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Appendix 3: HSCA Procedural Write-up Mexico Trip 2

House Select Committee staffers Edwin Juan Lopez and Harold Leap traveled to Mexico City on August 7, 1978. The staff members were met by David T. Patton, a State Department official, at the Mexican airport at 10:15 p.m. Mr. Patton then checked the staffers into Room 1754 at the Maria Isabel Hotel. Mr. Patton informed the staff members that Larry Sternfield CIA Chief of Station in Mexico City, wished to see us at 8:30 a.m. the following morning.

On Tuesday, August 8, 1978, Committee staffers met with Larry Sternfield. He informed the staffers that the two individuals the Committee wished to interview, Daniel Flores, 1207/ aka Luis Aparicio, and Ramon Alvarez Duran, 1208/were now available.

At 9:30 a.m., August 8, 1978, Committee staff members interviewed Danny Flores. 1209/ The interview ended at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Committee staff members returned to Mr. Sternfield office. Mr. Sternfield stated that it appeared that the Government of Mexico had only been able to locate two

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He asked the staff members whom they wished to speak to.

The Committee staff members explained that they would

like to interview [ ] [ ] [ ]

[ ] and [ ]. Mr. Steinfield stated that

it appeared that the House Select Committee on Assassinations had already asked the Mexicans to locate them.

Mr. Steinfield stated that the HSCA's interview with (Ramon Alvarez Duran)<sup>04</sup> was considered "highly sensitive." He explained that three rooms at a nearby hotel would be used. In one room, (Ramon Alvarez Durant)<sup>04 06</sup> would sit, Committee staff members would sit in a second room and two CIA personnel officers would insure that the equipment worked properly in a third room. Mr. Steinfield then phoned Mr. Niles Gooding, who had been sent to the Mexico City Station from Headquarters to arrange the procedures for the interviews. Mr. Gooding explained that in 1977 Stansfield Turner had created a new position at Headquarters to insure that important sensitive meetings were within the guidelines previously arranged. Mr. Gooding stated that the Central Intelligence Agency had been under greater Congressional scrutiny than the past two years. Therefore, Director Turner, in order to demonstrate the Agency's good faith, had engaged a retired

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Army officer to act as liaison at sensitive interviews by Congressional representatives. Mr. Gooding then explained that we would be escorted by two CIA personnel to our interview with (Ramon Alvarez Durant<sup>04</sup>.)

At 10:55 a.m., August 8, 1978, Committee staff members interviewed (Ramon Alvarez Durant<sup>04</sup>). (See (Ramon Alvarez Durant<sup>04</sup>) interview write-up.)

At 12:30 p.m., Committee staff members telephoned Captain Fernandez Ventura Gutierrez. His secretary explained that Mr. Ventura was not in the office, but that she would have him call us when he returned. At 6:30 p.m., since Mr. Ventura had not yet returned the staffer's call, they again called his office. His secretary apologized for Mr. Ventura and explained that he had not yet returned to the office and she assured us that he would telephone upon his return. At 9:15 p.m., Dr. Jesus Yanez, the Assistant to the official mayor, telephoned the staff members explaining that Mr. Ventura was very busy on an important assignment and asked us to visit the Procuraduria General at 11:00 a.m. the following morning.

At 10:15 a.m., August 9, 1978, Committee staff members met with State Department Official Richard Howard

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to alert him that the Committee would request the Mexican officials to make Silvia Duran available in Washington for an HSCA hearing. Mr. Howard explained that once we had permission from the Mexican government the State Department would insure that she was in Washington when necessary.

At 11:00 a.m., August 9, 1978, Committee staff members met with Dr. Jesus Yanez and Cipriano Martinez Novoa. Mr. Yanez told Committee staff members that Cipriano Martinez Novoa, the Mexican agent in charge, would try to aid us in all our interviews. Mr. Martinez then briefed the Committee staff members on their up-to-date progress:

Oscar Contreras Lartigue had been located and pre-interviewed by Mr. Martinez in Tampico, Mexico. We would fly to Tampico on Friday, August 11, 1978 at 7:35 a.m. to interview him.

Noe W. Palomares had been located and could be interviewed during the afternoon of Thursday, August 10, 1978 at his office, Cerrada de la Presa 4. His phone number, 595-0891, was made available to the Committee.

June Cobb Sharp received a tourist permit, number

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72781, on June 27, 1947. She entered Mexico through Nuevo Lardo, Texas. She requested but was denied permission by the Mexican government to represent the magazine, Modern Mexico. On June 21, 1948, she received a courtesy permit, number 25556. She disappeared in 1954 and never returned to Mexico.

The Committee staffers did not tell the Mexicans that the House Select Committee on Assassinations had evidence from review of June Cobb's 201 file that she was in Mexico in the Sixties.

