



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 26, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

SIGNED STATEMENT OF
SILVIA TIRADO DE DURAN

On March 24, 1964, Captain FERNANDO GUTIERREZ BARRIOS, Assistant Director of the Mexican Federal Security Police, Mexico, D. F., made available a copy of a signed statement which had been made by SILVIA DURAN to the Federal Security Police on November 23, 1963. A translation from Spanish of that statement is recorded hereinunder:

"At the City of Mexico, Federal District, at 6:00 p.m. of November 23, 1963, the undersigned, Captain FERNANDO GUTIERREZ BARRIOS, Assistant Director of the Federal Security (Police), proceeding legally with witnesses present, makes record: that with the presentation in this office of Mrs. SILVIA TIRADO DE DURAN for the purpose of being interrogated concerning the matters which are herein set forth, this document was prepared:

"Promptly upon the presentation of the person who under normal conditions is called SILVIA TIRADO DE DURAN, having been warned to tell the truth and advised of the penalties which are incurred by those who furnish false testimony, described herself as follows: that her name is as recorded, 25 years of age, married, without religious preference, an employee, literate, a native

CLASSIFICATION CANCELED

By authority of: Dept. of Justice
Letter of 8-13-65 Just A

Name and title of person making the change: W. J. Summers NCAS

Date: 8-30-65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~Group 1~~
~~Excluded from Automatic~~
~~Downgrading and~~
~~Declassification~~

CONFIDENTIAL

and resident of this city, with domicile at Constituyentes #143, Apartment #3, with respect to the matters under investigation declares: that she has been legally married to Mr. HORACIO DURAN NAVARRO since November 5, 1958, and is the mother of a child named PATRICIA, who, at the present time, is three and one-half years of age; that in the month of July or August of 1961 the deponent was invited to join the Mexican-Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations, which, at that time, was directed by Attorney AGUSTIN CUE CANOVAS, as a Coordinator, and, although she does not recall specifically who it was that recommended her, she can clarify that for some time previously she was friendly and visited with frequency the employees of the Cuban Embassy, being a personal friend of Ambassador PORTUONDO, as well as the Cultural Attaches, TERESA PROENZA and LUIS ALVERU, as well as with the female employees, but principally with the secretary of Consul EUSEBIO ASCUE, Miss MARICARMEN OLAVARRI, of Spanish nationality but a relative of ASCUE; that at the Institute the activities were exclusively of a cultural nature and were attended on occasions by the aforementioned Cultural Attaches and some Cubans, but in a greater number by Mexicans, always artists and intellectuals, without any political discussions, although she recalls that at the time of the October Cuban crisis in connection with the threatened invasion of Cuba and the subsequent blockade of the island by the North American Government, they listened by shortwave radio to the news from the 'Prensa Latina' (Latin Press), on the basis of which they made up a bulletin which was read of the news that they had listened to directly from Havana, agreeing also to the effect that Cubans and Mexicans attending said meetings discussed the political problem of Cuba on a private basis without doing so in any official character; that the declarant was receiving a salary of 500 pesos (\$40 U.S.) monthly in her capacity as Coordinator at the Institute, with her work schedule being from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. daily, and the money for the maintenance of the Institute itself coming from a monthly subsidy from the Cuban Embassy, the amount of which she is not aware, but also with each one of the members paying a quota, and also contributions were received from persons whose names she does not recall because usually they were made anonymously, being unable to fix the monthly receipts, although she was the person

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

who personally received all of the funds received at the Institute; that in addition to the speaker, only Mr. FELIPE ROJAS, who worked as a secretary at the Institute during the mornings, received any monthly salary in the same amount of 500 pesos (\$40 U.S.), with the remainder of the money which was received being used for the payment of rent and other expenses connected with its operations. That in the month of December of 1961, the declarant and her husband made a trip by air to Havana, Cuba, paying for their own transportation, but all of their expenses of their visit to that city and the greater number of the cities of the island being paid by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People and the House of Culture, so-called, 'of the Americas,' the trip having lasted fifteen days without their having any contact or connection during this trip with officials of the Cuban Government. That as the speaker has already stated, she has been a sympathizer of socialism and Marxist doctrine for several years, having studied philosophy and existentialism, and particularly she has sympathized since its inception and sympathizes with the Cuban Revolution. That approximately three months ago she began to occupy the position of Secretary to the Cuban Consul in this city, Mr. EUSEBIO ASCUE, who ceased to function in that capacity some five days ago on Monday, the 18th of this month, having been substituted by Mr. ALFREDO MIRAVAL Y DIAZ, clarifying at this time that from the beginning she began to work in that capacity as a temporary measure as a result of the death in a traffic accident of her friend, MARICARMEN OLAVARRI, who had been occupying that position, until some person should arrive from Cuba who would assume the same, having had under her responsibility the administrative operation and preparing the visas which are issued, as well as handling the applications for such visas which invariably are sent to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Government of Cuba, for its approval, having obtained this position directly from former Consul ASCUE, with whom she is very friendly, and for whom the speaker even organized a farewell party in her home, which was attended by almost all of the officials and employees of the Embassy and the Consulate, except the Ambassador. That the speaker does not belong to any political party and never has attended manifestations or meetings, nor has she given

