's office. Not the Consulate, but just to your office.

It would be at the same entrance?

Tirado: Yes.

Lopez: And from where you sat, you couldn't see outside at all?

Tirado: No.

Lopez: You couldn't see any area in the yard? There was no glass

Tirado: No. I can remember glass, a window, yeah. I can remember windows here, and perhaps here, but I don't remember.

Cornwell: Okay. There may have been windows for you to see out in the street?

Tirado: Yeah, but I couldn't see outside because perhaps they were very high.

Cornwell: While Mr. Lopez was asking you questions, he drew a diagonal line across your office space. Does that represent anything? That line should not have been drawn, is that correct?

Tirado: Yeah. (Laughs.)

Cornwell: Now, did you know a Teresa Proenza? Was she employed at the Consulate or the Embassy?

Tirado: The Embassy. She was the Cultural Attache.

Cornwell: She would have worked in the area marked number four? Is that correct?

Tirado: Well, yes. But this was, this construction was uh, afterwards. This was the Embassy and the Consulate and this building was under construction,

constructed. A building.

Cornwell: Constructed?

Tirado: Later. It was the old buildings.

Cornwell: Did she work there during the same period of time you did?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: At that period where did she work? What area?

Tirado: Here.

Cornwell: That's the area we marked number three on the diagram.

Did you know a Louisa Calderon?

Tirado: Louisa? Yes, she was in the commercial. . .

Cornwell: And where would that be on the diagram? In the area we marked number two?

Tirado: I think her office was exactly above mine.

She was a secretary. And I think it was above.

Cornwell: Either above the area we marked one, or the area marked two, but on the second level.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you know the names of any other employees who worked there at the time?

Tirado: No, I don't remember.

Cornwell: The man named Mirabal, he was to replace Eusebio Azcue, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And do you recall approximately when he arrived in Mexico City and began to learn the job so he could take it over from Eusebio Azcue?

Tirado: I didn't understand, what did you say please?

Cornwell: Do you remember approximately when he arrived? And began to learn the work from Azcue.

Tirado: No, some weeks earlier, I don't remember.

Cornwell: Would it be accurate to state that your best memory as you told us when we spoke to you informally before we turned the tape recorders on, that he was already there when you met the man you later identified as Oswald?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Now.

Tirado: But he wasn't there when I started working at the Embassy, at the Consulate.

Cornwell: Okay. So he must have arrived in late summer or perhaps September, or something like that.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Now, were there telephones in the office?

Tirado: Here.

Cornwell: You had one at your desk?

Tirado: This is the desk and here was a little table. I think it was the telephone. Here was the

safe box. And here was the Archivo.

Lopez: Archives.

Cornwell: So you've drawn two smaller boxes next to your desk. One of them was like a filing cabinet, or for storage of records?

Tirado: Yes. This one. The Files.

Cornwell: And the other one was a table.

Tirado: No, here was the safe box.

Cornwell: Oh, a safe. I see, a safe.

And there was a phone at the desk?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And did Azcue also have a telephone?

Tirado: Yes, it was the same but with an extension.

Cornwell: Extension.

Tirado: Here was the door.

Cornwell: All right. 1963, where were you living?

Did you have more than one residence?

Tirado: Yes. Constituyentes 143.

Cornwell: And during what part of 1963 was that?

Tirado: When I moved there?

Before I started working, at the Embassy. But just a few weeks. . .

Cornwell: So sometime in the summer of 1963? Did you have

a telephone at your home?

Tirado: Not at the moment that Oswald came. Because we had just moved. I think we moved in July because we were separated in July, also, July '68 and it is when the contract finished. So perhaps. . .

Cornwell: I see. Your rent contract ran out in July of '68?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: About the same time that you and Horatio were divorced?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you, you say that because of your move, it took some time to get a telephone in your home?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And do you remember approximately when it was that you finally got that in?

Tirado: At the assassination we had, a, let me see, we didn't have telephone--days later.

Cornwell: It was sometime after the assassination that you first got a telephone in this residence.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And do you by any chance recall the telephone number at the Consulate?

Tirado: Oh, so many times I write it down. Perhaps it was 11-28-45, perhaps?

Cornwell: Could it have been 11 28 47?

Tirado: Perhaps.

Cornwell: When were you first advised that we wanted to speak to you?

Tirado: Last week.

Cornwell: And since that time, of course, last Wednesday, I believe it was, we spoke to you informally, and told you basically what we were interested in. And learned most of what you could remember about the events we were interested in. Correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Apart from that, have you had any other opportunities to read anything, or speak to anyone, in order to refresh your memory about the events?

Tirado: Yes. In October of '76 some journalist from the Washington Post came to interview me.

Cornwell: We are familiar with the story that appeared in the Washington Post at approximately that time. apart from that, have you for instance read the Warren Commission Report?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: When did you last have an occasion to read that?

Tirado: Uh, when Horacio told me you were coming, I was writing, and I try to remember exactly and I'm starting saying that again, the nightmare came, and so on.

and so on, and I wanted to check the dates.

Cornwell: So, last week sometime, you had a chance to read it over again?

Tirado: No, not everything just the one little thing.

