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GARRO DE PAZ, ELENA

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①
On October 5, 1964, eleven days after the publication of the Warren Commission Report, a story alleging Lee Harvey Oswald's presence at a party in Mexico City attended by Cuban government personnel came to the attention of the Central Intelligence Agency (W x 747, p. 94, City # 430, CIA # 721; Bhick Memo dated 10/5/64, CIA # 576).

An allegation, of this type, if true, would negate the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of John F. Kennedy.

Elena's Story As Reported October 5, 1964

Elena Garro de Paz
and Daba Garro de Guerrero Salvan, first cousins of Horacio, Ruben and ~~Sylvia~~ ^{Ignacio} Duran were invited to a twist party at the home of Ruben Duran in the middle of a week in the fall of 1963. Lee Harvey Oswald was alleged to have been at this party in the company of "two other beatnik looking boys." (ibid) ^{The Americans} When Elena remained together the entire evening and did not dance. When Elena tried to speak with the Americans, she was "shifted" to another room by one of her cousins. [The memo does not state whether Elena had mentioned which cousin ^{had} ~~did~~ not allowed her to speak to the Americans.] One of Elena's cousins told her at the time that (he or she) did not know who the Americans were except that Sylvia Duran (^{an employee at the Cuban Embassy and the wife of} Horacio Duran), had brought them to the party.

The day after the party, Elena and Daba saw the three Americans on the Insurgentes, a main avenue in Mexico City. The Garro's claimed that they had recognized Oswald's photograph when it was published after the assassination. Sylvia Duran's arrest "underlined ^{the Garro's} their certainty" that the man had been Lee Harvey Oswald. (ibid)

Daba added that Ignacio and one of the Duran brothers had made trips to Texas. ^(ibid) She added that, even though

the Duan brothers had always been poor before the assassination, they were both driving expensive new cars. (ibid)

The source of the memo was a ^{w.H.17} Central Intelligence Agency ~~asset~~ known by the cryptonym LICOOKIE I whom the Committee identified as June Cobb Sharp while reviewing LICOOKIE'S file. Ms. Cobb was sent to ~~Elena's~~ ^{her} house, ^{shortly after the assassination} for a few days, by a mutual friend, Costa Rican writer Eunice Odio. [CIA No's 580-583; WX-7241, Entry # 427, p. 92, CIA # 719] ^{Ms. Garro asserted that} While ~~Ms. Cobb was~~ at ~~Elena's~~ ^{her} house ~~she~~ ^{Ms. Cobb} expressed interest in the Kennedy assassination. One night Elena's sister Deba who was visiting got drunk and ~~the story was~~ ^{told the whole story}. (ibid) Claiming to be a CIA agent, Cobb suggested that Elena and Deba go to Texas to tell their story. (ibid) ^{Elena stated that} When ~~her~~ ^{Cobb's} suggestion was rejected, Cobb stated that she would arrange a meeting with the CIA Station Chief. [Winston Scott was the Mexico City Station Chief in 1964]. The meeting did not occur because Ms. Cobb was asked to leave the Garro house evidently because she kicked Elena's cat. [CIA No's 580-583; WX-7241, Entry # 427, p. 92, CIA # 719] A notation on the memo says that L/I (Licookie I) never regained contact with Elena Garro de Pay. [WX-7241, p. 94, Entry # 430, CIA # 721; Blind Memo dated 10/5/64, CIA # 576].

According to Elena

The Licookie memo was not inserted in either the Elena Garro or Lee Harvey Oswald "p" (personality) files but in a ^{local informant and Cuban} project file. ~~[The memo was placed in the file]~~ ^{The memo was placed in the} ~~[The Committee was not given]~~ ^{the memo was placed} ~~the project file~~ ^{it was filed}. The Committee learned about the memo from WX-7241, a chronological history of the Oswald case prepared by Anne Dorfman for

local informant and Cuban project file.

the CIA in 1976] The memo was found in December, 1965. [The Committee CIA # 721.] ^{Stanley Watson found} The ~~Committee~~ has the memo ~~not been able to determine~~ ^{who found} ~~by whom.~~ The memo a marginal notation on WX 7241 says, "Why was this not sent to Headquarters?" (p. 87, CIA # 714). The Committee ^{that the memo was} has ~~not~~ been able to determine ~~what actions were taken~~ forwarded to headquarters shortly thereafter. ~~when the memo was found in December 1965.~~

(3)

Biography

The story was ^{told by} ~~written~~ ^{who} Elena Garro de Paz, was born of Spanish parents in Puebla, Mexico on December 11, 1917. ^[All information in this section culled from Biography Data form prepared by Charles Thomas] Ms. Garro attended the National Autonomous University of Mexico and later did graduate work at Berkley in California and at the University of Paris. In 1963, Elena had long been married to Octavio Paz, a career diplomat who is also one of Mexico's finest poets and leading intellectuals. When Octavio was named Mexican Ambassador to India, the couple separated by mutual consent. Elena's daughter, also named Elena, has always resided with her mother.

Since Elena spent seventeen years of her early life in Europe she had a rather un-Mexican objectivity about her native land and had a reputation for being one of its more articulate detractors. At the same time, Elena was considered emotionally committed to many aspects of Mexican life and made an important contribution to its artistic development.

