

Deposition of Mrs. Sylvia Odio, 11H367 to 11H389, July 22, 1964.  
Questioning by Mr. Liebeler.

Before Mrs. Odio could be asked any questions she began by giving up a letter from her father in ~~prison~~ prison in Cuba in which he said the men who represented themselves as his friends weren't his friends and that he in fact did not know them. He told her "not to receive anybody in my house".

On page 369 Mr. Liebeler indicates the FBI questioned Mrs. Odio December 18, 1963. When they showed her pictures of Oswald and Ruby she said she did not know Ruby but identified Oswald as the man introduced to her as ~~X~~"Leon" Oswald. She explained her activities in JURE, the Cuban revolutionary Junta. She said Manolo Ray, its leader, is a "very close friend of my father and mother. He hid in my house several times in Cuba." (page 369)

She quotes her sister as recognizing Oswald as "That is the man that was in my house" after seeing his picture in the paper.

Mrs. Odio had been having groups of Cubans come to her for help in JURE. They planned a revolutionary paper in Dallas. She also agreed to help them "in other things like selling bonus (sic) to help buy arms for Cuba. And I said I would help as much as I could" (p.369).

One night at the end of September three men who identified themselves as "members of JURE" came to her home. Two were Cubans, one an American. Before she granted entrance into the house she questioned them. Of one she said "He gave me so many details about where they saw my father and what activities he was in. I mean, they gave me almost incredible details about things that somebody who knows him really would or that somebody informed well knows. And after a little while, after they mentioned my father, they

started talking about the American." (p.370)

She received a telephone call the next day from one of the Latins.

Asked her sister's reaction she said "when Oswald came on television, she almost passed out on me, just like I did the day at work when I learned about the assassination of the President. Her reaction was so obvious that it was him, I mean." (p.371) She and her sister were frightened and she said it was a shock. They had a letter which appeared to be ~~the~~ credentials from the revolutionary council<sup>sel</sup>. They also told her they were leaving on a trip. She regarded this as "very important". (p.372)

She was ~~not~~ visited the next day by one she called "Leopoldo" who asked her what she thought "of the American".

She continued: "And he said, 'You know our idea is to introduce him to the underground in Cuba, because he is great, he is kind of nuts.' This was more or less--I can't repeat the exact words, because he was kind of nuts. He told us we don't have any guts, you Cubans, because President Kennedy should have been assassinated after the Bay of Pigs, and some Cubans should have done that, because he was the one that was holding the freedom of Cuba actually. And I started getting a little upset with the conversation.

"And he said, 'It is so easy to do it.' He has told us.... And he repeated again they were leaving for a trip and they would like very much to see me on their return to Dallas..." (p. 372-373)

On page 373 she said they referred to Oswald as Leon or the American. They said "he had been a Marine and he was so interested in helping the Cubans, and he was terrific."

On page 374 the date of the visit ~~is~~ is established as the

Thursday or Friday immediately before the first of October, the day upon which Mrs. Odio moved to the Oakcliff area.

On page 375 she quotes her sister/<sup>Annie</sup>as confirming this date by recalling that she, Annie, had not been to Mrs. Odio's the previous two weeks but had come the last week of September to help her pack and move.

She went to ~~Puerto~~<sup>Puerto</sup> Rico June 29 (presumably 1964) to bring her children back and "That was exactly the <sup>day that</sup> ~~day~~ I ~~saw~~ saw (Manolo) Ray again." On the previous day a refugee leader identified as "Eugenio" arrived from Miami to see Johnny Martin in Dallas, who allegedly had arms available in Latin America, especially Brazil. She met with Eugenio. (p.375) He was a close friend of her family and did underground work with her father and mother both of whom are imprisoned in the Isle of Pines. (p.376) She had a telephone call about the end of April or early May 1964 from a Father McKann in New Orleans. He asked her "if I was withholding evidence of any kind." She said she had reported everything. She was concerned about a car parked outside her home which she thought might have belonged to the Secret Service of FBI. Beginning on the bottom of page <sup>376 is</sup> ~~367~~ this exchange: "Mr. Liebler. Now, a report that we have from Agent Hosty indicates that when you told him about Leopoldo's telephone call to you the following day, that you told Agent Hosty that Leopoldo told you he was not going to have anything more to do with Leon Oswald since Leon was considered to be loco?"

