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WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE SOURCES AND
METHODS INVOLVED

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Commission No. 1000

1 JUN 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy

SUBJECT: Gilberto ALVARADO Ugarte

1. Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 21 April 1964, requesting additional documentation of the investigation of allegations against Lee Harvey OSWALD that were made by Gilberto ALVARADO Ugarte.

2. Attached to this memorandum are exact texts of the following disseminations relative to ALVARADO that were made to other U.S. Government agencies:

a. OUT Teletype No. 85089, dated 26 November 1963, relative to Gilberto ALVARADO.

b. OUT Teletype No. 85199, dated 27 November 1963, Subject: Lee Harvey OSWALD.

c. OUT Teletype No. 85662, dated 28 November 1963, relative to Gilberto ALVARADO.

d. OUT Teletype No. 86063, dated 30 November 1963, relative to Gilberto ALVARADO.

e. OUT Teletype No. 85666, dated 28 November 1963, relative to Gilberto ALVARADO.

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By authority of: CIA Order, 4/9/72

Name and title of person making the change:

mmg

Date 4/10/72

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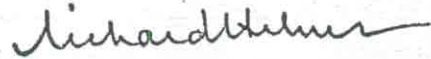
f. Memorandum, dated 12 December 1963, Subject: Mexican Interrogation of Gilberto ALVARADO.

g. OUT Teletype No. 87667, dated 7 December 1963, Subject: Lee Harvey OSWALD case.

3. These disseminations will, we believe, document the ALVARADO phase of the case and show this Agency's opinion of his reliability. Because of the sensitive sources and methods involved, an appropriate sensitivity indicator has been affixed.

4. Your request for a report from the polygraph operator who examined ALVARADO will be subject of a separate memorandum.

5. I am happy to know that _____ in Mexico City and his staff were able to contribute substantially to the work of your representatives during their visit to that city.



Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachments

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By authority of: C. G. A. letter, 4/4/72

Name and title of person making the change:

mng
Date 4/10/72

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OUT Teletype No. 85089, dated 26 November 1963, filed at 1820 hours, to the White House, Department of State and Federal Bureau of Investigation, with copy to Secret Service

1. On 26 November 1963, Gilberto ALVARADO, a professed Castroite Nicaraguan born 31 January 1940 in Ciudad Rama, Zelaya, Nicaragua, came to the American Embassy in Mexico and made a statement about Lee OSWALD. He said that on 18 September 1963 he saw Lee OSWALD receive six thousand five hundred dollars in a meeting inside the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City.

2. About himself, ALVARADO said he in Mexico City awaiting false documentation so he could go to Cuba for sabotage training. He named three other members of his organization in Nicaragua as Juan Lorillo, Rolan Alvarado, and Carlos Fonseca Amador. The questioning of ALVARADO is continuing.

3. (Comment: Gilberto ALVARADO is a well-known Nicaraguan Communist underground member

We consider his reliability to be questionable although he has not been wholly discredited. The other men he names are well-known Nicaraguan Communists. A check of the files of this Agency does not show where Lee OSWALD actually was on 18 September 1963, when ALVARADO says he saw OSWALD in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico, but based on the information available to this Agency as of this date OSWALD visited the Cuban Embassy in Mexico for the first time after 25 September 1963.)

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By authority of: C. A. Little, 4/4/72

Name and title of person making the change

M. A. D.

Date 4/10/72

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OUT Teletype No. 85199, dated 27 November 1963, filed at 2039 hours, to the White House, Department of State and Federal Bureau of Investigation, with copy to the Secret Service

1. Following elicited from Gilberto Nolasco ALVARADO Ugarte 26 November.

2. Subject born 31 January 1940, Ciudad Rama, Departamento Zelaya, Nicaragua. Presently lives Pino 173 Colonia Santa Maria de la Ribera telephone 41-07-31. Entered Mexico by bus 29 August 1963 on way to Cuba to study guerrilla warfare tactics. Was to receive false documentation as Mexican through Cuban Consulate Mexico.

3. On 2 Sep Subj reported in Mexico to Professor Edelberto Torres, address General Zuazua Number 37, Interior 8. Torres is Nicaraguan in charge of Nicaraguan Communist Party travellers to Cuba. Well known Communist, has daughter in Moscow.