In the 1960's Elena became a significant writer. Hogar Solido, El Rey Mago, La Senora en su Balcon, Ventura Allende, Andaise por las Ramas, Parada Empresa, and El Viaje are plays that have had appreciative audiences in Europe, where they were translated into German, as well as in Mexico. Ms. Garro's short stories are collected in a volume called La Semana de Colores. The Literacy Supplement of the London Times has called her novel, Los Recuerdos de Porvenir, "a

splendid success." Critics have said of her: "For Elena Garro, there is no frontier between reality and fantasy; in any case, the latter is a second reality-- perhaps more intense-- to which one may penetrate without passport or forewarning, thanks to the effectiveness of a literature fired with passion, flavor and life." [Many people who knew Elena have asserted that the frontier between reality and fantasy is also difficult for her to distinguish in real life. [Biography Data Form ^{on Elena Garro de Az} prepared by Charles Thomas]]

Ms. Garro, for many years, was an active worker in the Confederacion Nacional Campesina (CNC), the agrarian arm of the Partido Reformista (PRI). Because Ms. Garro was a tireless propagandist and agitator on behalf of the poorer Mexican peasants, she was on close personal terms with and enjoyed the respect of peasant leaders from all over the country. (ibid)

Elena was considered a witty, urbane and opinionated woman with an unflagging sense of humor. Her forthright opinions and sharp wit tended on occasion to ruffle feathers in Mexico, but her important social, literacy, and political connections rendered her fairly immune from serious counter-attack until 1968. Then, Ms. Garro was forced to flee the country with her daughter, Elenita and her sister, Deba Guerrero de Galvan, in the midst of the student strikes.

The House select committee on Assassinations has been unable to determine the exact reason Ms. Garro had for fleeing Mexico.

Before her disappearance from Mexico, Elena was well disposed toward the United States and had been friendly with Embassy officers. Her broad range of significant personal friends, the views of many important to the American Embassy, made her a useful Embassy target. Throughout the early 1960's she was carried as a target in the Embassy's Youth Program.

American Embassy employees dealing with Elena believed that despite her access to the underground happenings in Mexico, ~~including peasant unrest, since she had a~~ ^{her} tendency to romanticize ~~developments in reporting on them~~ ^{while she reported, frequently} made it difficult ~~at times to determine what degree of credence~~ ^{to evaluate her overall credibility.} to place on what might truly be useful and concrete information.

→ [A "useful Embassy target" is a person deemed important ~~because~~ ^{because of acquaintances} enough ~~by American Embassy officials~~ to merit frequent contact, either witting or unwitting, ~~with American Embassy officials~~]

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October 12, 1964 CIA MEMO FOR THE RECORD

On 10/12/64 the Chief of Covert Action, ^{Jim}~~John~~ Flannery, wrote a memo for the record regarding that Elena Garro de Paz had told her story to Eunice Odio [The Committee has not been able to determine if Elena Garro told Ms. Odio ^{the story} personally or if Ms. Cobb ^{related to} told Ms. Odio what Elena had told her.] who relayed it to "Tichborn" [~~Wagoner~~ ^{Tichborn was} Henry P. Togg's cryptonym. Ms. Togg was a willing asset [for the CIA] who wrote propaganda pieces. After careful review of his CIA file, the HSCA has not been able to establish a link from Ms. Togg to Ms. Odio or ~~to~~ Ms. Garro.]

on 10/9/64. [10/12/64 memo, CIA #596; WX7241, p.87, CIA #714]

The story is not as detailed as the 10/5/64 version. There is no mention of Deba Garro Guerrero Galvan. The story, perhaps because it is third hand, differs from the previous story in two areas: The party was at the Cuban Embassy not at Ruben Duran's; Elena talked to a Cuban Embassy official not one of her cousins about the three Americans.

Attached to the memo was a note from Flannery to the Chief of Station, Winston Scott, which read, "Do you want me to send the gist of this to Headquarters." Scott replied "yes, but we should follow up first." Flannery then wrote: "Nothing further." Scott then noted that the memo should be filed. The file indications show that the memo went into the Oswald "P" file and the Elena Garro "P" file. (ibid)

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NOVEMBER 24, 1964 CIA Informant Report.

On November 24, 1964 a Central Intelligence Agency informant [The House Select Committee has been unable to determine the informant's identity] reported information [Memo from Winston Scott to the files, re: June Cobb, 11/25/64, CIA Nos. 592-593; WX 7241, p. 88, Entry # 404, CIA # 715.] he had learned from "LICHANT/1. [While reviewing LICHANT I's file the Committee determined that the CIA ^{clear claims that} asserts June's name was Manuel Calvillo. The day following the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Calvillo escorted her and her daughter to the Vermont Hotel for protection; See also December 25, 1965 ^{Thomas} memo for more information on Manuel Calvillo.] The informant asserted that June Cobb was an "American Communist" who rented a room from Elena Harris. [Memo from Winston Scott to the files, re: June Cobb, 11/25/64, CIA Nos. 592-593; WX-7241, p. 88, Entry # 404, CIA No. 715.] The informant also stated that Elena tried to talk to Robert Kennedy when he was in Mexico because she had met Oswald "and two friends (Cubans)" at a party at Anacio Duran's house. (Ibid) In addition, the informant claimed that Elena also told her story to an American official, at the Embassy, who claimed to represent the Warren Commission. (Ibid) The Chief of Station noted ^{that} he had asked the informant to pursue the story (Ibid), but there is ~~no~~ indication that LICHANT I ever complied with this request [HSCA Review of Classified CIA Documents]

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NOVEMBER 24, 1964 ELENA MEETING WITH MEXICO CITY
LEGAL ATTACHE OFFICERS