Cornwell: Just the part that dealt with Mexico City and your testimony and that sort of thing. Correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Let me ask you, when you read that, was there any part of it that seemed to you to be inaccurate?

Tirado: Inaccurate?

Cornwell: Not correct.

Tirado: Not Correct? Yes, but with the Warren Commission, I get angry when I start reading it because they make some afirmacionnes (ph).

Lopez: Allegations or conclusions.

Tirado: Yes. I don't like it. So I tried to erase it.

Cornwell: Okay. What specifically about the report was it that makes you angry?

Tirado: That I was a -- let me see how to say it--, I don't remember exactly. but uh, I did more to Oswald when he was here than was my job, that it was extra.

Cornwell: You mean part of the report that suggests that you went beyond your duties at the Consulate, that you exceeded your authority, and you thought that you did not do so. Is that correct?

Tirado: Correct.

Cornwell: Is there anything else about the Warren Commission Report's resume of the facts that you felt was inaccurate, that made you mad?

Tirado: I cannot answer that because I only read at that time two pages. I didn't read the whole thing.

Cornwell: Okay. In addition to looking at that in order to refresh your memory, have you had a chance to speak to any one else?

Tirado: No, it was just for checking my writing.

Cornwell: What writing was that?

Tirado: Well, I was trying to remember everything that happened in the interrogatory. It was not hard, I mean, what I felt, but uh, what the police had done to me, so it was my but I'm writing, I'm writing an autobiographia how do you say that, and this is a chapter.

Cornwell: I see.

Tirado: (Laughs.)

Cornwell: Directing your attention then to approximately late September of 1963, as we learned from you the other day, a man came to the Consulate, a man who you later associated with pictures in the newspaper and a name in the newspaper of the alleged assassin of the President. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you remember how many times he came to the Consulate?

Tirado: Three times.

Cornwell: Do you remember the date or dates upon which those three visits occurred?

Tirado: No, I saw the application. you showed me the other day, and in the Warren Commission was September 27, but I didn't remember, of course, until I read it.

Cornwell: All right. Do you have a recollection whether it was all on one day or on separate days.

Tirado: The same day.

Cornwell: On the very first visit, would you describe to us what the man said and did, and what you said in response?

Tirado: Yes, he, well, he enter and he ask me if I speak English and I say yes, and then he start asking me about requirements to go to Cuba, to get a visa to go to Cuba, and I explain it.

Cornwell: What did you explain?

Tirado: Well, that he needed to, he said that a transit visa so that he needs a visa to the country that he was going, from; if it was a Socialist country, the visa was given, as soon

as he gets the other visa, and uh. . .

Cornwell: When he first asked about the requirements for a visa, did he tell you that his objective was to go to Cuba or to another country?

Tirado: To the Soviet Union.

Cornwell: Did you ever suggest to him that there was any alternative means to acquire a visa other than the in-transit visa requirement which you just described?

Tirado: I don't remember, I mean I hardly remember. But what I used to say is if you want to go to Cuba, you need or you have to have friends in Cuba, so they may, what do you say, take responsibility, if you get the visa. That was one way, no? And the other way was in-transit.

Cornwell: Okay. If I understand then, you don't have a distinct recollection about exactly what you said to Oswald, but you assumed it was what you said to everyone who came in, which was that you explained both processes, that they either must have friends in Cuba or the in-transit visa could be granted if they got a visa from another country.

Tirado: No, if only they asked me. Because they usually go there and say, "I want to go to Cuba." But if they say I'm just in transit, then I explain

Cornwell: Okay, then. Let me see if I can rephrase it and get what's in your mind as best we can.
Is it your best recollection that you did explain both alternatives to Oswald?

Tirado: I don't remember exactly, because I think he immediately says that he wants to go to Russia, and he was in transit to go to Cuba. I think he immediately says so.

Cornwell: Okay. So then your best recollection that you may have only explained the in-transit visa process. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: But, I gather from the way you have answered the question, there is still the possibility that you also discussed with him going to Cuba if he had friends, but you're not sure about that second one. Is that accurate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Now, after this first basic explanation, what if anything did he say or do?

Tirado: Well, I don't remember exactly. He show all the paper that he had, when he gave me the application when he came back, . . .

Cornwell: Okay. Wait a minute. Just the first visit.
Is there anything else about the first visit? Or,

did he leave at that time and if he left, why did he leave?

Tirado: To have photographs of himself.

Cornwell: Okay. So your memory is that on the first occasion you also explained to him that he needed photographs and he left shortly thereafter to obtain them.

Tirado: Yes, and perhaps, but I'm not very sure, that, uh, he said that he was a friend of the Cuban Revolution, and when he showed me all the scrap paper that he has.

Cornwell: All right. You don't remember if that was on the first or the second occasion. Correct?

Tirado: Yeah, I don't remember.

Cornwell: Nevertheless, he did leave to go get photographs, and he did return?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did he return with the photographs?

Tirado: With four photographs.

Cornwell: Four of them.

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Were they all the same? To the best of your memory, was he wearing the same kind of clothes that he was wearing that day in the photographs?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: So, from all the circumstances, did it appear to you that he just went somewhere locally and had the pictures made?