4. On 2 Sep Subj discussed anti-somoza guerrilla activity in Departamento Atlantico with Torres and brothers Gustavo and Humberto Jerez Talavera,
Humberto is teacher in Mexican Female Normal School. Torres told Subject he would receive five hundred Mexican pesos monthly subsistence until travel papers arranged.

5. At noon on 18 Sep Subject went to Cuban Consulate to turn passport photos over to Consul Azcue. (Eusebio Azcue Consul Cuban Emb Mexico City) sat in waiting room and saw group of approx eight persons enter Consulate and go into Azcue office but unknown person was sitting at Azcue desk.

6. Cuban employee of Consulate known to Subj by alias as "Juan Jose," about 40 years old, mustache, normal build, straight hair, came out of office and asked Subj to turn over photos. Subj asked where bathroom and was shown through door to passageway leading to patio. Bathroom off passageway.

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By authority of _____
Date _____
Name and title of person making the change
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By authority of *Col. Latta 7/19/72*
Date *7/19/72*

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13. Subj left building momentarily to buy popsicle at corner. Saw three persons of paragraph 7 leave by Embassy gate near corner of Tacubaya where they entered parked black car, possibly Chevrolet. Subject re-entered Consulate waiting room and later was approached by tall Cuban of paragraph 9 who came out of Azcue office and told Subj come back next day when fingerprints would be taken and Subject would fill out form for travel documents.

14. Subject returned Consulate next day 19 Sept about 0845 and filled out form. Was told would be helped by Embassy officer to make up false Mexican papers. Many people in waiting room, very busy, door finally closed to keep others from entering. Subject was told to contact Prof. Edelberto Torres. Went to Torres home but Torres Guatemalan wife said Torres at Soviet Embassy. Went to Sov Emb about 1130 but was not allowed enter although had been there earlier occasions with Torres. Doctor Noel Jarquin Toledo, Nicaraguan Communist who had been in Moscow, approached and saw Subject at gate, asked why he was there. Subject said was looking for Torres. Jarquin informed him Torres was inside. Torres came out and went with Subject to Cuban Consulate. Torres entered Consulate office, later emerged telling Subj "You have nothing further to do here until I contact you."

15. Unidentified girl entered Consulate at this point, greeted Torres. Torres replied "Not now, come back tomorrow".

16. On night 19 Sep Torres had meeting of about eighteen Nicaraguan Communists at his home to discuss recent guerrilla attack in Segovia region of Nicaragua. Torres announced 6 guerrillas killed, said next year would be tough one because U.S. policy might change, Commies might be isolated. Torres asked Subject if he knew Laguna de Perlas area of Nicaragua where U.S. training Cubans, called it Zona Gringa. Subject replied did not know area.

17. On 26 Sep Torres sent Enrique Cuadra Collado, employee of Carton Envases de Mexico, Lago de Chapala 18, to tell Subject he should go Cuban Consulate. Subject went, was told wait, Consul very busy. Saw Canadian again. Canadian was smoking cigarette, wearing Rolex watch which Consulate employee was trying buy for thousand pesos. Canadian refused sell, had bought watch Mexico and taking home as souvenir. Canadian had batch obscene photos which

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By authority of: C. A. Q. J. 5/4/72

Name and title of person making the change:

by

Date: 4/10/72

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showing to Consulate employees. Carried camera strapped across chest. Red haired Negro (not Antonio Garcia whom Subject knows by sight) came in and took Canadian upstairs. Canadian had flashed large wad of U.S. dollars. Canadian said "I'm going, the skies are clouding up and they're waiting for me at home".

18. At the end of Sep Subject phoned American Embassy several times to report his belief someone important in U.S. to be killed, used name Jorge Kynaut (phonetic) to protect identity. Was asked if call related visa matter, replied no. political matter, wished speak to person of confidence. First time was screened by two females, finally spoke to man who said he would call back. Subject left phone number 30-19-52 (since changed). Man never called. Subject tried repeatedly contact Embassy by phone was finally told "Quit wasting our time. We are working here, not playing."

19. When Subject saw OSWALD photo in newspaper he again contacted Embassy, 25 November.

20. Subj had tank maintenance training in canal zone when with Nicaraguan army. Says is still Nicaraguan Communist Party member, was originally convinced Marxist, later became disillusioned.

Scheduled enter Cuba within two months.

21. Subject explained he outraged by Kennedy assassination which he "80 percent sure Communist plot". Does not wish become involved in big publicity splash, hopes U.S. will keep name secret, but willing do whatever necessary.