^{and her daughter}
 Elena also told ~~her~~ ^{their} story to the Mexico City
 Legal Attache. [The legal attache in 1964 was Clark
 Anderson]. They reminded the same story previously given to
 LICOOKIE I. The date of the party was given as September
 30, October 1 or October 2, 1963. [FBI 105-825555 Report, Dec.
 11, 1964 entitled Lee Harvey Oswald, p.1] The agent who
 wrote the report [I noted that ~~the~~ Lee Harvey
 Oswald could not have been identical with the American
 allegedly observed by Mrs. Paz at the party, if this party
 were held on the evening of October 1 or October 2, 1963.]
 [FBI 105-825555 Report, Dec. 11, 1964 entitled Lee Harvey Oswald, p.1]
~~because~~ FBI investigation of the John F. Kennedy
 assassination had established that Lee Harvey Oswald
 had departed Mexico City by bus at 8:30 a.m. on
 October 2, 1963 when Mrs. Paz stated that she saw Lee
 Harvey Oswald walking on Insurgentes. [ibid p.3]

Elena was questioned regarding the identity of other
 persons attending the party at the Ruben Duran home who
 might have been in a position to observe the three Americans.
 Elena stated that in the course of the party her daughter
 met a young man named "Alejandro" at the party and danced
 with him. ^(c.b.d p.3) He was apparently quite smitten with the
 daughter and tried to call her on several occasions after
 the party. ^(c.b.d p.3) The daughter did not take the calls and as
 a result "Alejandro" wrote several letters to the daughter.
 Ms. Garro exhibited two of the letters, as well as a
 business card which identified the young man as Ario Alejandro
 Lavagnini Stenius. (IBID p.3)

November 24, 1964 CIA Informant Report.

On November 24, 1964 a CIA informant reported
some information he had heard

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The letter which Ms. Garro said was the first written by the young man to her daughter bore the date September 1, 1963 and the Mexico City Post Office postmark September 2, 1963. When Ms. Garro was told this she commented that probably the Communists have facilities for falsifying postcards. (IBID)

To further investigate Ms. Garro's story, the Federal Bureau interviewed Ario Alejandro Lavagnini Stenius on November 27, 1964. (IBID.^{p4}) Lavagnini recalled that there were approximately thirty people at the Ruban Duran party, few of whom he knew. He recalled having met a Mexican girl who had recently returned from living in France. He was unable to fix the date of the party, but felt it was probably early in September because of a heavy rain which occurred as they were leaving the party about 2:00 a.m. (IBID. p. 4)

Lavagnini noted no Americans present at this party. He was familiar with the appearance of Lee Harvey Oswald because of publicity following the assassination of President Kennedy but otherwise had no knowledge of him and had never seen him except for news photographs following the assassination. (IBID. p. 4) [*Lavagnini was the only person interviewed by the FBI at the Duran house in the September-October time frame, ~~that the FBI~~ ~~by the FBI~~.*]

There is no indication on the document that this information was given to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station.

Charles Thomas

First Meeting with ELENA GARRO WHERE LEE HARVEY OSWALD IS DISCUSSED.

On 12/10/65 Charles Thomas, a political officer at the American Embassy, wrote a memorandum about a conversation with Elena Garro de Paz. (CIA #586-587, WX-7241 Entry No. 425, p. 91, CIA No. 718.) The meeting with Elena had been about other matters but she mentioned knowing Oswald. Thomas noted that she was reluctant to talk but did. (ibid)

Elena's story reported here is the same, but with more details, as that given in the LICOOKIE Memo. She said that General ^{José Sesos (a friend of Rubén Durán's)} Clark Flores, ^(Cuban Consul in Mexico City) Silvia Duran, ^(a pro-Communist writer friend of the Durans) Eusebio Azcue, ^(unidentified) Emilio Carballido, and a Latin American Negro man with red hair were at the party. A marginal comment by this entry in WX-7241 says, "How did Elena know about a red-haired Negro?" Elena also told Thomas that she had later learned that Silvia Duran had been "Oswald's mistress while he was there." (A note by this entry in WX-7241 says "How did Elena Garro know about Silvia being the mistress of Oswald?? This is 1965.") ~~The Mexico City Stadium did not hear~~

~~about the Oswald-Duran "affair" until July 1967 when a CIA Asset Siring/13 reported it. [after reviewing SIRING/13 file at the CIA the House Select Committee on Assassinations has been unable to determine ^{who} SIRING/13 was associated with that had knowledge about Silvia Duran or Lee Harvey Oswald.]~~

Elena told Thomas that she and her daughter had gone to the Cuban Embassy ²³ on November 1963. ~~Once inside~~ ^{and} the gates they shouted "assasins" and other insults at the Embassy employees. ^[CIA # 586-587, WX7241, Entry No. 425, p. 91, CIA No. 718] ~~Shortly after this incident a~~ ^{That same day} friend, Manuel Calvillo, an official in the Gobernacion, took her and her daughter to a small hotel in the center

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of Mexico City. ^(ibid) They were kept there for eight days under the pretext that they were in danger. ^(ibid) Elena claimed to have told Calvillo that she wanted to tell her story to the American Embassy. ^(ibid) Calvillo dissuaded her by telling her that the American Embassy was full of Communist spies. ^(ibid) Elena said that some of the other people who had been at the party were taken to Veracruz where they were "protected" by Governor Lopez Arias. ^(ibid) *[The House Select Committee was unable to determine the veracity of Mr. Paz' allegation]* She said that Ruben Duran, reportedly "protected" by General Clark Flores, was very prosperous and was driving a big car. *[CIA # 586-587, U2-7241, Entry No. 425, P. 91, CIA No. 718]*

Elena also claimed ~~that Ruben Duran told her months after the assassination~~ ^{that he was not really a Communist and that the assassination} ~~[The House Select Committee has not been able to determine if he had been a mistake. (ibid), The House Select Committee on Assassinations has not been able to determine if whether Ruben actually told Elena about the assassination. Ruben Duran claims he had no reason to]~~

Charles Thomas circled a copy of the including the Charles Thomas memorandum was sent to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station to aid them in their investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination. [The House Select Committee has been unable to determine when the Central Intelligence Agency received the copy of the Thomas memorandum prior to December 25, 1965. See below.]