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

lectures or speeches, which her husband has done, since he has written several articles for the newspaper 'El Dia' (The Day) (pro-Communist Spanish language newspaper published in Mexico City); that she has never been arrested for any reason, not even on the occasion of the visit to Mexico of Mr. JOHN F. KENNEDY, which caused her a great deal of personal satisfaction because of the benefits which it would represent to the country. That yesterday while she was working at the Cuban Consulate, where she is employed from 10:00 to 2:00 and from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. daily and where she receives a salary of 1,500 pesos (\$120 U.S.) monthly, just before their time of departure at noon, a friend commented to her that she had been listening to the radio and heard a news item to the effect that President KENNEDY had suffered an attack in which they had fired three shots at him, as a result of which she called her husband on the telephone and they discussed this news, and he advised her that he already knew about it and referred to said attack as 'monstrous,' and they agreed that upon meeting at their home they would discuss the matter, which they did during their dinner hour, but in a very brief manner since they did not know all the circumstances of the attack and the name and description of the presumed author of the same, its having been only that night that they read in the extra (edition) the news relating thereto, and subsequently on the radio at her residence she heard the name of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, which caused her to remember that this name refers to a North American who in the last days of September or the first days of the month of October of the present year appeared at the Cuban Consulate and applied for a visa to Cuba in transit to Russia and based his application on his presentation of his passport in which it was recorded that he had been living in the latter country for a period of three years, his work permit from that same country written in the Russian language and letters in the same language, as well as proof of his being married to a woman of Russian nationality and being the apparent Director in the city of New Orleans of the organization called 'Fair Play for Cuba' with the desire that he should be accepted as a 'friend' of the Cuban Revolution, as a result of which the speaker, in compliance with her duties, received all of his data and filled out the appropriate application, and he left to return in the

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

afternoon, this time with his photographs, and the speaker, recognizing that she exceeded her duties, semiofficially called the Russian Consulate by telephone because of her interest in facilitating the handling of the Russian visa for LEE HARVEY OSWALD, but from there they answered her that the operation would require approximately four months, which annoyed the applicant, since as he affirmed he was in a great hurry to obtain the visas which would permit him to travel to Russia, insisting that he was entitled to them because of his background and his partisanship and personal activities in favor of the Cuban movement, the declarant's not being able to specify because she does not remember whether or not he said that he was a member of the Communist Party, but that his wife, of Russian nationality, was at that time in the city of New York from where she would follow him, although his place of origin was the aforementioned city of New Orleans; that as soon as OSWALD understood that it was not possible to give him a Cuban visa without his previously obtaining a Russian one, because the former was for transit, he became highly agitated and angry, as a result of which the speaker called Consul ASCUE, who, at that time, was in his private office in company of his ultimate replacement, MIRAVAL, but came out and began to argue in English with OSWALD in a very angry manner and ASCUE concluded by saying to him that, 'As far as he was concerned, he would not give him a visa,' and that 'A person like him, in place of aiding the Cuban Revolution, was doing it harm,' its being noted that in their discussion they had been referring to the Russian socialist revolution and not the Cuban, its being stated by OSWALD that he had two reasons to request the visa with urgency, which were, one, that his permit to be in Mexico was expiring and the other that he had urgent necessity of reaching Russia; that in spite of the argument the speaker handed to OSWALD a piece of paper similar to that which she writes at this time in which she recorded her name, 'SILVIA DURAN,' and the telephone number of the Consulate, which is '11-28-47,' and, at any rate, she initiated the handling of his visa application by sending it to the Cuban Ministry of (Foreign) Affairs, from which a reply was received in the normal manner some fifteen to thirty days later approving the issuance of a visa, but conditioning it on his previously obtaining

