

M E M O R A N D U M

January 24, 1968

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: MARK LANE

RE: MRS. PENELLA FARRINGTON

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This is to furnish the information referred to in my memorandum to you dated January 22, 1968.

Today Mrs. FARRINGTON told me that to her best recollection the date that she visited the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans was September 18, 1963.

She said she had spoken to her cousin, MRS. MERILH, (who resides at 1314 Jackson Avenue, Unlisted telephone JA 2-5286), who believes September 18 to be the date. Neither of the two women are certain of the date.

I spoke with Mrs. MERILH by telephone today and she seems a bit reluctant to be interviewed. I will try again later in the week. As it appears that the one other source of information about the date may be the Mexican Consulate, I will attempt to contact them today.

On Tuesday, November 26, 1963, MRS. FARRINGTON was in Washington, D. C. , for a matter not related to the assassination. At that time two FBI agents visited her home in New Orleans to question her about the Consulate episode. Since she was not home they went upstairs, according to her maid, and questioned her 83-year old aunt who knew nothing about the incident. At the same time an FBI agent called MRS. FARRINGTON in Washington, D.C., at the home of her brother-in-law AUSTIN L. ROBERTS, He gave his name and telephone number and MR. ROBERTS called the FBI and verified the fact that the man who presented himself as an FBI agent was in fact an agent. The FBI agent told MRS. FARRINGTON that the man in the Consulate was OSWALD and that as soon as he mentioned firearms his picture was taken by a hidden camera and that since she was in the same picture she was quickly traced. The agent told MRS. FARRINGTON that when she was in Mexico City she did see LEE HARVEY OSWALD there. MRS. FARRINGTON however said that she did not meet OSWALD in Mexico City. The agent insisted in a number of "questions" that MRS. FARRINGTON did meet OSWALD in Mexico City. However, since she did not meet him and she continued to insist that she had not met him there. FBI agents also questioned MRS. MERILH, MRS. FARRINGTON's cousin. They showed her photographs of JACK RUBY and said that RUBY had been in the Mexican Consulate during the morning while MRS. MERILH was present. However, she stated that she did not recognize photographs of RUBY as depicting anyone whom she had seen that morning.

I showed 17 photographs to MRS. FARRINGTON and she selected just 2, one of KERRY THORNLEY and two of LEE OSWALD as possibly showing the person whom she had seen in 1963 at the Consulate. She said THORNLEY's face on the photo appeared more full than the face of the man she had seen. MRS. FARRINGTON said she would check through her records and would advise me in a day or two as to the exact date she was at the Mexican Consulate.

She also told me that during April, 1965, GENERAL WALKER called her about the incident. She said she believes that WALKER may have secured information about her knowledge of the incident from MRS. TRUEMAN WOODWARD. MRS. FARRINGTON said that her relative who was the Adjutant General of the United States Army (and who would write to each man who was separated from the service reminding him that this is a Republic and not a Democracy) actually had some relationship with GENERAL WALKER.