Tirado: Yeah. I think that I already explained (to) him where he could take the photographs

Cornwell: You told him some locations in town where he could go? Were there some right in the neighborhood of the Consulate there?

Tirado: That I don't remember.

Cornwell: All right. But at any rate you knew of some place at the time, mentioned one or two places to him?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Correct?. . .Did you look at the photos when he brought them back, careful about to be sure that it was the same man who was standing in front of you?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And what did you do at that time?

Tirado: I filled out application.

Cornwell: You personally typed it, and did you type it in duplicate or triplicate or just one copy?

Tirado: Duplicate.

Cornwell: And was the second copy a carbon?

Tirado: Carbon?

Cornwell: Did you have it twice or did you type one and make two copies?

Tirado: Only one.

Cornwell: And made two?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And what did you do with the photographs?

Tirado: Stapled them.

Cornwell: Stapled them?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: On top of the application.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: The application has a place on it for a date, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you type in the date that was in fact that day?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Let's just talk hypothetically for a moment. Is there any chance that he was at the Consulate on more than one day?

Tirado: No. I read yesterday, an article in the Reader's Digest, and they say he was at the Consulate on three occasions. He was in Friday, Saturday, and Monday. . . That's not true, that's false.

Cornwell: All right. Let's try a different hypothetical. If the one in the Reader's Digest is definitely wrong, is it possible that he first came on like a Thursday, and then came back on a Friday?

Tirado: No, because I am positively sure about it. That he came in the same day.

Cornwell: Let me ask you then something about just the procedures for the Consulate at the time. Would it have been consistent with your normal procedures for you to have typed the application on his first visit, even though he didn't have a photograph to put on it?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: In other words, before you started the process of typing it, you were sure you had everything you needed to make it complete.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did he tell you where he was staying at the time?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did you recall any problem with him not knowing any address, where he was staying in Mexico City?

Tirado: No, because he say that he has no time to wait, he was in a hotel and uh, I didn't ask the address, in Mexico City because I mean didn't care.

Cornwell: You didn't have a need to know that?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you recall any problem coming up where he needed to know it? For any other reason?

Tirado: Me to know his address?

Cornwell: No, for him to know. Did he have any problem, did he have any need to know it himself? Do you remember anything along those lines? TIRADO: No.

Cornwell: Going back to the second visit, is it your memory that you typed the application in duplicate, you stapled the pictures at the top of each copy, is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Then what did you do with the application?

Tirado: Well, I used to put it in a file, and uh, I used to keep one copy, another to send, the original, we used to send to Cuba. And I think I have another file.

Cornwell: Was he required to sign the application?

Tirado: He signed it, yes.

Cornwell: Did he sign one or both of them?

Tirado: I think both, it has to be.

Cornwell: Was there any requirement in the Consulate that he do it in any particular person's presence? Anyone have to watch him while he signed it?

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

Cornwell: As a hypothetical, did Azcue have to watch people sign the applications?

Tirado: No. He was in his office.

Cornwell: So you could handle that all by yourself.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did he sign it in your presence?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did anything else occur on the second visit, any other conversation, or any other event?

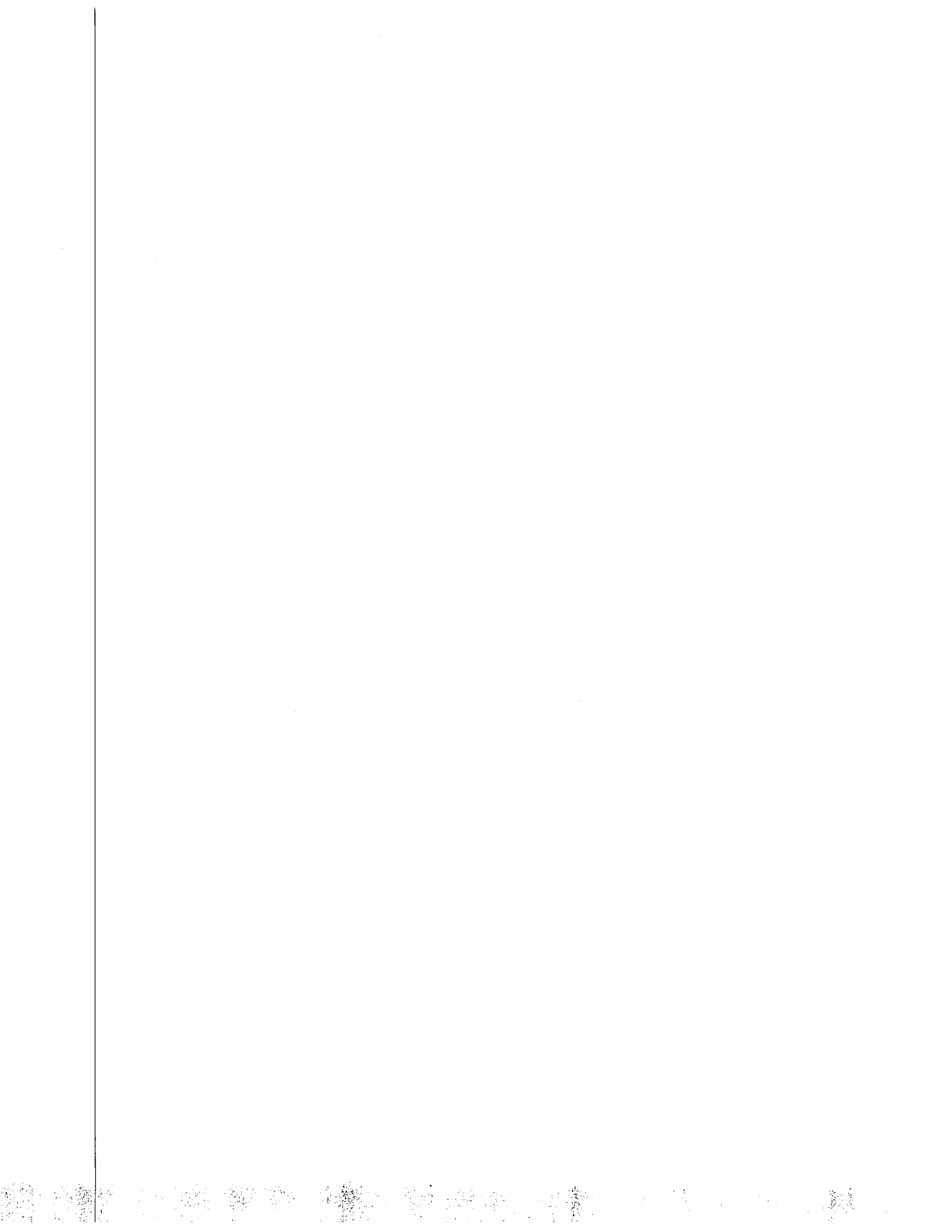
Tirado: No, but I told you, it's uh, he said that he was a friend of the Cuban Revolution. He show me letters to the Communist Party, the American Communist Party, his labor card, and uh, he's working in Russia, I don't remember exactly, but he said on his application, his license number. . .

