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CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY: Gilberto Nolasco ALVARADO Ugarte

18 September 1963

According to ALVARADO's statements made during an interview conducted in the morning of 26 November 1963 by an American Embassy security officer and a member of the Mexico Station in Mexico City, ALVARADO went at noon on 18 September to the Cuban Consulate to turn over passport photographs to the Cuban Consul Eusebio AZCUE. . . . While standing by a rest room off a passageway leading to a patio, ALVARADO saw a group of three persons conversing on the patio a few feet away. One man was a tall, thin Negro with reddish hair, obviously dyed. He had prominent cheek bones, and a noticeable scar on the lower right side of his chin. He spoke rapidly with a Cuban accent and did speak some English. Another member of the group was a white person whom ALVARADO had seen previously, in the waiting room, carrying a Canadian passport. The Canadian had green eyes, blondish hair combed in an "existentialist" manner with a pompadour. He was wearing dark eyeglasses of a type with a mirror-like reflection on the outer surface. The third member of the group was Lee Harvey OSWALD. He was wearing a black sport coat, a buttoned up white shirt with short collar tabs, no tie, gray pants, and clear eyeglasses.

ALVARADO saw a tall Cuban join the group momentarily and pass American currency to the Negro. This unidentified Cuban apparently came out of AZCUE's office onto the patio. ALVARADO described the Cuban as a tall, solidly built mulatto, with curly hair, who appeared to be about 37 years old. He was wearing a brown suit and a red-striped tie. ALVARADO never saw this man again after 18 September.

ALVARADO claimed he overheard the following conversation between the Negro and OSWALD:

Negro (in English): "I want to kill the man".

OSWALD : "You're not man enough. I can do it."

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Negro (in Spanish): "I can't go with you. I have a lot to do."

OSWALD : "The people are waiting for me back there."

The Negro gave OSWALD six thousand five hundred dollars in large denomination US bills saying: "This isn't much." Of the sum, one thousand five hundred dollars was for extra expenses. The Negro also gave him about 200 Mexican pesos.

Later, ALVARADO saw a pretty girl, whom he believed to be a Cuban employee of the Consulate, give OSWALD an abrazo embrace and tell him she was living at Calle Juarez number 407 where he could find her. The girl appeared to about 20 years old and had manners which reminded ALVARADO of a prostitute. OSWALD, the Negro and the Canadian then went upstairs.

ALVARADO left the building momentarily to buy popsicle on the corner; he saw the above three men leave by the Embassy gate near the corner of Tacubaya where they entered a parked black car, possibly a Chevrolet.

At the end of September, ALVARADO telephoned the American Embassy several times to report his belief that someone important in the United States was to be killed.

When ALVARADO saw OSWALD's photograph in the newspaper, he again contacted the Embassy on 25 November.

[MEXI-7069 (IN 68376), 26 November 1963]

25 November 1963

ALVARADO called the United States Embassy. That same evening he met with the Embassy security officer.

[MEXI-7168 (IN 70860), 30 November 1963]

[Comment: According to the Mexican police report of the interrogation of ALVARADO, the latter called the American Embassy and "succeeded in speaking to a high official with whom he made an appointment for that same day at 5:30 p.m. near the Hotel Maria Isabel.]

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Two individuals appeared for the 5:30 p.m. appointment. They identified themselves and were carrying the credentials of FBI agents.* ALVARADO told about his seeing OSWALD, etc. Another appointment was made for 9:15 the next morning at the Jena Restaurant.

[HMMA-22561, 5 December 1963; CSCI-3/779,136, 13 December 1963]

[*Comment: The two individuals were SNIGHT, the Embassy security officer, and A. C. PLAMBECK (P), Mexican Station officer. ALVARADO may have mistaken Embassy identification documents for FBI credentials.]

25 November 1963

ALVARADO claimed inter alia that two persons were in the Cuban Embassy the morning of 25 November 1963 at 1100 who are involved in the plot to assassinate President Kennedy. He described them as one being a white person with a large cleft nose. The other had closed cropped hair with a copote [sic].*

ALVARADO claims that on the 18th of September, he was in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City and he saw Lee Harvey OSWALD receive \$6,500. OSWALD was speaking with a Negro, about 29 years of age, who had a scar on his jaw, and had reddish hair which is probably tinted. The Negro spoke English well and might be a North American. OSWALD was speaking of eliminating someone. The Negro then said he was sorry that he could accompany OSWALD, saying: "You understand my situation." To which OSWALD replied: "That's all right, I can do this myself."