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

the Russian (one), although she does not recall whether OSWALD subsequently called her or not on the telephone for the Consulate which she had given him; that all of the conversation which the speaker had with OSWALD, as well as that of Consul ASCUE with him, was in the English language since he did not speak any Spanish, and that upon seeing his photograph which appears in today's newspapers, specifically in the newspaper 'El Dia,' she immediately recognized and identified it as being the same person that she has been referring to as LEE HARVEY OSWALD. That on only one occasion the declarant attended a reception ceremony at the Russian Embassy which was given on the occasion of the visit of the astronauts, GAGARIN and TERESHKOVA, on the personal invitation which the speaker received from the Russian Consul YACKSOV when the latter visited ASCUE and MIRAVAL and delivered to them their respective invitations at the Cuban Consulate. That with respect to her in-laws, LIDIA and RUBEN DURAN NAVARRO, the former on various occasions attended with the declarant the meetings which were being held at the Institute, whereas the latter only did so on one or two occasions in connection with exhibits of paintings and with respect to BETY SERRATO AZUCAR, the wife of RUBEN, she has always remained aloof from these activities, although all of them are of leftist ideology but do not actively participate in any activities; that BARBARA ANN BLITS TRESMOND ESQUIVEL and AGATA ROSENO GARCIA are friends of BETY and the speaker has known them very little and superficially, as a result of which she knows nothing about their activities and ideologies, and in connection with the gentleman who she now knows is named BENTLEY, she had never seen him before and supposes that he is a friend of BARBARA, since she noticed that he was talking to BARBARA when they were dining at the home of the deponent, being present her husband, AGATA and LIDIA, whereas the others were at the home of her brother-in-law, RUBEN. That she has nothing further to declare and after reading the above, she ratifies and signs the margins in evidence thereof. The above document is closed authorized and witnessed.

"Signed, Assistant Director of Federal Security,
Captain FERNANDO GUTIERREZ BARRIOS.

"Witnesses: Lic. (Atty.) FERNANDO ORTIZ DE LA PENA;
Lic. CARLOS DURAN LANZ."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION BY
MEXICAN FEDERAL SECURITY POLICE

On November 29, 1963, the Acting Minister of Government, Attorney LUIS ECHEVERRIA, made available a copy of a report dated November 25, 1963, recording the results of investigation by Agents of the Mexican Federal Security Police (Direccion Federal de Investigaciones - DFS). A translation from Spanish of that report follows hereinunder:

"In connection with the assassination of the President of the United States, JOHN F. KENNEDY, it was reported that LEE HARVEY OSWALD had previously been in Mexico, as a consequence of which appropriate investigation was conducted, the results of which are as follows:

"1. LEE HARVEY OSWALD was in Mexico, having entered at Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas (State), on September 26 last, as a tourist, proceeding from New Orleans and departing at the same place on last October 3rd.

"2. It was confirmed that he had come to Mexico to apply for a visa at the Cuban Embassy, for transit enroute to Moscow.

"3. Toward this objective, he established contact with SILVIA TIRADO DE DURAN, a Mexican 'SILVIA DURAN,' whom he interviewed on two occasions, since she is an employee of the Consulate, responsible for making the arrangements necessary for this type of visa and completing the cards with data concerning the applicant, an indispensable requisite for obtaining a Cuban visa.

"4. Through her, he made contact with the Russian Consulate for the same purpose.

"When it was learned that the above-mentioned SILVIA DURAN had been one of the contacts made by LEE HARVEY OSWALD in Mexico, said lady and her husband were arrested in order that they might be interrogated, advising in their statements as follows:

"INTERVIEW OF HORACIO DURAN NAVARRO: Mexican by birth, son of a Chilean father and Mexican mother. He said that his occupation is that of Industrial Designer, holding a

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C.O.N.F.I.D.E.N.T.I.A.L

teaching position on this subject in the National School of Plastic Arts, a dependency of the U.N.A.M. (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico - National Autonomous University of Mexico), where he receives a salary of 1,400 pesos (\$112 U.S.) monthly; 40 years of age, married, without religious preference, domiciled at Constituyentes (street) #143, Apartment #3, in this city; that the first eight years of his life were spent in Los Angeles, California, and subsequently he came to this capital with his parents, RUFINO DURAN and LIDIA NAVARRO DE DURAN, and later they went to Santiago, Chile, to live, remaining there for a period of a year and one-half, later returning with his brother RUEEN to Mexico, being followed later by his sister LIDIA and his mother; that he entered the National Agricultural School at Chapingo, where he studied for five years for a career as an Agronomist and as he had learned drawing in the San Carlos Academy, he chose to continue studying that art, which served him as a basis for specializing in Industrial Designing, which he now follows, being a teacher in that subject in the School of Fine Arts of the U.N.A.M., spending his free time in private work as a Designer, for which he receives an income of approximately 5,000 pesos (\$400 U.S.) monthly; that in 1950 he was married to a French woman, LUCILLE DEJARDIN, with whom he fathered a son named PAUL DURAN DEJARDIN, who at the present time is 10 years of age, and with that marriage having lasted more or less six years, and with the breaking up of that matrimony, on November 5, 1958, he entered into a new marriage contract with his present wife, SILVIA TIRADO DE DURAN, with whom he fathered a girl named PATRICIA, now 3½ years of age; that when he became acquainted with his present wife, she was working as a Secretary in the Proteo Gallery and later she and other persons, among them Prof. AGUSTIN CUE CANOVAS, the Cultural Attaches of the Cuban Embassy, and others, began to organize the Mexican Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations 'Jose Marti,' in which she served as a Coordinator, and for about the last four months, she has been employed as a Secretary in the Consulate General of Cuba in this city, first having worked with the Consul, EUSEBIO AZCUE, and now with MIRABAL, receiving a monthly salary of 1,500 pesos. He acknowledged that his ideology is leftist and in sympathy with the Cuban Revolution, adding that this is the reason why he permits his wife to work and engage in her present activities. He stated that when he discussed with his wife the assassination of President KENNEDY, having heard the name of the presumed perpetrator, LEE HARVEY OSWALD, she immediately told him that