Eunice Odio Infante, a Costa Rican, received a three-month tourist permit from the Mexican government on February 9, 1964. She remained in Mexico, illegally residing at Nacas-45-a, until 1972. She applied to write for the Excelsior magazine on many different occasions, but was rejected every time. In 1972, Ms. Odio married a Communist painter, Rudolfo Sanabria Gonzalez and moved to Rio Neba-16 Apartment 40. On May 24, 1972, Ms. Odio was found dead in her bathtub. The official presiding at her autopsy concluded that Ms. Odio had poisoned herself.

Emilio Carballido Fontanes was in Caracas, Venezuela, on vacation and scheduled to return to Mexico in early

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September. His address is Constituyentes 207. His phone number is 515-8345.

(<sup>04</sup>Consuelo Esperon's) personnel record in Mexico could not be located. When the Mexican officials inquired about her at the (<sup>08</sup>Cuban Embassy in Mexico City)

to the Committee's trip, no one at the office remembered that she had worked there. Committee staff members were told that (<sup>04</sup>Esperon) was probably dead. No basis was given for the Mexican government's conclusion.

Al Wichtrich worked at Royal Crown Cola until 1968 when its offices in Mexico closed.

(<sup>06</sup>Carlos Jurado J. Delmar) was born in Cuba on (<sup>09</sup>November 3, 1927). He entered Mexico July 1, 1965 and taught (<sup>08</sup>Graphics and Art at U.N.A.M.) until January 1, 1968 when he disappeared. The Mexican officials assume that he returned to Cuba.

General Jesus Jose Clark Flores died in the early 1970's.

Ernesto Lehfeld Miller, Academic Coordinator at the School of Interior Design, had not yet been located.

(<sup>04,08</sup>Luis Alberue Suoto lives at Michelet #7, Apartment #301, Colonia Aneura) Mexico City. His phone number is (<sup>08</sup>545-9947). The landlady at his apartment explained to

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the Mexican officials that (Mr. Alberue)<sup>04</sup> had left town hurriedly on Monday, August 7, 1978. Mr. Martinez, wishing to know when he returned, had placed a piece of scotch tape on the bottom right edge of his door. Mr. Martinez explained that he checked it every four hours and would notify us if (Alberue)<sup>04</sup> returned before we left.

Manuel Calvillo did not live at Cuahatemoc 877-5 as the Committee had stated. The landlady for the past twenty-five years at the apartments told Mr. Martinez that Manuel Calvillo had never resided there. Committee staff members explained that Calvillo went by a pen name which would be forwarded to the Mexican officials the following morning.

When Committee staff members inquired whether Ms. Silvia Tirado Bazan could testify at an HSCA hearing, the Mexican officials stated that they would have an answer for the staffers by Friday morning. The Mexican officials explained that they would have to speak to her to insure that she was willing to travel to Washington.

On Thursday, August 10, 1978, at 11:00 a.m. the Committee staff members met with Dr. Jesus Yanez, Agent Cipriano Martinez Novoa, Captain Florentino Ventura

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Gutierrez and Attorney General Licenciado,  
Manuel Calvillo's "pen name" was given to the Mexicans  
who stated that they would check it with the landlady  
at his alleged apartment building.

Committee staffers returned to their hotel room  
with Agent Cipriano Martinez Novoa after the meeting.  
Agent Martinez attempted without success to telephone  
Oscar Contreras Lartigue to inform him of our visit.  
At 3:30 p.m., Agent Martinez finally reached Mr. Contreras'  
child who informed him that Mr. Contreras was not in  
Tampico. He had traveled to Mexico City for a Partido  
Republicano Institucional convention. When Agent Mar-  
tinez asked the child if he knew where his father was  
staying in Mexico City, he responded that he did not.  
Agent Martinez explained to the child that he would call  
at a later time to speak to his mother.

Agent Martinez telephoned Noe W. Palomares at 4:00  
p.m. and arranged an interview for 6:30 p.m. that even-  
ing. Mr. Martinez asked Committee staff members to  
meet him at his office at the Procuraduria General at  
6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., August 10, 1978, Committee staff  
members met Agent Cipriano Martinez at the Procuraduria

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General at 6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., August 10, 1978, Committee staff members met Agent Cipriano Martinez at the Procuraduria General. Martinez then drove the HSCA representatives to Mr. Palmoares' office. At 6:30 p.m., Committee staff members interviewed Noe W. Palomares. (See Noe W. Palomares interview write-up.)

Following the interview Agent Martinez returned to the Maria Isabel Hotel with Committee staff members. He attempted to reach Mrs. Contreras telephonically at Tampico twice without success. At 9:45 p.m., he finally contacted her. Mrs. Contreras told Agent Martinez that Mr. Oscar Contreras had told her that he would try to get a room at either the Hotel Regis or Hotel San Francisco. Mrs. Contreras explained that since there were a few conventions scheduled in Mexico City that weekend she could not assure that he would be at either. Mrs. Contreras told Agent Martinez that she would notify him if her husband should call.