The "source" (ALVARADO ?) was of the opinion that OSWALD had come from Havana. When OSWALD entered (the Consulate ?) he was affectionately greeted by a female employee of the Cuban Embassy, who has blue eyes and lives at Calle Juarez 407.

The "source" also stated that OSWALD was given \$1,500 for extra expenses. Source stated that when he went to the bathroom he saw OSWALD counting the money, in American dollars, on the patio which is adjacent.

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[Blind memorandum dated 25 November 1963]

[*Comment: There is no indication in the file that any follow-up was made on the information given in this paragraph. This particular information appears no where else in ALVARADO's interrogations.]

26 November 1963

ALVARADO meets the same two men from the Embassy whom he had the evening before, at the Jena Restaurant on the Avenida Morelos and the Paseo de la Reforma. The two men were accompanied by a third man named Rodolfo GAVALDON. ALVARADO went with these three men to the cafeteria of the Hotel Francis after which they drove up and down a few streets. ALVARADO told them again what he had observed in the Cuban Consulate and they gave him 100 pesos and told him they would call him at the number 41-07-31, which is the telephone number of the place where ALVARADO was living. ALVARADO was called the same day at 8:45 p.m. and was told to meet the three men later in front of the Juarez monument.

[Blind memorandum, dated 25 November 1963; Memorandum to Clark ANDERSON, Legal Attache, dated 29 November 1963; and HMMA-22561, 5 December 1963, and CSCI-3/779,136, 13 December 1963.]

26 November 1963

Station officer and local security officer are interviewing a Nicaraguan who claims that on 18 September he saw Lee OSWALD received six thousand five hundred dollars during a meeting inside the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City.

[MEXI-7067 (IN 68291), 26 November 1963]

[Comment: This cable was the first report to Headquarters on the allegations made by ALVARADO.]

26 November 1963

At the appointed place and time the evening of 26 November, Rodolfo GAVALDON meets ALVARADO. They take a cab to the corner of the Hotel Maria Isabel where another American is waiting

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for them; together they cross the street and enter an apartment in a building at the corner of Oxford and Reforma. After talking with these men, ALVARADO received 500 pesos and was told to move to a hotel and to tell them which hotel he moved into.

[HMMA-22561, 5 December 1963; CSCI-3/779,136, 13 December 1963]

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26 November 1963 (date of cable)

Managua Station reports on identity of ALVARADO and suggests that "Should case develop to point where Mexico and Headquarters believe it desirable to break ALVARADO, the Station could probably arrange to have NIC officer who handled him come to Mexico to question him."

[MANA-4609 (IN 68452), 26 November 1963]

(Comment: NIC = Nicaraguan Security Service.)

26 November 1963 (date of dissemination)

Dissemination by cable to the FBI, State, and the White House reporting preliminary results of ALVARADO interrogation and results of Headquarters name trace.

"1. On 26 November 1963 Gilberto ALVARADO, a professed Castroite Nicaraguan born 31 January 1940 in Ciudad Rama, Zelaya, Nicaragua, came to the American Embassy in Mexico and made a statement about Lee OSWALD. He said that on 18 September 1963 he saw Lee OSWALD receive six thousand five hundred dollars in a meeting inside the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City.

"2. About himself, ALVARADO said he in Mexico City awaiting false documentation so he could go to Cuba for sabotage training. He name three other members of his organization in Nicaragua as Juan LORILLO, Rolan ALVARADO, and Carlos FONSECA Amador. Questioning of ALVARADO is continuing.

"3. (Comment: Gilberto ALVARADO is a well-known Nicaraguan communist underground member who is also a regular informant of the Nicaraguan Security Service and officer of which has provided this Agency with his reports for over a year. We consider his reliability to be questionable although he has not been wholly discredited. The other men he names are well-known Nicaraguan communists. A check of the files of this Agency does not show where Lee OSWALD actually was on 18 September 1963, when ALVARADO says he saw OSWALD in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico, but based on the information available to this Agency as of this date OSWALD visited the Cuban Embassy in Mexico for the first time after 25 September 1963.)"