Cornwell: Marriage license?

Tirado: (Spoke in Spanish.) Se dice serup los recortes del periodico.

Cornwell: Okay, we had to pause for a second to turn the tapes over. As I recall, you were explaining the kinds of things he brought with him.

Tirado: Yes, it was his labor card, from Russia, his uh, marriage pact, yes, that he was married with a Russian, and uh, a clipping that he was with two policemen taking him by his arms, that he was in a meeting to support Cuba. And a card saying that he was a member of the Fair Play for Cuba in New



Orleans. And

Cornwell: Do you recall what was said or what occurred that caused him to produce all of these documents about his having a Russian wife and his Fair Play For Cuba activity?

Tirado: Just a minute. (Spanish--what means recall?)

Lopez: Recordar.

He showed me all of these papers to demonstrate that he was a friend of the revolution.

Cornwell: But did you say anything to him or did anyone else say anything to him that made him feel he needed to produce this kind of documentation.

Tirado: No, I don't think so. What I said is that when he said he was a member of the Party, of the Communist Party, the American, I said why don't they arrange, the Party, your Party with the Cuban Party, and he said that he didn't have time to do it.

Cornwell: Did you ask him why he didn't just have the Communist Party arrange his trip to Cuba?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: The Cuban Communist Party? He just said he didn't have time?

Tirado: Yes. Because there was a manner to do it. I mean, we get, for instance, the visa directly

from Cuba and saying give the visa to this people that's coming and somebody say oh, yes, you have your visa here.

Cornwell: Do you recall anything else happening on the second occasion? Or have you related all that's in your mind on that?

Tirado: No. It was strange. I mean because if you are a Communist and you're coming from a country where the Communist Party is not very well seen, and in Mexico City that the Communist Party was not legal at that moment -- crossing the border with all of his paper, it was not logical. I mean, if you're really Communist, you go with anything, I mean just nothing, just your passport, that's all. And that was something that I didn't like it but. . .

Cornwell: So, you were a little suspicious of the amount of documentation he brought?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: Did you say anything to him about that?

Tirado: Perhaps I told him, what are you doing with all of this? And he said to prove I'm a friend of yours

Cornwell: Did you discuss your suspicions with anyone else?

Tirado: With the Consul.

Cornwell: With Azcue?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you remember when that discussion occurred?

Tirado: It was afterwards.

Cornwell: Was that after his second visit as you recall?

Tirado: It was during his third visit.

Cornwell: During his third visit. All right.

Let's back up again for just a moment.

What time of day as best as you recall did he come to the Consulate the first time?

Tirado: Perhaps it was eleven o'clock or something like that, ten thirty.

Cornwell: And the second time?

Tirado: About twelve, or eleven, no, about one o'clock.

Cornwell: Okay. The first one was roughly late morning, and the second one was early afternoon.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And then, why did he leave the second time?

Tirado: To get his Russian visa.

Cornwell: Would it have been the standard procedure in the Cuban Consulate, to take the application, have him sign it, and have it ready to go in the file if the request was an in-transit, for an in-transit visa, even though he did not have the visa from the third country. Or from another country?

Tirado: Uh, huh.

Cornwell: All right.