The COS wrote a note on the memo which says: "What an imagination she has!?! Should we send to Headquarters?" The Officer replied, "Suggest sending. There have been stories around town about all this, and Thomas is not only person she has talked to...If memory serves me, didn't LICOOKIE refer to Oswald and the local leftists and Cubans in one of her squibs?" (CIA No. 588, note from SW to COS.)

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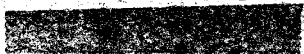
The Mexico City Station called the information in Thomas' 12/10/65 memorandum of conversation to CIA Headquarters (Cable from Mexico City to the Director, Mexi 5621, date cut off my copy; CIA Nos. 584-585) →

The cable ^{reported} said that Elena's story would be checked with LICHANT/1, against the production from the Cuban surveillance operation "and other sources." (IBID.) ^{Winston} Scott wrote, next to the routing indications on the cable, "Please ask Charles Thomas if he'll "follow-up". Get questions from Anne G. Please let's discuss. Thanks." *(Anne Goodpasture)*

After the December 10 memorandum ^{of} conversations, Winston Scott (Chief/Station) and Nathan Ferris (Legal Attache) called C. Thomas for a meeting. They asked him to get a more detailed replay of Ms. Garro's story. At this meeting Winston Scott made it clear that the FBI had full responsibility for any further investigation in the Oswald case. (State Dept: letter from Charles Thomas to William P. Rogers, July 25, 1969, JFK Doc. #)

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Charles Thomas Meeting with ELENA GARRO
ON DECEMBER 25, 1965



Thomas met with Elena again on December 25, 1965.

The same date he wrote a memorandum of conversation which provided a much more detailed ~~and complete~~ restatement of Ms. Garro's alleged encounter with Lee Harvey Oswald and subsequent developments. (CIA Nos. 580-583; WX-7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #719)

Elena admitted that she had spoken to two men at the Embassy "(presumably from the Legal Attache's Office)." (ibid: ^{Nov 2} The meeting occurred on Nov. 24, 1964)

Elena She said that she did not tell them the ^{complete} whole story

because "the Embassy officers did not give much credence to anything she and Elena said." (CIA Nos. 580-583; WX-7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA #719)

She stated that the party had been at Ruben Duran's home. (ibid) She was unclear about the date of the party. (ibid) It was a few days before the Soviet Astronaut, Gagarin, visited Mexico; she thought that this would put the party around September 2 or 3, 1963. (ibid) She believed that the party was on a Monday or Tuesday because it was an odd night for a party. (ibid) ~~The memo noted that September 1 and 2 were indeed a Monday and Tuesday.~~ Elena could not check her calender to refresh her memory at the time of the interview because the calender was in a desk that had been stored away. (ibid)



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During the conversation Elena described Oswald and his companions. ^(ibid) The man who she thought was Oswald wore a black sweater. ^(ibid) She said he was quiet "and stared a lot at the floor." ^(ibid) One of his companions "was very tall and slender and had long blond hair which hung across his forehead." ^(ibid) He had a gaunt face and a rather long protruding chin." ^{ibid} The other companion was also tall, with short, light brown hair and no ~~really~~ distinguishing characteristics. ^(ibid) The three Americans did not dance or mix with the other guests. ^(ibid) Elena saw the same three men on the street the next day. (IBID.)

Elena was certain that Eusebio Azcue, Horacio Duran, Silvia Duran, Lydia Duran, Deba Guerrero, General Clark Flores and his mistress, a doctor from Dalinde Hospital,



(15)
a young American couple who were honeymooning in Mexico,
and several other people were at the party.^(i.b.i.d) She said
that Ricardo Guerra, whom she claims converted Horatio
Duran to Communism, and his wife, Rosario Castellanos,
were supposed to be at the party but did not ~~show up~~^{attend}.

(IBID.) ^{alleged}
Elena stated that

The red-haired man and Emilio Carballido were not
at the party that Oswald attended but at another party
where Carballido and Azcue got into a heated argument
about President Kennedy.^(i.b.i.d) "They came to the conclusion
that the only solution was to kill him." (IBID.) Elena
was not clear on whether this party was before or after

the party where she met Oswald.^(i.b.i.d) ^{The House Select Committee}
^{has been unable to confirm the conversation. Eusebio Azcue stated that it did not occur}
^{between Azcue + Carballido.}

Elena said that Carballido "is a known Castro
agent in Mexico."^(i.b.i.d) After the assassination he spent a year
in Cuba.^(i.b.i.d) He then got a job teaching at Rutgers University

through Dr. Jose Vasquez Amaral.^(i.b.i.d) ^{The House Select Committee has been}
^{unable to confirm Ms. Carro's allegation.}

^{Elena reiterated that}
The incident at the Cuban Embassy, where ^{she} Elena and
her daughter shouted "assassins", etc., at the Embassy
employees, occurred on November 23rd at or about 3:00

p.m.^(i.b.i.d) Elena and Elenita were driven to the Cuban Embassy
by Elena's brother who was embarrassed by their behavior.^(i.b.i.d)
This occurred before they had seen photographs of Oswald.^(i.b.i.d)

^{Ms. Carro claimed that}

Later, ^{that} day ^{they} were visited by Manuel Calvillo
^{in the} ^{she + Elenita}
who told them that they were in serious danger from the
Communists and that he would take them to a small hotel,