[DIR 85089, 26 November 1963]

27 November 1963

Headquarters suggests to Mexico Station that "In your investigation, suggest you contact ALVARADO's NIC case officer

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in Mexico City and ask him whether ALVARADO has ever told him this story or anything like it."

[DIR 85178, 27 November 1963]

27 November 1963

Headquarters tells Mexico Station that "After consideration by BRENT and KNIGHT, we feel that investigation and analysis of ALVARADO's story should be pursued further before more executive action is taken."

[DIR 85198, 27 November 1963]

27 November 1963 (date of dissemination)

Headquarters makes dissemination to FBI, State, and the White House incorporating information forwarded to Headquarters in MEXI-7069 (IN 68376, 26 November 1963 (q.v.))

[DIR 85199, 27 November 1963]

27 November 1963

ALVARADO's story being checked as thoroughly as Station assets make possible. He also being re-interviewed in much greater detail. ALVARADO is being moved to safe address.

[MEXI-7093 (IN 68530), 27 November 1963]

27 November 1963 (date of cable)

Two Station officers interviewed ALVARADO in safehouse again night of 26 November. ALVARADO's story remained substantially the same. ALVARADO says he has been to Cuban Consulate on 2 or 3 September, 15 or 16 September, 18 September, 26 September and 25 November. The Station comments that "Station photographic coverage of the Cuban Embassy did not include consulate gate until October." ALVARADO did not appear in photographs of persons using Embassy gate. He admits visiting the Soviet Embassy 6 or 7 times; however, he has not been identified in photographic coverage of Soviet Embassy.

[MEXI-7098 (IN 69127), 27 November 1963]

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27 November 1963

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Ambassador MANN send message via CIA channels to RUSK, McCONE, and HOOVER in which he suggest inter alia that Washington "should urgently consider feasibility of requesting Mexican authorities to arrest for interrogation: Eusebio AZCUE, Luisa CALDERON, and Alfredo MIRABAL."

[MEXI-7104 (IN 69225), 27 November 1963]

27 November 1963 (date of cable)

FBI says OSWALD applied for unemployment insurance in New Orleans on 17 September, one day before ALVARADO says he saw him in Cuban Embassy, Mexico. FBI checking all airlines to see if he could have flown to Mexico by 18 September. He was in New Orleans on 25 September and left that day for Texas without paying his rent. He is believed to have been without funds during this period. FBI says his New Orleans landlady believes he was there continuously between 17 and 25 September.

[DIR 85258, 27 November 1963]

27 November 1963 (date of cable)

According to Mexico Station, ALVARADO story after two installments tends prove only that he has been in Cuban Embassy and knows some of employees by sight, name or both. To resolve doubt only effective way is to have cooperation of Major JEREZ directed by his headquarters in interrogating ALVARADO. If HQ agrees suggest he be cabled urgently to cooperate without question with American officer who will contact him morning 28 November. Station wishes JEREZ be present during interrogation to throw all Nicaragua official weight behind it, but not to participate except in portion relative ALVARADO's alleged mission for JEREZ.

[MEXI-7107 (IN 69310), 27 November 1963]

27 November 1963

d: Headquarters states that "in the face of mounting evidence that ALVARADO is fabricating his story of seeing OSWALD take money in the Cuban Embassy, urge you follow up with his local NIC case officer and avail yourself

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of the help of the NIC service, which can send (WHEELLOCK),* a good CIA asset, to help in the interrogation. We find it incredible that the Cubans would brief and pay an assassin in front of a NIC interloper. We think it possible or even likely that he has been in and out of the Cuban Embassy as a NIC agent trying to infiltrate Cuba and has picked up the names and faces there in so doing. All he has said about OSWALD he could have gotten from the newspapers, except for certain incorrect items such as his statement that OSWALD wore glasses.

2. The fact that ALVARADO is a calm, nice, and intelligent young man does not mean he is not a fabricator. FYI we and other agencies are being flooded by fabrications on the OSWALD case from several continents, some originating with people on the fringes of the intelligence business. Such fabrication are not usually done for money, but out of sickly fancy and a desire to get into the intelligence game.