Tirado: Yes, I did send it to Cuba.

Cornwell: All right. Okay. So, then you sent him, in effect, to the Russian Embassy. And it was at that point after he left that you spoke to. . .

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: No, you didn't speak to the Consulate at all yet.

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Had there been any problem at all yet?

TIRADO:
No

Cornwell: So far, it's like any normal visa application.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Would it have been consistent with the procedures in the Consulate for you to have allowed him to take one or both of the applications typed up outside the Consulate?

Tirado: I don't remember very well if uh, there were only two copies. I mean, one original and one copy, but uh, it could have happened, but I don't remember

Cornwell: Okay. To the best of your memory then, the person who made the application was not permitted to have a copy.

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

Cornwell: Okay. You're not sure. But your tentative memory is that would not have occurred.

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Would you have ever allowed a person to take all of the applications outside and attach the photos or sign them themselves?

Tirado: Yes, because you may come, ask for the application and you may keep it.

Cornwell: You, on occasion, would allow someone just to have a blank copy. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes. But he was different because he did not speak in Spanish so I have to fill it.

Cornwell: I see. If he would have spoken Spanish or professed to having someone with him who did speak Spanish, you might have allowed him to take the applications and fill them out.

Tirado: Perhaps.

Cornwell: At least on other occasions you have done that, with other people.

Tirado: That's something that I really don't remember.

Cornwell: There, at least, there was no requirement that you type it there in the office, as long as it got filled out.

Tirado: I think I have to type it. I have to type it because I have to make some observations, always.

Cornwell: Down at the bottom?

Tirado: Yes.

And I think that if you fill it in in hand-writing, I have to type it, for, to send it to Cuba.

Cornwell: So, at most, you would allow someone to fill it out and bring it in so you could type it?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: If that procedure was employed, allowing someone else to fill it out, would you still be required to check the photograph to be sure it was accurate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Would you still require the person to sign it in your presence?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Just so we can keep our documents straight, let's just mark as Exhibit Number 1 the diagram you drew earlier. And we will mark now on the back a photograph and we'll ask you some questions about it. We'll mark it as Exhibit Number 2. This is a photograph of what would appear to be a visa application. Does it appear to be basically the type of visa application that we have been speaking about?

Tirado: Yes. The numbers, I think they're mine.

Cornwell: The numbers in the upper right-hand corner which are hand-written?

Tirado: I think so.

Cornwell: Those appear to you to be in your handwriting.

Tirado: Yeah, because when I file I write in the number, the following number?

Cornwell: Okay. And on the very bottom of the application, where it says "para uso de la mision" that means it's filled in by someone associated with the Cuban Government. Is that correct. Or the Consulate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Who, according to the usual procedure, filled out that portion.

Tirado: Me.

Cornwell: The other day when we talked to you informally, you read through the words in that section. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes. I remember.

Cornwell: And your memory is that you in fact typed that section on this application.

Tirado: Yes. I used to do this with all the applications.

Cornwell: And under that, there is a signature.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Are you able to tell whose signature that is?

Tirado: No, I was thinking it was Mirabal, but no-- I couldn't sign any papers.

Cornwell: Okay. So it was definitely not your signature?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Do you know whether, according to normal procedure,

any particular person routinely placed his name at that location?

Tirado: No, only the Consulate. People in the Consulate.

Cornwell: What would be the purpose of a signature in the lower right-hand corner?

Tirado: I don't know, perhaps to check that it was right as it was written.

Cornwell: Did you ever see the Consulate or any other employee routinely sign the applications at the location?

Tirado: I don't remember, but what I used to do was put the originals in one packet and that was with a letter to the Minister, de Relaciones exterister (spanish), How do you say that? (Lopez - Minister of Foreign Relations), and I used to give to the Consul so he sign the papers and send it to Cuba.

Cornwell: Okay. One copy stayed in the Consulate and one was mailed to Cuba, to the Minister of Foreign Relations.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Is it possible then that the signature in the lower right-hand corner is someone in Cuba?

Tirado: Perhaps that one that get it.

Cornwell: That receives it in Cuba. All right. the stamp,

which appears slightly over the name, the handwritten name, Lee H. Oswald, when did that get placed on the application if you know?

Tirado: Perhaps in the moment that he sign?

Cornwell: Was that part of the normal procedure? Did you have a stamp as you recall to do that?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And was that a means of authenticating the signature, that you would stamp on top of it like that?

Tirado: I think so. Because let me see.

This was signed by Cuba, I think, because this was October 10. This was the answer, perhaps.

Cornwell: So there's a date you just pointed to, around the middle of the application reading 10-OCT. 1963 and you are assuming, I take it, that that was the date placed on the document in Cuba?

Tirado: Perhaps but I don't know.

I don't know the date of when we send the application.

Cornwell: Or it was placed on there when you mailed it?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you know which?

Tirado: I don't know.

Cornwell: You don't remember which? Could it have been the date upon which the application was received

in the Consulate here in Mexico City?

Tirado: In return.

Cornwell: In return? Back from Cuba? Is that what you mean?

Tirado: Perhaps. I don't know that.

Cornwell: Could it have been the date you received it from Oswald?