Mr. Martinez called both hotels and inquired whether Oscar Contreras Lartigue was registered. He was not registered at either; they were completely booked up.

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Mr. Martinez attempted to reach by telephone Silvia Tiardo Bazan at her home to ask her whether she would be willing to travel to Washington to testify at a HSCA hearing and to ask if she knew where Mr. Ernesto Lehfeld Miller could be located. She was not at home, however.

Agent Martinez explained that he would attempt to locate Oscar Contreras Lartige Lartige at the hotel where the Partido Republicano Institucional was holding its convention early the following morning; after which he would meet the staff members at 9:30 a.m. at their hotel room.

At 9:45 a.m., August 11, 1978, Agent Martinez met Committee staffers at their hotel room and explained that he was unable to locate Mr. Contreras Lartigue at the convention. Mr. Martinez then left to check the whereabouts of (Mr. Alberue Suoto)<sup>04</sup> and Silvia Tirado Bazan.

At 12:30 p.m., August 11, 1978, Agent Martinez returned to the Committee staff members' hotel room. He telephoned Mrs. Contreras in Tampico who stated that her husband had not telephoned her since she had last spoken to Agent Martinez. At 1:50 p.m., another agent, Honorio Escondon, telephoned Agent Martinez at the Committee staffers' hotel room to inform him that (Luis Alberue Suoto)<sup>04</sup> must be back in town because the scotch tape placed at the base of his

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entranceway door was no longer in place. At 1:55 p.m., Agent Martinez telephoned (Luis Alberue Sutoto)<sup>04</sup>. During the phone conversation, (Alberue denied that he had worked at the Cuban Embassy in the Sixties)<sup>04,08</sup> stated that he knew nothing about the assassination and declined the Committee staff members' request to interview him.

At 2:00 p.m., August 11, 1978, Agent Martinez telephoned Silvia Duran. Agent Martinez then gave the telephone to Committee staffer Lopez. Mr. Lopez ask Ms. Tirado whether she would be willing to testify sometime in September at a Committee hearing in Washington; she answered affirmatively. She stated that September 13th, 14th and 15th would not be "good days" because the Mexican Revolution celebration would be taking place and she was a planner and participant. When Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Tirado if she knew Mr. Ernesto Lehfeld Miller's phone number, she stated that she did not., but she stated that if we telephoned her ex-husband Horatio at either 516-0398 or 515-8621, he would be able to help us.

At 2:15 p.m., Committee staffer Lopez telephoned Horatio Duran, who gave him Ernesto Lehfeld Miller's office phone number, 548-4839. At 2:20 p.m., Lopez telephoned Mr. Miller and arranged a meeting for 9:00 p.m. that evening.

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At 2:30 p.m., Agent Martinez telephoned Capitan Ventura to report on his progress, pertaining to his work with the HSCA. When Martinez told Ventura that he had (located [<sup>04</sup>Alberue,]) Ventura asked him if he was alone. [<sup>24</sup>When Agent Martinez lied and stated that he was alone,] Ventura told him that he should under no circumstances allow us to interview [<sup>04</sup>Alberue]. (When Agent-Martinez completed his phone call, he said, "I don't understand why nobody wants you to talk to him.")

At 9: p.m, August 11, 1978, Committee staffers interviewed Ernesto Lehfeld Miller. (See Ernesto Lehfeld Miller interview write-up.)

At 11:15 a.m., August 12, 1978, Committee staffer Lopez called [<sup>04</sup>Luis Alberue Suoto] at his home. When Mr. Lopez identified himself, [<sup>04</sup>Mr. Alberue] immediately stated that he knew nothing. [He further stated that he never worked for the Cuban Embassy. When Lopez explained to him that employees at the Cuban Embassy had stated that he had been employed there, Mr. Suoto hung up. Mr. Alberue's] voice quivered throughout the short talk.

At 11:45 a.m., Silvia Tirado called Lopez and stated that she had thought all night about travelling to Washington. She said she had seen a report in the newspapers in which Azcue had stated that the man who visited the Cuban Consulate

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in 1963 was not Lee Harvey Oswald. She stated that Azcue had only seen Oswald once while she had seen Oswald "at least three times." When Lopez said, "At least three times?" Ms. Tirado said. "Three times, you know?" She further stated that if she testified in Washington and the Committee concluded that she was lying she would be crucified when she returned to Mexico. Mr. Lopez reassured her and explained that when he returned to Washington he would send her a long letter explaining procedures.

At 12:05 p.m., Agent Martinez met the Committee staff members at the airport. He stated that Contreras and Calvillo had not been located. The Committee staffers gave Martinez a list of questions to ask Oscar Contreras Lartigue. Agent Martinez stated that he would mail the results of the interview to Lopez at the Committee offices in Washington. The Committee never received any interview reports from the Mexican government.

The Committee staff members left Mexico City at 1:55 p.m. and arrived at Washington's Dulles Airport at 10:35 p.m.

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