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where they would be safe, for a few days. ^(ibid) Elena said she trusted and believed Calvillo because he was a known undercover agent for the ^{Mexican Government; He was the Minister of Emigration} ~~Gobernacion~~. He was also a friend of Noe Palomares and ^{President} Gustavo Diaz Ordaz. ^(ibid) Calvillo also told Elena and her daughter that Silvia Duran had been arrested. Duran's arrest was not public information ^{on November 23, 1963} ~~at the time~~. ^(ibid)

Elena could not remember the name of the hotel so ~~that same day~~ ^(12/1/63) she took Thomas to the section of Mexico City where she thought it was. ^{ibid} They found the hotel. ^(ibid) It was the Vermont Hotel, Calle Vermont 29. ^(ibid) Elena said that she assumed that Calvillo had registered them as relatives or friends. ^(ibid) They stayed at the hotel until the following Friday, Nov. 30, 1963 hardly leaving their rooms. ^(ibid) ^(See large attached report) Elena claimed that ^{she + Elena +} ~~they~~ while they were at the hotel they saw the photos of Oswald and realized that he had been the man at Ruben Duran's party. ^(ibid) When Calvillo visited them at the hotel Elena told him that she wanted to report it to the American Embassy, ^{however,} Calvillo dissuaded her by stating that the American Embassy was full of Communists. ^(ibid) ^{Elena stated that} When ^{she} Elena returned to her home, guards were posted outside. ^(ibid)

The House Select Committee ~~has been~~ ^{has been} unable to ~~determine~~ ^{determine} the veracity of Mr. Garro's claim.

Elena alleged ^{that} After she returned home ^{she} Elena saw her sister, Deba Guerrero, ^{who} ^{independently} Deba had also come to the same conclusion, ~~independently of Elena~~. Deba was "terrified," ^{because} approximately

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two months after the assassination two "communists" had personally warned visited Deba and threatened her never to reveal that she had been to a party with Oswald. ^(b.d) Deba, consequently, would not accompany Elena to the American Embassy to tell her story on Nov. 24, 1964. ^(b.d)

Elena said that a few days after the assassination Emilio Carballido took the Duran's to Jalapa, Veracruz and "kept them out of the way until the initial shock of the assassination wore off." ^(b.d) The Home Select Committee has been unable to confirm Ms. Garro's allegation.

Elena also ^{alleged} said that shortly after the assassination an American named June Cobb spent several days in her house. ^(b.d) She said that Ms. Cobb had been sent to Elena by a mutual friend, Eunice Odio. ^(b.d) ~~Eunice Odio was a Costa Rican who had been Vasquez Amaral's mistress when Amaral was with the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1965 Ms. Cobb and Ms. Odio were roommates.~~

^{Deba claims that} While Ms. Cobb was at ^{her} Elena's house she expressed an interest in the Kennedy assassination. ^(b.d) ^{visiting Elena one night} Deba got drunk ~~one night~~ and told Ms. Cobb the entire story. ^(b.d) Ms. Cobb wanted them to go to the American authorities. ^(b.d) Claiming to be a CIA agent, ~~Cobb advised against going to the American Embassy.~~

^{Cobb} She suggested that Elena and Deba go to Texas to tell their story. ^(b.d) When her suggestion was rejected, Cobb said that she would arrange a meeting with the CIA Station Chief. The meeting did not occur because Ms. Cobb was asked to

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leave the Garro house; evidently because she kicked

Elena's cat. (i bid) ~~The House Select Committee on Assassinations has determined that June Cobb Sharp was a CIA asset in 1964. (supra p. 3)~~

~~The House Select Committee on Assassinations has determined that June Cobb Sharp was a CIA asset in 1964. (supra p. 3)~~

Elena claims that Ruben Duran visited Elena around the end of January, 1964. He was worried that Oswald's visit to

his home might be discovered and that he might lose

his Mexican citizenship. (i bid) Ruben told Elena that it had

been Silvia who had gotten him involved with Oswald. (i bid)

Ruben added that he was not really a communist and

had opposed the assassination. (i bid) ~~The Committee spoke to Mr. Palomares who Ruben Duran denied the story. HSCA interview~~

Elena said that she had told her story to Noe

Palomares of the Gobernacion about six months after the

assassination. (i bid) He advised against going to the American

Embassy and told her that if she did anything at all

she should merely write an anonymous letter. (i bid) ~~The Committee spoke to Mr. Palomares who denied Ms. Garro's claim. [HSCA interview of Noe Palomares~~

JFK D.C. Elena stated that it was "common knowledge"

that Silvia had been Oswald's mistress. When asked who ~~[CIA Nos. 580-583, Wx 7241, Entry # 427, p 92 CIA # 719]~~

could verify the allegation she could only remember one

person who had told her this. (i bid) ~~she Elena claimed~~ That person was Victor

Rico Galan, a "pro-Castro journalist." (i bid) ~~Victor Rico Galan is dead. The Committee could not verify Ms. Garro's allegation. Ruben Duran denied~~

During these conversations Elena also said that

she "understood" that Oswald had been in Mexico more

than once. (i bid)

The allegation. Nonetheless, SIRING 3, a CIA asset reported the same story in 1967.

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[The House Select Committee on Assassinations has been unable to determine the exact date.]

Subsequent to December 25, 1965, Thomas wrote in the Dec. 25, 1965 memo that Elena had found her calendar and had reconstructed the date of the party as late September not early September. When Thomas went to Ferris' office and informed him, Ferris replied that Elena had given the late September date when she had originally reported her story at the American Embassy. However, Mr. Ferris explained that someone who had been at the party had stated that there were no Americans there. Mr. Ferris did not reveal that Ario Alejandro Lavagnini Stenius Ferris had provided this information. Mr. Ferris suggested that it was not necessary for Thomas to pursue the matter since he considered the Oswald case closed and had heard all the rumors before.