Tirado: No, because it was the same date.

Cornwell: Okay. The only date on here of receipt from Oswald was the one near the top, the second line, which reads: 27 Sep. 1963.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: So I guess the best we can do is say that you don't have a distinct recollection of how the 10th of October date would have gotten placed on here. Correct?

Tirado: Yeah.

Cornwell: How long normally would it have taken between the receipt of an application and the date that it would have been mailed to Cuba?

Tirado: Well, it depends on the flight. We had, I don't remember in that time, if we were three flights from Cuba to Mexico and from Mexico to Cuba and it depends on the work that we have to do, if we have a lot of work we wouldn't have sent it immediately or,--valise diplomatica, How do you say it?

Cornwell: Diplomatic pouch.

Cornwell: Would there have been some usual amount of time?
How much could it vary?

Tirado: The flights were Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
I think. And uh, well, we send a bunch if, I
think, I don't know, when what day in the week
was the 27th? Perhaps if it was Wednesday, we
would send next Friday, or next Monday. Or...

Cornwell: I have another photograph of just the upper left-
hand corner of the same document, which we'll
mark as Exhibit 3 on the back, and ask you if,
to the best of your recollection, that is a photo-
graph of the man whom you saw on or about the 27th
of September?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: I don't understand. A moment ago, did you say that
there was a normal time of the week that mailings
to Cuba occurred?

Tirado: Would you please repeat the question?

Cornwell: Was there a usual day, did the mailings to Cuba
usually occur on one given day of the week?

Tirado: Yes, I don't remember exactly, but I think it was
on Friday, perhaps, that we make, we send applica-
tions. Yeah, it was one day to send all the appli-
cations.

Cornwell: All right. So, if we were to tell you the 27th of

September was a Friday, then, the usual routine would have been either for you to have mailed this application on the very day that you received it, or to have to wait until at least the next Friday. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Now. You have told us that after the second visit, he went apparently to attempt to obtain a visa from the Soviet Embassy.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: When do you recall him returning?

Tirado: He came in the afternoon.

Cornwell: About what time?

Tirado: Five or six.

Cornwell: And that would have been, according to what you told us earlier, not normal visiting hours? Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: How were you able to speak to him on this occasion?

Tirado: Because when somebody came to the doorman and was speaking in another language that wasn't Spanish, he used to call me and say somebody's here that doesn't speak Spanish, someone sent me to you, so he takes the people to the Consulate.

Cornwell: And the doorman came and got you.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Did you go outside to the main gate?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: What happened?

Tirado: Somebody took them to the Consulate.

Cornwell: Okay. You said the main gate. Was that the area that, on Exhibit One, you marked as being the door to your office, or some other area?

Tirado: He was closed. In the afternoon he was closed. But perhaps he came. . . .

Cornwell: The door on Area One was locked up. Okay?

Tirado: Yes. And then he was open.

Cornwell: Over near Number Seven, is that correct? Where they let the cars in?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: There was a door there too?

Tirado: Yes. It was the garage and another door.

Cornwell: And the doorman from that area brought him to your office?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: What occurred on that occasion?

Tirado: What?

Cornwell: What happened on that occasion?

Tirado: Well, he came in and he said that he already have his Russian visa and uh, he want to get his Cuban visa. And I said that that was not possible because he has to be first sent to Cuba and then

wait for the answer, no, it was necessary that he has to have first a Socialist visa, the Russian visa. And, uh, . . .

Cornwell: Did he show you his passport with a visa in it? From the Russian Embassy?

Tirado: No, No. I don't remember exactly but what I remember is he says that he already has his Russian visa and I said I don't see it and well, I don't remember exactly what we discussed in that moment. But, he was very stubborn. So, I say, well, I'm going to call to the Russian Consul, so I called the Russian Consul and I said hey, listen, here's a man that, he say that he already got his Russian visa. And he said, yes, I remember it. He came to us for visa but uh, the answer will be in three or four months, that was the usual time.

Cornwell: So as you recall, then, the person at the Russian Embassy said in effect, no, he doesn't have it yet, he's only applied for it. Is that right?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Okay. Go ahead.

Tirado: And uh, and I told him what the Russian Consulate says and then, he was angry. He get angry. And he insisted that he was a friend of the Cuban Re-

volution, that he has already been in jail for the Cuban Revolution, that uh, oh, that he wanted that visa and that he couldn't wait for so long time because uh, his Mexican visa was finished in three days. So he was insistent and uh, I didn't have time and well, I couldn't make him understand that. So, I went to the Consul's office and I explained to him, and would you please come and talk with him? Axcue came, Mirabal I think he didn't speak English, so Azcue came and told him those things, all the requirements that he needs to fly to Cuba, and he was really angry. He was red and he was almost crying and uh, he was insisting and insisting so Azcue told him to go away because if he didn't go away at that moment he was going to kick him, or something like that. So, Azcue went to the door, he opened the door and told Oswald to go away.

Cornwell: Okay. So he went to the door which was in the area we marked 'one,' which was the Consulate Office?

Tirado: Yes...Remember, I was feeling pity for him because he looked desparate.