22. Field comment: Subject is young, quiet, very serious person, who speaks with conviction. Knows enough English to understand conversation.

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By authority of: *C. G. Little, 4/4/72*

Name and title of person making the change:

*hms
4/10/72*

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OUT Teletype No. 85662, dated 28 November 1963, filed at 1403 hours, to the White House, Department of State and Federal Bureau of Investigation

Further interrogation of Gilberto ALVARADO on the night of 26 November in Mexico City showed he was able to recognize about seventeen different photos of personnel of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. He did not know the names of the persons depicted, but he did know the position and duties of most of them and was able to furnish additional identifying data about many of them.

He was able positively to identify the picture of Oscar Concepcion Mendoza as the tall Cuban he had seen in the Embassy on 18 September, and Luisa Calderon as the pretty girl he saw there the same day. He correctly identified a New Orleans "mug shot" of Lee OSWALD. (OSWALD's picture had been in the Mexican press for several days)

ALVARADO gave the following additional details about the man he claims was Lee OSWALD and whom he saw in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City on 18 September: OSWALD had a green passport in his pocket and he thinks he saw a pistol in a shoulder holster. OSWALD wore long shoes and had a wrist watch with a yellow metal band. OSWALD slouched in a chair. It was about noon on 18 September. OSWALD seemed at home in the Consulate and appeared to know and be known by Consular personnel. He heard OSWALD use the Mexican slang term "cabron," an extremely vulgar term, but he pronounced it badly.

ALVARADO re-enacted the alleged money passing scene as he had previously recounted it, except that he this time said: "You're not the man. I can kill him." He said the U.S. bank notes he saw were in a small pack, about one fourth inch thick with a paper band which the Negro broke before counting out the fifteen hundred dollars for expenses and five thousand dollars as "advance."

ALVARADO stated he is still a sergeant in the Nicaraguan Civil Guard. He entered Mexico illegally on 29 August 1963, paying a bribe at the border. He transited Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala

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By authority of: SA Calderon, 4/4/72

Name and title of person making the ~~entry~~

Amg

Date: 4/10/72

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en route. He was in Mexico once before

He claims to have received some kind of U.S. military training at Fort Gulick in the Panama Canal Zone in 1956 (he would have been only 16 at that time).

ALVARADO claims that he visited the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City on 2 or 3 Sep, 15 or 16 Sep, 18 Sep, 19 Sep, 26 Sep and 25 Nov. We have no confirmation of this. He claims that he visited the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City 6 or 7 times, 4 of them with a Nicaraguan Communist named Torres. We can not confirm this. He did not explain just why he visited the Soviet Embassy.

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By authority of: SEA letter, 4/4/72

Name and title of person making the change: MMJ.

Date: 4/10/72

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DL 1622

OUT Teletype No. 86063, dated 30 November 1963, filed at 1457 hours, to the White House, Department of State and Federal Bureau of Investigation

1. _____ in Mexico City has just advised us that at 1230 Washington time today 30 November 1963, Gilberto ALVARADO, Nicaraguan, admitted to Mexican security officials in writing that his whole story of having seen Lee OSWALD receive money in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City to assassinate President Kennedy was false. He admitted he had not seen Lee OSWALD at all and that he had not seen anybody paid money in the Cuban Embassy. He also admitted he had not tried repeatedly to phone a warning about this to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City on 20 September as he had previously claimed. Instead he had first contacted the U.S. Embassy, in person, on 25 November, when he talked, as we know, to the Embassy security officer.

2. ALVARADO still claims that he did repeatedly visit the Cuban Embassy to secure false documentation to go to Cuba for sabotage training

3. ALVARADO said that his motive in telling this false story about seeing OSWALD paid money in the Cuban Embassy was to help himself get to the United States so he could participate in action against Fidel Castro. He says he hates Castro and thought that his story about OSWALD, if believed, would help cause the U.S.A. to take action against Castro.

4. Our Mexico City _____ is informing the Legal Attache of the U.S. Embassy there of this information.

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By authority of: CAD [signature], 4/7/72

Name and title of person making the statement
mmg
Date 4/10/72

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WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE SOURCES AND
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per 10/22

OUT Teletype No. 85666, dated 28 November 1963, filed at 1826 hours, to the White House, Department of State and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Acting on a request made to this Agency by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on 28 November 1963,

ALVARADO,
was turned over

to officials of the Mexican Ministry of Government for further interrogation and investigation. On 28 November, ALVARADO had still not changed his story, despite increasing doubt that it was true.