[CIA Nos. 580-583; WX 7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA # 719]

[FBI Report, 9/30/69, pp. 3-4, SER Doc. No.]

[FBI Report, 9/30/69, pp. 3-4, SER Doc. No.]

The state department forwarded (the same day)

A copy of the Charles Thomas memorandum to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station to aid in their investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination. On the first page of the memorandum of conversation Winston Scott wrote "Shouldn't we send to Headquarters?" Someone responded "Of course." [CIA Nos. 580-583; WX 7241, Entry #427, p. 92, CIA # 719]

20

DECEMBER 27, 1965 LEGAL ATTACHE MEMO TO
UNITED STATES Re
THE AMBASSADOR ~~Re~~ Elena Garro.

On December 27, 1965 the Legal Attache ^{had written} ~~wrote~~ a memo to the Ambassador ~~regarding Elena.~~ [(Memo to the Ambassador from the Legal Attache, 12/27/65, CIA #578; WX-7241 Entry #429, p. 94, CIA #721.)] ~~This is one of the memos the Legal Attache refers to in the Sept. 30, 1969 memo.~~ ⁹ ~~It~~ reported that Elena and her daughter were interviewed on 17 and 24 November 1964. The memo said that ^{Elena + her daughter} ~~they~~ furnished information similar to that in Thomas' 12/10/65 memo. ^{b. d.} The ~~Legal~~ memo ^{further stated} ~~goes on to say~~ "Inquiries conducted at that time, (November '64) however, failed to substantiate the allegations made by Mrs. Garro de Paz and her daughter. In view of the fact that Mrs. Garro de Paz' allegations have been previously checked out without substantiation, no further action is being taken concerning her recent repetition of those allegations." (IBID.)

The Legal Attache forwarded a copy of the memorandum to the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City Station. [The House Select Committee has ^{determined that the copy was} ~~been unable to~~ ^{franked prior to 12/29/78. See below} ~~determine the date~~ Winston Scott superimposed a note to Anne Hodgastine on this memo which read, "Can we send in a report to Headquarters ¹¹ 'dismissing' our cable?" Hodgastine responded, "done." [Memo to the Ambassador from the Legal Attache, 12/27/65, CIA #578; WX-7241 Entry #429, p. 94, CIA #721] The cable Winston Scott wanted dismissed was Mexi 5621 (supp.)

21

The next entry in Oswald's Mexican file is a cable

On December 29/1965

written by Ann Goodpasture. (Memo from Mexico City to the Director, 12/29/65, Mexi 5741, CIA #575; WX-7241 Entry #430, p. 94, CIA #721.) The cable reports the Legat interview and the failure to substantiate Elena's story. The cable promises to keep Headquarters advised if any further information were to be developed. (IBID.)

In the file LICOOKIE's 10/5/64 memo is attached to this cable. WX-7241 explains this ~~by saying~~ in a marginal comment, "This document by LICOOKIE was not in (Oswald's file), but was copied from (a project file) and attached to Mexi 5741, 29 Dec. 65." (IBID.)

A note ^{superimposed} attached to this cable by Allen White stated, "I don't know what FBI did in Nov 64, but the Garro's have been talking about this for a long time and she is said to be extremely bright." Ann Goodpasture wrote that the FBI had found Elena's allegations unsubstantiated but that "we will try to confirm or refute Mrs. Garro de Paz's information and follow up." Win Scott wrote, "She is also 'nuts'." (IBID; CIA #574)

was sent to Headquarters

22

CIA INVESTIGATION OF ELENA ALLEGATION
THAT SHE CREATED A DISTURBANCE AT
THE CUBAN EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 23, 1963.

On February 3, 1966 Anne Goodpasture ^{forwarded} sent Thomas' ^{December 25, 1965} memo to the Cuban section with an attached note asking them to check whether Elena was "seen creating such a disturbance as they claimed in front of the Cuban Embassy." (Note from Ann Goodpasture to "Cubans", 2/3/66, CIA No. 579; WX-7241, Entry 428, p. 94, CIA #721.)

One Cuban section officer responded, "No bells ring with me." Another one wrote "Me neither." The third officer wrote "No pictures either." (IBID.) [There is no indication that the penetration agents in the Cuban

Embassy were queried about ^{Elena's allegation} this. (IBID;] [That there are no pictures is reasonable since Elena claimed that the event happened: 1.) on a Saturday at 3:00 p.m. when the Cuban Embassy was not normally photographically surveilled; and 2.) the "disturbance" occurred inside the Cuban compound. HSCA Examination of the CIA Cuban Embassy photographic surveillance showed no surveillance on 11/23/63. (Classified Summary of Staff Review of CIA Documents, undated, P. 3, CIA #763.)]

23

LEGAL Attache 2/23/66 MEMO TO THE
United States Ambassador REGARDING
ELENA GARROS allegations-

On 2/23/66 the Legal Attache wrote a memo to the
Ambassador regarding the Garros allegations. [(Memo from
Legat to Ambassador, 2/23/66, CIA #571; WX-7241 Entry #455,
p. 95, CIA #722.)] ~~This memo~~ reports^{ing} that "extensive investi-
gation" failed to disclose that Oswald had traveled to
Mexico prior to September 26, 1963 and that no information
had developed that would show that he had not been in
New Orleans in the early part of that month. The memo
~~repeated~~^{stated} that no further action was being taken by the
FBI because ~~her~~^{Elena's} allegations had not been substantiated. (ibid)

The Legal
~~A copy~~ attache furnished a copy to the Central Intelligence
Agency's Mexico City Station. [The House Select Committee on
Assassinations has been unable to determine when the copy
was forwarded to the CIA.]