3. We do not think it a remarkable coincidence that both DORTICOS and ALVARADO talk about money paid to OSWALD. For one thing, pay for an assassin is a factor which immediately rises in the mind of expert and layman alike. Secondly, DORTICOS may have heard through some Russian or Cuban source in the Mexican Government that DURAN was asked whether the Cubans paid OSWALD for the alleged assignment."

~~4. While we do not insist that ALVARADO's story is beyond all belief, we do urge that MEXI place it and ALVARADO under the most searching scrutiny. His interrogators must probe deeply into his make-up and lead him back through the~~

[DIR 85616, 27 November 1963]

[* Captain Franklin Anthony WHEELLOCK Garcia. (Name encrypted in text.)

28 November 1963 (date of cable)

FBI says their follow-up investigation of OSWALD's activities has produced "reasonable indications" that he was in New Orleans on 19 September 1963. This, coupled with earlier evidence that he was in New Orleans applying for unemployment insurance on 17 September 1963, means OSWALD would have had to fly to Mexico and back between 17 and 19 September in order to be at the Cuban Embassy getting his pay-off, as ALVARADO claims, on 18 September. With this added information, believe Mexico can confidently regard ALVARADO as fabricator and tailor interrogation accordingly.

[DIR 85653, 28 November 1963]

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28 November 1963

Headquarters informs Mexico that

"1. We have just heard by phone from KINGMAN, who is at home, that MEXI evaluation of ALVARADO story may have been seriously warped by a piece of misinformation which has crept into this case. From conversation with your officers, KINGMAN has the impression that they believe there is other evidence that Lee OSWALD made a bank deposit of five thousand dollars in the United States after he got back from Mexico on 3 October 1963. This would tend, if true, to corroborate ALVARADO's story that he saw OSWALD get five thousand for the job and fifteen hundred for expenses. KINGMAN thinks he heard that CURTIS (Winston SCOTT) got the information about the bank deposit from an FBI man named Clark.

"2. We know of no such bank deposit and have never heard of one. FBI here has just affirmed they never heard this story. The story of the deposit of five thousand dollars is therefore almost certainly erroneous. Please check it with FBI there. We have advised FBI that this rumor exists in Mexico.

"3."

"4. FBI has just levied on us, official request for full information on source and origin of rumor about a five thousand dollar bank deposit!"

[DIR 85654, 28 November 1963]

28 November 1963

Headquarters stresses to Mexico that "there should be no let down in your effort to follow all leads and investigate all facts which bear on this case. We have by no means excluded the possibility that other as yet unknown persons may have been involved or even that other powers may have played a role. Please continue all your coverage of Soviet and Cuban installations and your liaison with Mexicans."

[DIR 85655, 28 November 1963]

[Comment: This remark by Headquarters was in support of its position in response to Ambassador MANN's earlier message, in which Headquarters expressed its distinct feeling that "the Ambassador is pushing this case too hard, and . . . might well create flap with Cubans which could have serious repercussions."]

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28 November 1963

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Mexico Station requests OPIM authorization turn ALVARADO over to Mexican authorities with a brief explanation he claims to be witness to payoff to OSWALD in Cuban consulate 18 September, admits is in Mexico illegally, admits Communist Party membership, admits visits to Soviet Embassy, claims that Cuban consulate now involved in documenting him with false Mexican papers for travel to Cuba. Latter point alone would give Mexican authorities good reason to subject him to detailed interrogation.

[MEXI-7113 (IN), 28 November 1963]

~~28 November 1963~~

Headquarters responded to the Station's request (see above) by saying not to turn ALVARADO over to the Mexicans. "We have officially asked the FBI for their position on this move, and pending the FBI's answer and our final consideration, ALVARADO should not be surfaced to the Mexicans or turned over to them.

"2. Advise us if the FBI in Mexico attempts to get you to act one way or the other on the question of turning ALVARADO over to the Mexicans."

Headquarters concludes its message to Mexico by commenting that Larry KEENAN, an FBI agent, is now in Mexico. He was sent especially to follow up leads on the entire assassination. Headquarters asks that the Station cooperate with him fully.