C U 1162

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

she believed that he was the same individual who in the latter part of September or early October had been in the Cuban Consulate applying for a Cuban visa in transit to Russia; that she had attended him herself and handled his visa application papers, but when she notified him that he would first need a Russian visa and that his application would have to be sent to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations, which, of course, would require several days, OSWALD became angry and lost his self control, as a result of which SILVIA called the Consul AZCUE, with whom the applicant had a violent argument. He added that he had not seen nor had he personally known LEE HARVEY OSWALD, and in December of 1961 he (DURAN) made a trip to Cuba, accompanied by his wife, paying for their tickets himself."

It is pointed out that at the home where the DURAN couple was detained at Herodoto #14, Apartment A, the home of the brother-in-law of SILVIA DURAN, named RUBEN DURAN NAVARRO, the persons who were visiting at that residence were arrested and their background data is recorded below:

(None of the individuals listed below as having been interviewed admitted knowing OSWALD or having any information concerning him; therefore, the data concerning them is being summarized rather than recorded in full.)

RUBEN DURAN NAVARRO advised that he was born in Los Angeles, California, is married to BETTY SERRATOS, is 38 years of age, a decorator by profession, and has applied for Mexican citizenship. He related that Calle Herodoto #14, Apartment A, is his residence.

BETTY SERRATOS DE DURAN related that she was born in the Republic of Honduras and has resided in Mexico for the past ten years, is 33 years of age, and has never belonged to any political party or entertained leftist ideas. She explained that she resides with her husband, RUBEN DURAN NAVARRO, at Herodoto #14, Apartment A.

LIDIA DURAN NAVARRO VDA. (widow) DE FLORES advised that she is 35 years of age, having been born at Chihuahua, Chihuahua; that she resides at Luz Savinon Street No. 1211, Apartment 2, and is employed in the Tourism Department and the Mexican Sports Federation. She denied having political affiliations or sympathies. She explained that she is the

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

sister of RUBEN DURAN NAVARRO and had been visiting them at the time the investigators arrived at their apartment.

AGATA ROSENA GARCIA related that she was born in the Capital (of Mexico) and resides at Rivera Street No. 63, Colonia Las Aguilas. She denied having any political affiliations or being of leftist ideology and explained that she is a friend of the DURANS and visits them frequently at their home.

BARBARA ANN BLISS stated that she was in Mexico as a tourist and has been living in the country for the past eight years, and resides at Bahia de Magdalena #125; that she is divorced from JUAN ESQUIVEL, a Costa Rican citizen who presently lives in the United States, and has a monthly income of \$800 per month from the estate of her father, which is administered by a firm in Washington, D. C. She explained that her father, ALONSO BLISS, formerly owned a sugar plantation on Trinidad, but presently resides at 2585 Bayshore Drive, Coconut Drive, Miami, Florida. She explained that she had become acquainted with BETTY SERRATOS some three months earlier at the apartment of CARMEN PINO, and they had exchanged visits with each other thereafter because of their mutual liking for recorded music. She also stated that she had met SILVIA TIRADO DE DURAN at a concert, but had no friendship with her.

CHARLES E. BENTLEY explained that he is 27 years of age and was in Mexico as a tourist, having resided for the previous three months at Palermo Street No. 9, Colonia Hipodromo, in Mexico City; that he had been trying to obtain employment as a salesman for the Sonora Cattle Company; that he had served in the United States Marine Corps from 1954 to 1957 and had no political affiliations or leftist ideas. He explained that he had met BARBARA ANN BLISS and BETTY SERRATOS some two months earlier and was visiting at Herodoto No. 14-7 because of his friendship with them.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELED
By authority of: Dept of Justice
letter of 8-13-65
Name and title of person making the change:
J. J. Demme NCAS
Date 8-20-65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~