~~(IBID)~~ A marginal comment ^{made by Anne Goodpastor} by this entry in WX-7241 says,
~~next to this~~
"How can it be ascertained that Oswald did not travel
to Mexico prior to early Sept. 63? There must be some
basis for Elena's reporting." (IBID; referenced to
Thomas' 12/25/65 memo.)

24
7/13/66

CHARLES THOMAS MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Re Elena GARRO.

On 7/13/66 Charles Thomas wrote a memorandum of conversation ^{reporting} ~~reporting~~ that Elena had told him that she had received an invitation to visit Cuba from Ambassador Joaquin Higuera by Aimas. [Memorandum of Conversation by Charles Thomas, 7/13/66, CIA #565; W-7241, Entry 460, p. 96, CIA #723] Elena gave Thomas two letters to ^(ibid) support the claim. She said the letters had been delivered to her home by a driver from the Cuban Embassy. (ibid) The envelope gave her address as Vermont 38. (ibid) Because of her stay at the Hotel Vermont she saw the letters as a threat and was frightened. (ibid) [The HSCA has determined that the Cuban government invited Elena Garro to visit Cuba due to her great literary talents; see Biography]

25
LEGAL ATTACHE MEMO TO WINSTON SCOTT
Re Elena's Allegation That She Had Stayed
At The Hotel Vermont From The Day After
The Assassination Until November 30, 1963.

On 10/13/66 the Legal Attache wrote a memo to the CIA/COS reporting that a reliable confidential informant had reported that the records of the Hotel Vermont disclosed that "Elena Paz, housewife from San Luis Potosi" had registered at the Hotel Vermont on November 23, 1963. She left on November 30, 1963. The memo said that "the above individual may or may not be identical with Elena Garro de Paz." (Memo from Legat to Winston Scott, 10/13/66, CIA No. 564; WX-7241, Entry #466, p. 98, CIA #725; Thomas' 7/13/66 memo.) (The House Select Committee on Assassinations has been unable to determine why the ~~CIA~~^{Central} and Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation waited until 1966 to investigate this aspect of Elena's story.)

Charles Thomas' 12/25/65 memo ^{states} said, "She (Elena) and her daughter did not personally register at the hotel. She thinks Calvillo registered them as relatives or friends of his from San Luis Postosi." (Memo of Conversation by Charles Thomas, 12/25/65, p. 3, CIA #582.)

(The entry for the 10/13/66 Legat memo in WX-7241 bore the notation "This is what Elena claimed and no one would believe her." (WX-7241, Entry #466, p. 98, CIA #725.)

26

CHARLES THOMAS SEPT 30, 1969 LETTER TO STATE
DEPARTMENT AND LEGAL ATTACHES RESPONSE

No further reports on Elena's story were generated until 1969 when Charles Thomas was "selected out."

("Selected out" is a phrase used when an officer is retired after having been in one grade for the maximum period of time and is not considered qualified for promotion to a

higher grade). Then, he wrote a ~~letter~~ and memorandum to the Secretary of State ^{which included a closer (letter stating) saying,} "Since I was the Embassy Officer in Mexico who ^{acquired} this intelligence information, I feel a responsibility for seeing it through to its final

evaluation." (State Dept.: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969) ~~the~~

Charles Thomas' memorandum stated that "he got no reaction from Nathan Ferris and Winston Scott" regarding his memorandum of December 25, 1965. (State Department: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969) In addition, Thomas wrote that the only person to speak to him about the Dec. 25, 1965 memorandum, Clarence Bonstra [Deputy Chief of Mission, State Dept, Chief of Affairs at the time of the John F. Kennedy assassination and subsequent Oswald investigation] told him that Oswald had not been in Mexico on the date given for the party. ^(State Department: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969) Thomas noted that even when he reiterated that Elena had not changed her story but rather that she had now given a more accurate account, Bonstra stated that the date was wrong and dismissed the entire affair. (ibid)

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The Mexico City Legat's Office, ^{Nathan Ferris,} in reply to Thomas' letter and memorandum, asserted that Thomas' office had been advised by memoranda dated December 27, 1965 and February 23, 1966 that since Elena Barró's allegations had previously been investigated without substantiation, no further action was being taken concerning her recent repetition of those allegations.

[FBI Report, 9/30/69, pp 3-4, JFK Doc. No.]

In their report, the Legat's Office concluded that either the Counselor for Political Affairs did not route the memoranda to Charles Thomas or that Thomas did not recall receiving them. (i.b.i.d)

Thomas wrote that when he went to Nathan Ferris' office ~~and~~ ^{to} inform him that Elena had found her calendar and had reconstructed the date of the party as late September, Ferris replied that Elena had given the late September date when she had originally reported her story at the American Embassy. [State Department: Letter from Charles Thomas to William Rogers, Secretary of State, July 25, 1969]. Thomas noted that Ferris explained that someone who had been at the party had stated that there had not been any Americans. ^{(i.b.i.d) He wrote that he had assumed that Elena could have clearly been mistaken about the identity of the American she saw there,} Thomas alleged that Ferris suggested that it was not necessary for Thomas to pursue the matter since he considered the Oswald case closed and had heard all the rumors before. (i.b.i.d)

but never stated that she had seen any Americans. (i.b.i.d)

The Legat's Office replied that Mr. Ferris had not told Thomas that someone who was at the party had stated that there had not been any Americans present. (FBI Report, 9/30/69, p.4, JFK Doc. No.] The report asserted that Thomas had been told that it would not be necessary for him to pursue the matter any further since Elena's story had been investigated previously

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without being substantiated. ^(ibid) In addition the memo stated that Thomas had been told that Clem's story was considered a closed issue not that the Oswald ^{case} was closed. (ibid)

29

House Select Committee on Assassination

Investigation of Elena Garro's Allegations

The House Select Committee on Assassinations investigated Elena Garro's story both through file reviews and personal interviews. The Committee requested and reviewed the CIA's, FBI's and State Department Files, when ^{available} ~~they existed~~, on Elena Garro de Paz, Elenita Garro de Paz, Manuel Calvillo, Noe W. Palomares, June Cobb Sharp, Victor Rico Galan, Eunice Odio, Sylvia Duran, Lydia Duran, Ruben Duran, Betty Serratos, Horatio Duran, Eusebio Azcue, and Emilio Carballido. Only the Elena Garro de Paz file contained information on her allegations. Though all the names listed above played a role in Elena Garro de Paz' story, not one of their files included a reference to Elena Garro de Paz.