Cornwell: He looked desparate?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: So, you felt kind of sorry for him?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: At any time during these three contacts, did he indicate to you that he could speak or understand Spanish?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: During this period was your normal work week, did it include Saturdays?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Is it possible that, in addition to his visits on Friday, he also came back the following day on Saturday morning?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: How can you be sure of that?

Tirado: Because, uh, I told you before, that it was easy to remember, because not all the Americans that came there were married with a Russian woman, they have live(d) in Russian and uh, we didn't used to fight with those people because if you, they came for going to Cuba, so apparently they were friends, no? So we were nice to them with this man we fight, I mean we had a hard discussion so we didn't want to have anything to do with him.

Cornwell: Okay. I understand that but I don't understand how that really answers the question. In other

words, the question is, what is it about the events that makes you sure that he did not come back on Saturday, and have another conversation with you?

Tirado: Because I remember the fight. So if he (come) back, I would have remembered.

Cornwell: Did Azcue work on Saturdays?

Tirado: Yes, we used to work in the office, but not for the public.

Cornwell: Was there a guard, was there a guard out here at the corner near number seven on your diagram on Saturdays?

Tirado: Excuse me?

Cornwell: Was there a doorman out near the area that you marked as number seven, on the diagram?

Tirado: Yes, but on Saturday he never let people. . .

Cornwell: Never let people in.

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Not even if they came up to the doorman and didn't speak Spanish? And were very insistent?

Tirado: No, because they could answer or something. They could ask me for instance, no? by the inter-phone.

Cornwell: They could do that on a Friday, though.

Tirado: But what I remember is that Oswald has my telephone number and my name and perhaps he show to the doorman (Spanish).

Cornwell: When did you give him the telephone number and name?

Tirado: In the second visit, perhaps.

Cornwell: Okay.

Tirado: I used to do that to all the people, so they don't have to come and to bother me. So I used to give the telephone number and my name and say "give me a call next week to see if your visa arrived."

Cornwell: Well. Are you saying that based on your memory the guard was allowed to bring people in during the five till eight o'clock at night uh, sessions during the week but not on Saturdays?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Do you have a distinct recollection with respect to telephone calls to the Russian Consulate, was it just one call or was it more than one call?

Tirado: Only one.

Cornwell: Just one.

The . . . I believe I asked you this, but just to be sure, although the application was typed with

a carbon to make two copies with one typing, did he have to sign both independently? Or did you allow them to use a carbon to sign the paper?

Tirado: No, no. It was the original.

Cornwell: Two original signatures. All right.

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: Was anything said that you recall at this time which looking back on it indicated the possibility, even on that date, Oswald had on his mind some intension of killing the President of the United States?

Tirado: No, I don't think so.

Cornwell: Let me read something to you, and ask you if it at all refreshes your memory or if your have a memory of a conversation similar to this?

I don't believe I read this to you before, when we talked the other day, or did I? Did I read an excerpt from Daniel Schorr's book to you?

Tirado: No, you told me.

Cornwell: Okay. I'll read it to you then at this time. It's an excerpt from a book called Clearing the Air, written by Daniel Schorr, published in the United States in 1977. And page 177 reads as follows:

"In an interview in July 1967 with a British journalist, Comer Clark, Castro

(meaning Fidel Castro) said that Oswald had come to the Cuban Consulate twice, each time for about fifteen minutes. The first time, I was told, he wanted to work for us. He was asked to explain but he wouldn't, he wouldn't go into details. The second time he said he wanted to free Cuba from American imperialism. Then he said something like 'Someone ought to shoot that President Kennedy.' Then Oswald said, and this is exactly how it was reported to me, maybe I'll try to do it."

Do you recall any conversation like that in either what was said to you by Oswald or that was said by Oswald to Azcue or anyone else that you might have overheard?

Tirado: No, I don't remember.

Cornwell: Did any part of that conversation occur?

Tirado: No, because I don't remember that he says he was to go to work in Cuba because he only that he wanted to go in-transit. That's what I remember.

Cornwell: What do you think, well, first let me ask you, do you think that conversation could have occurred and you just forgot it? In other words, is that the kind of conversation which, if it occurred, you would definitely remember it?

Tirado: Yes. Because in the fight with Azcue there was shouting and crying and things like that. I could miss something, but not, because even if would say so, I mean, I could have heard, no, I mean

if you kill President you're not going to change the whole system.

You see, that's why I give you answer, even Azcue. I mean that's not the, I don't think so, that he had that conversation with anyone. He was arguing. . .

Cornwell: Do you remember any part of the conversation indicating that Oswald blaming the United States or President Kennedy for his inability to get to Cuba?

Tirado: I don't remember but that could be possible.

Cornwell: In other words, if he's frustrated and he comes to the Cuban Consulate, he might feel animosity or anger towards various people. He might be angry at you, or Azcue, or at the Cuban Government or at the Russian Government or perhaps the United States Government, depending on how the conversation went. What do you recall about that? Who was he angry at when told he couldn't go to Cuba

Tirado: He was angry at us. That's why I called Azcue. Because he was not a strong man but anyway, I didn't like to fight with him. He was very angry and he was blaming me and Azcue. because he thought it was in our hands to give the visa immediately, and he couldn't understand that the visa has to

come from Cuba.