"Mrs. Odio. That's right. He used two tactics with me... wanted me to introduce this man. He thought that I had something to do with the underground, with the big operation, and I could

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get men ~~into~~ Cuba. That is what he ~~thought~~ thought, which is not true.

"When I had no reaction to the American, he thought that he would mention that the man was loco and out of his mind and would be the kind of man that could do anything like getting underground in Cuba, like killing Castro. He repeated several times he was an expert shotman. And he said, 'We probably won't have anything to do with him. He is kind of loco.'

"When he mentioned the fact that we should have killed President Kennedy--and this I recall in my conversation--he was trying to play it safe. If I liked him, then he would go along with me, but if I didn't like him, he was kind of retreating to see what my reaction was. It was cleverly done.

"Mr. Liebeler. So he actually played both sides of the fence<sup>?</sup>

"Mrs. Odio. That's right, both sides of the fence.

"Mr. Liebeler. Did Leopoldo tell you that Leon had been in the Armed Forces?

"Mrs. Odio. Yes.

"Mr. Liebeler. What did he tell you about that?

"Mrs. Odio. He said he had been in the Marines. That is what he said.

"Mr. Liebeler. Did he tell you that Leon could help in the underground activities in which you were presumably engaged?

"Mrs. Odio. That's right."

She gave them the Florida address of her sister, Annie, who was coming to Dallas at the end of the month. She described Leopoldo including his height, age, the fact that "He was kind of like as if he had been in the sun." and saying he had a mark on his face.

The following exchange appears at the bottom of page 379 and

the top of 380:

"Mrs. Odio. ...I have a pretty good idea who called the FBI.

"Mr. Liebeler. About what?

"Mrs. Odio. You see, I did not call the FBI to tell them this fact.

"Mr. Liebeler. Why not?

"Mrs. Odio. I was going to, but I had to get around/<sup>to it</sup>to do it myself, because at the time everything was so confused and everybody was so excited about it, and I wanted to wait to see if it was important.

"Mr. Liebeler. Who do you think called the FBI?

"Mrs. Odio. Mrs. Connell, I think.

"Mr. Liebeler. When you were interviewed by the FBI at your place of work, did you have any opinion about the way that interview was conducted?

"Mrs. Odio. Yes. It brought me a lot of problems in my work. The two men were extremely polite and nice, the two gentlemen from the FBI. You know how people ~~of~~ were afraid at the time, and my company, some officials of it were quite concerned that the FBI should have come to see me."

The Mrs. Connellis Mrs. C. L. Connell who has helped Cubans from time to time. Mrs. Connell helped finance Mrs. ~~of~~ Odio's trip to Dallas. Mrs. Connell was the only person with whom Mrs. Odio discussed this. (p. 380)

On page 381 Mr. Liebeler returns to Mrs. Odio's shock. At the time of the assassination she fainted and was taken to the hospital in an ambulance. She thought "the three men...had something to do with the assassination." This was before she had heard the name of Oswald as involved in the assassination. (P.382) From the time

reconstruction this had to be so.

Asked on the same page if she could identify the man if she saw their pictures she said "I think I could recognize one of them." and then "They looked very much like Mexicans." In this connection note the deposition of New Orleans attorney Dean Adams Andrews, Jr. beginning on page 325, and also note that the Commission identified Mexican parentage in its report.

On page 387 are further details of the men and their mannerisms.

At 6:30 that evening they reconvened in the office of the Secret Service to show "some movie films of some street scenes in the city of New Orleans, and also a television appearance that Lee Harvey Oswald made over station WDSU in New Orleans in August of 1963."

On page 388 she refers to the familiarity of some of the people in the <sup>footage</sup> ~~photos~~ and refers as she has on several pages previously to an unshaved appearance around the mouth suggesting a mustache on Oswald. She could not identify his voice. When asked if looking at the pictures has made her more or less convinced or what the left her with the same feeling about the identify of Oswald she said "...I have the same feeling that it was...I have a feeling there are certain pictures that do not resemble him. It was not the Oswald that was standing in front of my door. He was kind of tired looking. He had a little smile, but he was sunken in in the face that day. More skinny, I would say." Liebeler asked if she had any doubts "that the man that was in your apartment was the same man as Lee Harvey Oswald?" to which she replied "I don't have any doubts." She again said "But the men looked like Mexicans. They did not look like Cubans." She said Oswald looked "is fatter in this ~~pe~~ picture than what I actually saw him."

The film was rerun a number of times.