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By authority of *CIA letter, 4/4/72*

Name and title of person making the change
M. R. G.

Date *4/10/72*

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DC-1000

Memorandum to Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
dated 13 December 1963

TO: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

FROM: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Mexican Interrogation of Gilberto ALVARADO

1. Attached is a translation of the Mexican police interrogation report on Gilberto ALVARADO, Nicaraguan who claimed to have seen Lee OSWALD accept \$6500 in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City to assassinate President Kennedy. The report states that ALVARADO retracted these assertions and admitted that he made them to induce the U.S. to take stronger action against Cuba.

3. As you know, ALVARADO retracted the confession of fabrication which he made to the Mexican police and had to be reinterrogated by representatives of this Agency and your Bureau. This later interrogation showed that he was probably lying.

Attachment:
Translation

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By authority of: CSA letter, 4/4/74
Name and title of person making the change
M. H. G.

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STATEMENT OF Gilberto Nolasco ALVARADO Ugarte

1. This person (ALVARADO) said that he was 24 years old, unmarried, a Catholic, a chauffeur, who came from Ciudad Rama, Department of Celaya, Republic of Nicaragua, and who lives at Calle Pino No. 173 in this capital (Mexico City).

2. He indicated that on August 29 of this year he entered Mexico illegally, bribing an employee of the Migrations Office in Ciudad Cuauhtemoc, Chiapas, Mexico, for 200 pesos. He added that he was repudiating communism and for that reason the object of his coming to Mexico was to try to infiltrate the groups of that affiliation, for the most part Cuban groups,

3. ALVARADO said that by pretending to be a communist, and through Professor Edelberto TORRES, well-known Nicaraguan communist, he met an individual by the name of Carlos Jose, an important employee of the Cuban Embassy. The meeting occurred last September 3 or 4. The pretext of the meeting was that ALVARADO wanted to go to Cuba, and for that reason he told Carlos Jose that he was a good communist. On the 10th or 12th of the same month, an employee of the Cuban Embassy had him fill out a questionnaire and asked him for three photographs, which he has not given her as yet.

4. In the same manner he indicated that using various pretexts he continued to frequent the Cuban Embassy trying to obtain information. On one occasion they told him in the Embassy that in order to enable him to remain in the country (Cuba), they were going to have a lawyer get for him a passport, birth certificate, and certificate of military service as a Mexican and in that way he would travel to Cuba.

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By authority of: Chal Ketter, 4/4/72

Name and title of person making the statement

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5. He added that on 18 September at about 11:00 a.m. he was in the waiting room of the lobby of the Cuban Consulate (sic) and he observed a North American of 1 meter 75 centimeters in height, medium build, but rather thin, wearing gray trousers, black sport coat, white shirt, a Texas-style cord tie and brown shoes. He noticed the individual because he was very fair skinned, sad looking, and had very dark sunken eyes. The man looked to him like a drug addict. He also noticed that this man's hair was, for the most part, dark, but was streaked with blond. He estimated that the man was about 26 years old. ALVARADO said that from the lobby one can see the street and he saw that opposite the Consulate a taxi pulled up carrying two people: one a negro, tall, of about 1 meter 82 centimeters tall, a thin man, but strong, with bulging eyes, high cheek bones, thick lips, reddish, kinky hair, and wearing a brown suit. The other was white, a young man of about 20, rather beatnik-looking, arrogant-looking, and wearing dark trousers and a light blue coat. He was about 1 meter 70 centimeters in height, of rather robust build. ALVARADO noticed that he carried in his hand a red passport, a passport which from the color he judged to be Canadian. When these two individuals arrived, the North American got up from his seat and greeted them and the three of them went into the Consulate together.