Cornwell: You mentioned earlier that you had discussed with Azcue on this, as I understood this, during the third visit with Oswald, the suspicion that you had about the documents. Is that accurate or did I misunderstand?

Tirado: No, it was the third time when I told Azcue that there was a man that bother me, that when I told him about this man, I mean because it was normal, I used to, that was my job, to attend people who come in so I didn't have to bother the Consul for every man who came, because there was a lot crazy men from the United States that they wanted to go to Cuba.

Cornwell: Okay. So, from what I understand then, when you went in to Azcue to bother him, since you normally didn't do that sort of thing, you gave him a sort of background resume of your dealings with Oswald. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: And was it at that point that you told him of your suspicion about the documents?

Tirado: I think so.

Cornwell: What was his reaction? Azcue's?

Tirado: He was worrying. When he went to my office,

he was very tranquil, he was very polite, he was explaining things, very polite. And uh, he was starting to get angry when he saw that he was a stubborn man, that he didn't want to understand, and he said uh, I remember now, he said 'you're not a friend of the Cuban Revolution, because if you are a friend, you have to understand that we have to take care, to be very careful with the people that are going to Cuba, and if you don't understand this, you are not friend of the Cuban Revolution.' And he was shouting and, I don't remember how long was this conversation, but uh, they got really angry, both.

Leap: May I call you Silvia?

Tirado: Yes.

Leap: At any time during your conversation with the Consul, did you discuss the possibility that Oswald was a penetration agent? Intelligence agent for a foreign power? Did you discuss that possibility?

Tirado: No. I don't think so because we didn't have time. Because this man was in my office and I was in Azcue's office so I couldn't leave him many times alone.

Leap: Did you ever have conversations with Azcue outside of Oswald's presence relative to the issue?

Tirado: Repeat the question please.

Lopez: Did you ever have a conversation with Azcue when Oswald was not in the office about the possibility that he was an intelligence agent for some country?

Tirado: No, no. I don't think so. We only thought that he was
/a crazy man, an adventurer, or something like that.

Leap: Did it ever enter your mind that he was a penetration agent?

Tirado: Perhaps. Perhaps, because it happened, it happened sometimes that somebody came and say this is a policeman or something like that.

Leap: That's all the questions that I have.

Tirado: The only thing that I can say, it was that it was strange, travelling with all of his documents just to prove one thing.

Lopez: Do you think now, looking back on what happened then, that he may have been an intelligence agent?

Tirado: Perhaps.

Cornwell: Did anything else ever come to your attention? That caused that suspicion? Other than just his presentation of the documentation? Anything else ever happen?

Tirado: With him? No, no. The only thing that was strange is that if you belong to the Communist Party,

any party. Your French, but French could get Cuban Visa but Mexico, for instance, if you're Mexican and you're a member of the party, of the Communist Party, you don't have to go and ask for application visa because the party writes to the Cuban Communist Party, and they arrange everything. That was the strange thing. There's no need. At first, he said that he was a Communist. That was strange. Because it would be really easy for him to get the visa through the Communist Party.

Cornwell: At any point in the conversations that you have told us about, did Oswald say anything indicating that he really wanted to stay in Cuba?

Tirado: No. He just wanted to go and visit and saw what was the Revolution.

Cornwell: Okay. That's sort of what I meant. In other words, he did indicate that he didn't just want to pass through, that he wanted to spend some time there. Is that correct?

Tirado: Yes.

Cornwell: What do you recall about that part of the conversations?

Tirado: I told him that he get to Cuba, for instance, at two o'clock, and there was a plane going to

Russia at five o'clock, he has to stay in the airport, in the Cuban airport. That he couldn't go out.

Cornwell: Why didn't you tell him that?

Tirado: Because he was saying that he wanted to go to Cuba to visit and to see what the revolution had made.

Cornwell: Did you ever see him again, after the argument with Azcue?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Did you ever talk to him again?

Tirado: No.

Cornwell: Not in person nor by telephone.

Tirado: No, he never call.

He could have called when I wasn't there, but I used to get the message, if somebody answer, I used to get a message.

Cornwell: Did anyone else overhear any of the conversations you have described? Other than the one time in which Azcue was involved?

Tirado: Yes. Could be that people from the Commercial Office, could be Mirabal.

Cornwell: Was there anyone else physically present in the Consulate's Office during those conversations as you can recall?

Tirado: I can't remember. The only thing that I remember is that it was only Mirabal.

Cornwell: And did Mirabal come out in the reception area during the conversations as you recall?

Tirado: No, I think he stay in his office.

Cornwell: But he could have overheard it at the time.

Tirado: Yes, everybody who was passing through, even in the streets, they were shouting, really!

Cornwell: Were the windows up as I guess they might have been at that time of year?

Tirado: (Didn't understand.)

Cornwell: The windows would have been up? The windows to the Consulate Office would have been open?

Tirado: What? I. . .

Cornwell: In other words, you're saying people on the street might have overheard it?

Tirado: Yes, yes. If you were here and there was always a police here, they could have heard the shouting, the crying.

(Lots of noise in background, unintelligible.)