

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. SULLIVAN

FROM : MR. BRANIGAN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD;
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
DATE: 11-27-63

1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. Turner
1 - Mr. Gheesling
1 - Liaison

Tolson	
Belmont	✓
Mohr	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
DeLoach	
Evans	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

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per CIA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

[redacted] with allegation of Gilberto Alvarado Ugarte, Nicaraguan national, to the effect that he observed Lee Harvey Oswald receive \$6,500 in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City 9-18-63 as part payment to assassinate the President.

The American Ambassador, Mexico City, on 11-26-63, suggested to Secretary of State and Directors of the FBI and CIA, that the President of Mexico be advised that the source of this allegation will be put at his disposition on condition that Mexican authorities will rearrest and reinterrogate Silvia Duran, Mexican citizen employed at Cuban Embassy, Mexico City, who, according to source, witnessed the payment.

[Duran was arrested and interrogated by Mexican authorities 11-23-63]

Our investigation which is going forward, shows that Oswald was in New Orleans on 9-17-63, checked out of his residence there 9-25-63 and entered Mexico 9-26-63, attempting to definitely place Oswald's whereabouts on 9-18-63.

BACKGROUND:

On 11-26-63 Gilberto Alvarado Ugarte, Nicaraguan, aged 23, reported to the American Embassy, Mexico City, that on 9-18-63 when in the Cuban Embassy, Mexico City, seeking a visa

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to travel to Cuba he observed a tall, thin Negro with dyed red hair, a white male carrying a Canadian passport and Lee Harvey Oswald in the company of a tall unidentified Cuban who came out of the Cuban Consul's office. The Cuban passed American currency to the Negro. The Negro, after expressing a desire to kill some man, was told by the male suspected of being Oswald, that he would do it. Thereupon, according to the source, the Negro gave Oswald \$6,500 in large denomination U.S. bills, stating that of the sum, \$1,500 was for extra expenses. Later, the source saw a female thought to be Silvia Duran, an employee of the Cuban Embassy, embrace Oswald. The Negro, the Canadian and Oswald then reportedly went upstairs in the Cuban Embassy. The source says he returned to the Cuban Embassy 9-26-63 where he again saw the redhaired Negro and the unidentified Canadian. (u)

Mexico Source claims to have telephoned the American Embassy several times in late September, 1963, using the pseudonym Jorge Kynaut to report that someone important in the U.S. was to be killed. Ugarte, the source, claims to have recognized Oswald after seeing his photograph in the newspaper whereupon he again contacted the American Embassy. (u)

Concerning Ugarte, he maintains that he entered Mexico 8-29-63 on his way to Cuba

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[Silvia Duran, the Mexican national employed by the Cuban Embassy, Mexico City, was arrested by Mexican authorities 11-23-63 for interrogation.] (u)

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CONCERNING TRAVEL OF OSWALD:

Our investigation has established that on 9-17-63 Oswald obtained a Mexican tourist card from the Mexican Consulate, New Orleans, and that on the same day he checked in at the unemployment bureau in New Orleans and completed necessary forms to obtain unemployment compensation which is mailed to the recipient by check within a few days. Check of airlines has revealed no passage of Oswald to Mexico under the name Oswald and known aliases on 9-17, 18 or 19-63. Mexican Immigration records establish that Oswald entered Mexico 9-26-63 and he departed 10-3-63. He is known to have checked out of his residence in New Orleans on 9-25-63. New Orleans is pressing inquiry to determine Oswald's whereabouts on 9-18. If he was in New Orleans on that date and it appears likely that such is the case, the allegations of Ugarte placing Oswald in the Cuban Embassy on 9-18-63. will be without foundation.

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11-26-63 [REDACTED] Ambassador Mann, Mexico City, suggested to the Secretary of State and Directors of the FBI and CIA that Ugarte, the source, be put at the disposition of the President of Mexico on condition that he will agree to order the rearrest and reinterrogation of Silvia Duran. He suggested that Duran be confronted with Ugarte and that Duran be told she will not be allowed to leave Mexico and that her only chance for survival is to come clean with the whole story. The Ambassador believes that in view of the apparent character of Duran (although a married woman, she is supposed to be carrying on an affair with the Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations) she may break under the confrontation. He also suggests that the Mexican Government identify and arrest the unknown Negro; assuming he has not left Mexico. (S)(u)

[DISCUSSION WITH CIA:] (S)(u)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] (S)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Liaison inform State Department and CIA that [decision to act on Ambassador Mann's suggestion is one for them to make and that meanwhile,] the Bureau's investigation in an effort to definitely place Oswald on 9-18-63 is going forward. It is suggested that State and CIA be informed that Oswald has definitely been placed in New Orleans on 9-17-63, that he checked out of his New Orleans residence 9-25-63 and that Mexican Immigration records show he entered Mexico 9-26-63 and departed 10-3-63. *Our position is that aggressive, positive investigation must be continued to completely resolve the Mexico city angle* *Right* (U)

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1. That Legal Attache, Mexico City, be advised of the foregoing and of results of our discussion with CIA. Legal Attache is also instructed to follow [with CIA, Mexico] steps being taken to locate and identify the unidentified Negro and Canadian referred to by Ugarte. (U)

Done
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WES. ✓
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