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swald in Texas,
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who worked as

the secretary to the Cuban consul, Eusebio Azcue.⁵⁷ Oswald ar-
rived before noon. Duran remembers him as tentative, but once
he discovered she spoke English, he seemed more relaxed. In a
monologue that lasted almost fifteen minutes, he proceeded to
tell her he was going to the USSR but that on the way he wanted
a transit visa to stop in Cuba, for at least two weeks. He then
began placing documents on her desk, each accompanied with a
short explanation. Duran remembered his Russian residency and
work papers, membership cards in the Fair Play for Cuba Com-
mittee and the American Communist party,** correspondence
with Communist organizations in the U.S., and the clippings
from his arrest in New Orleans.⁵⁸ He told her he expected to be
promptly issued a visa since he "was a friend of the Cuban revolu-
tion," and that he wanted to leave by September 30, only three
days later. His Russian-born wife was waiting to hear from him
in New York, he claimed.⁵⁹ Duran, an admitted Marxist, took a
liking to Oswald. While his way of making a visa request was
unusual, he seemed sincere. Procedurally, Oswald should have
begun filling out a lengthy application, but instead Duran called
on Eusebio Azcue to see if he might expedite the process for the
young American.

Azcue recalled: "She then calls upon me to see whether I, upon
examination of those documents, can proceed to issue the visa
immediately. I answered negatively. The documents that he sub-
mits are not enough. . . . I at that time tell him . . . I must request
authorization from the Cuban government. And at that point he

*The Cuban consulate and embassy were in separate buildings but in the
same compound. The Soviets had both consular and diplomatic branches in
the same building. They will be referred to in this chapter as the Cuban and
Soviet embassies. It is not clear in which sequence Oswald visited the two
embassies. He told his wife he first went to the Soviet embassy, but the
author's interpretation of the Cubans' testimony is that he might have vis-
ited them first.

**No membership card for the American Communist party was ever found
in Oswald's belongings. However, two of the employees at the Cuban em-
bassy claimed that Oswald had one. After the assassination, the American
Communist party denied that he was ever a member. The card may have
been counterfeit, made at the same time as his Hidell identifications.