6. After 15 minutes, ALVARADO crossed the waiting room of the Consulate to go to the rest room, and on descending the stairs, he saw a very powerful looking individual, dark in color, tall, wearing white rimmed glasses. The man worked in the Cuban Embassy, because ALVARADO had seen him there before. He saw him give the red haired Negro a package which appeared to contain money. Upon coming out of the rest room, he saw that in a hall the Negro, the Canadian and the North American were having a heated conversation. He noticed that the Negro had a very visible scar on the right side of his chin and that he was counting money and giving it to the North American. ALVARADO heard them counting to the sum of \$6500. ALVARADO went back toward the rest room and noticed that the North American and the Canadian wore shoulder holsters like gangsters use, and he heard the Negro say to the North American, "I can go with you." The North American answered, "You are not a man," and added, "I can do it. I can kill him." ALVARADO left, and on returning to the lobby, noticed that the North American and the Canadian were again entering the office of the Consul but they stopped a few moments to talk with an employee of the Consulate who looked like a prostitute and whose name was Maria Luisa.

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By authority of: *S. G. C. H.* 4/4/72

Name and title of person making this change
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Date
7/16/72

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7. ALVARADO said after that he went out to buy an ice cream stick, and while doing this he saw the Negro, the North American and the Canadian leave the offices and get into a black, late-model automobile, which appeared to be a Chevrolet. ALVARADO said he thought that a crime was in the making and it occurred to him to inform the United States Embassy but it did not occur to him to go to the Mexican officials. On 20 September he telephoned the American Embassy, but because he did not present himself in person, they paid no attention to him in spite of the fact that he said that the matter was confidential and that he wanted to talk to a high official. He did not go to the American Embassy for fear of being seen by the G-2 or Cuban spies, and so for the moment he forgot the incident. ALVARADO said that he read in the newspapers about the death of the President of the United States and that on seeing the photograph of the assassin he recognized him as the North American whom he had seen in the Cuban Consulate. He therefore again called the American Embassy and succeeded in speaking to a high official with whom he made an appointment for that same day at 5:30 p.m. near the Hotel Maria Isabel. This occurred on 25 September.

8. Two individuals appeared for the appointment. They identified themselves He told them about the above facts and they made another appointment for 9:15 the next morning in the restaurant, Jena, located on the Avenida Morelos and the Paseo de la Reforma. The two men he met the day before, arrived for the second appointment along with another man whose name was Rodolfo GAVALDON. With these three men he went to the cafeteria of the Hotel Francis after which they drove up and down a few streets in an automobile. He again told them what he had observed in the Cuban Consulate and they gave him a 100 peso bill and told him they would call him at the number 41-07-31, which is the number of the place where ALVARADO lives. They called him that same day at 8:45 p.m. and told him to meet them 30 minutes later in front of the Monument to Juarez. They met him there at the appointed time.

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By authority of: *S. L. R. 4/4/72*

Name and title of *working the changes*
MVA
4/1/72

9. GAVALDON and ALVARADO went in a peso cab to the corner of the Hotel Maria Isabel where another American was waiting for them, and together they crossed the street and went to an apartment in a building located on the corner of Oxford and Reforma. Once there, he again related the incidents and in an album of photographs identified the person who gave money to the

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Negro, to the Consul MIRAVAL, to Maria Luisa, to another employee of the Cuban Embassy as well as to other persons who have been seen in the diplomatic mission.

10. After this, the man gave ALVARADO 500 pesos, told him to move to a hotel, and to tell them to which hotel he was moving. This ALVARADO did the following day, 27 September. He gave GAVALDON a card with the information they wanted, but to date these men have not recontacted him. After making the above statements, ALVARADO indicated the following:

a. That spontaneously, and after reconsideration, he desires to state that the North American to whom he had referred in the body of his statement and whom he saw on 18 September of this year in the Cuban Consulate looked like, and he was 60% sure that he looked like, Lee Harvey OSWALD, the assassin of the President of the United States.

b. That after the assassination of President Kennedy, ALVARADO took advantage of these occurrences, giving versions such as the above one, for the purpose of provoking a strong reaction in favor of the United States against the government of Fidel CASTRO Ruz.

c. That he had no other motive than the deep hatred which he feels for communism, and has throughout his life dedicated himself to combatting communism.

d. That he regrets not having achieved his objective of causing a reaction on the part of the United States government against that of CASTRO.

e. That the telephone conversation which he referred to above in his statement, was not made on 12 September as he said, but rather after the death of President Kennedy, on 25 September. This call was made to the number 46-94-00, which is the number of the American Embassy. From this number he was connected with extension 181 in order to relate the incidents already mentioned.

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By authority of: SA R. J. S. 4/4/72

Name and title of person making the ~~change~~
SA R. J. S.
4/10/72