Furthermore, the House Select Committee on Assassinations requested and reviewed the Central Intelligence Agency's LICOOKIE I, LICHANT I, LIRING 3, LIHUFF I and TICHBORN files. Once again not one of the files included a mention of Elena Garro's allegations. The House Select Committee on Assassinations learned that LICOOKIE I was June Cobb Sharp who first reported Elena's allegation. (Supra p. 4) The Committee also learned that LICHANT I was Manuel Calvillo who hid Elena Garro and her daughter in a hotel the day

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 following the assassination. (Supra p. 13) He also told Elena that Sylvia Duran had been arrested before ~~it was~~ public knowledge. (ibid) ^{↳ this fact had become}

Since a file review ^{was inconclusive} ~~lead nowhere~~, the Committee decided to arrange interviews in Mexico with Sylvia Duran, Elena Garro, Elenita Garro, Horacio Duran, Ruben Duran, Lynn Duran, Emilio Carbillido and Betty Serratos. The Mexican Government informed ^{the House Select Committee on Assassinations} ~~us~~ that Elena and Elenita Garro ~~had~~ disappeared in 1968 during the student uprisings and ^{have} ~~had~~ never returned to Mexico. The officials stated that Elena and her daughter might be in Spain. (See Mexico City Procedural Write-up Trip 1.) ^{the Mexican gov't reported that} Emilio Carballido could not be found. (ibid) The others were interviewed between June 1 and June 6, 1978. (ibid)

Betty Serratos, Lydia Duran, Ruben Duran, and Horatio Duran all stated that Elena was not the dancing type and therefore did not attend any of the twist parties at the Duran homes. (See: HSCA Staff Interview of Betty Serratos, 6/6/78, p. 6, JFK Document No. ; HSCA Staff Interview of Lydia Duran, 6/5/78, p. 6, JFK Document No. ; HSCA Staff Interview of Ruben Duran-Návarro, 6/6/78, p. 16, JFK Document No. ; HSCA Staff Interview of Horatio Duran Navarro, 6/5/78, p. 25, JFK Document No. .)↗

When Sylvia Duran was asked if Elena or Elenita Garro

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ever attended twist parties at the Duran homes, ~~she stated~~
~~that~~ she recalled Elena attending one twist party at
Ruben's home in 1963 when ^{the Gamas} she returned to Mexico from
France. (HSCA Staff Interview of Sylvia Triado Bazan,
6/6/70, p. 90, JFK, Document No.) All the Durans
denied that Lee Harvey Oswald had attended any party at
one of their homes. [Strawberry]]

The Committee next asked the Central Intelligence
Agency to ^{arrange staff} ~~provide for~~ interviews ^{with} LICHANT/1 (Manuel
Calvillo), LICOOKIE/1 (June Cobb), along with a list of
other assets ^{who may have had information related to} ~~that might help clear~~ ~~the~~ Lee Harvey Oswald's
trip to Mexico City. (

^{Central Intelligence}
The Agency declined to aid the Committee ^{in this aspect of its} ~~investigation~~.

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The Committee returned to Mexico City and attempted to locate June Cobb Sharp and Manuel Calvillo. The results of the Committee's work were as follows:

(See Procedural Write-up Trip 2 Mexico City)

1) The Mexican government



The Mexican govern-

ment told the Committee that June Cobb Sharp received a tourist permit, number 72781, on June 27, 1947 when she entered Mexico through Nuevo Laredo. She asked, but was denied, permission to represent the magazine, Modern Mexico. On June 21, 1948, she received a courtesy permit, number 25556. ^{Furthermore, the Mexican government explained that she} she disappeared in 1954 and never returned to Mexico. (See Procedural Writeup Trip 2 Mexico City) The Committee ^{believes that there is a possibility that this} knows the information is incorrect. ^{CIA files} ~~Manuel~~

Indent

~~Cobb was also in Mexico from 1961 through 1966. (CIA~~

According to Mrs. Cobb's CIA file she worked for the agency as an asset in Mexico from 1961 thru 1966. (CIA Report, 1965, June Cobb file, 201-). Clear also stated that Mrs. Cobb resided at her home in 1964. (super p.)

2) The Mexican government told the Committee that Manuel Calvillo did not live at Cuahatemoc 877-5 as the Committee had stated. Their agent in charge had spoken to the superintendent at the apartments for the past twenty-five years who said that no Manuel Calvillo had ever resided there. When Committee staffers gave the Mexican government Calvillo's pen name, the Mexicans gave the same answers. (See Procedural Write Mexico City Trip 2) The Committee is quite certain that Mr. Calvillo lives at this address since it acquired the address from a recent CIA document. (CIA Report, 1976, Manuel Calvillo file, 201-)

Indent

do not indent this sentence

The Committee believes that there is a possibility that the Mexican government received orders from the Central Intelligence Agency to refrain from advising the Committee with this aspect of its work. (See Procedural Write-up Trip 2 Mexico City)