[DIR 85661, 28 November 1963]

28 November 1963 (date of dissemination)

Headquarters disseminates by cable to the FBI, State, and the White House, the information obtained from ALVARADO during night of 26 November 1963. Information obtained from ALVARADO on the latter date was forwarded to Headquarters in MEXI-7098 (IN 69127), 27 November 1963. (See appropriate entry above.)

[DIR 85662, 28 November 1963]

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28 November 1963

Mexico Station reports that

"1. Mr. Clark ANDERSON, Legal Attache, told the COS and Ambassador MANN of rumor that 'OSWALD had deposited five thousand dollars in a bank in the United States'.

"2. On 27 November Ambassador in presence of COS asked ANDERSON about this again and ANDERSON said rumor was on television and radio in Mexico. ANDERSON said he had no information from his Headquarters to confirm or deny this. He said he would check his Headquarters.

"3. COS has not heard rumor regarding five thousand dollar deposit on television or radio, but feels sure ANDERSON or some of his office did hear this. This Station had no additional information concerning this; but assume ALVARADO may have heard same radio or television report and thus have had 'basis' for five thousand dollar payment."

[MEXI-7114 (IN 69621), 28 November 1963]

28 November 1963

The Managua Station in Nicaragua stated that it had

"1. . . . requested (General Gustavo MONTIEL)* cooperation Mexico through Major JEREZ and if possible by sending Captain WHEELOCK)* to Mexico. MONTIEL said ALVARADO in Mexico without (Service's) authority and passed off suggestion use JEREZ but agreed immediately to send WHEELOCK. . . . He (WHEELOCK) now in process getting visa and plane reservations and will probably be in Mexico today unless Headquarters and Mexico wish to cancel.

"2. Even though his story regarding OSWALD may be false it possible he has been working other angle to penetrate Cubans and (WHEELOCK) will be able to assist in getting facts straight."

[MANA-4613 (IN 69629), 28 November 1963]

[* General Gustavo MONTIEL, Chief of Intelligence Service, Nicaraguan Army. (Name encrypted in text.)

Major Roger JEREZ Alfaro, Military Attache, Nicaraguan Embassy, Mexico City.

Captain Franklin Anthony WHEELOCK Garcia, Chief of Anti-Communist Section of the Office of National Security. (name encrypted in text.)

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over to Mexican authorities and that the Agency request Mexican authorities to interrogate ALVARADO in detail.

"2. The FBI reports that it understands that Mexican authorities have a capability of polygraphing and requests that the Agency request Mexican authorities that he be polygraphed.

"3. The FBI expressed a desire to have the results of the interrogation as soon as possible and that the Legal Attache be kept advised of developments.

"4. The FBI takes the position that inasmuch as Silvia DURAN may be released some time today (28 November), according to information which the FBI has from the Legal Attache, ALVARADO should be turned over to the Mexican as soon as possible, so that their stories can be checked against each other.

"5. Mexico Station is instructed to carry out the FBI's requests set out above. Give full cooperation to the Legal Attache."

[DIR 85663, 28 November 1963]

28 November 1963

Managua Station reports that Franklin Anthony WHEELOCK Garcia, a Captain National, and chief of the Anti-Communist Section of the Office of National Security, will arrive in Mexico at 0945 on 29 November 1963.

[MANA-4614 (IN 68671), 28 November 1963]

28 November 1963 (date of dissemination)

Headquarters disseminates the following to the FBI, State Department, and White House:

"Acting on a request made to this Agency by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on 28 November 1963, our Agency is instructing its office in Mexico City to turn over Gilberto ALVARADO, Nicaraguan informant who claims that he saw Lee OSWALD accept six thousand five hundred dollars in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City on 18 September 1963 to assassinate President Kennedy, to officials of the Mexican Ministry of Government for further interrogation and investigation. On 28 November, ALVARADO had still not changed his story, despite increasing doubt that it was true. The Nicaraguan Intelligence Service, for which ALVARADO once worked, is dispatching a senior official to Mexico City to assist in the interrogation and investigation at the discretion of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Notification of the appropriate

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Mexican office for the turnover was effected at 1630 Washington time on 28 November 1963."

[DIR 85666, 28 November 1963]

[Comment: This cable is the first time that President Kennedy was mentioned as the target of OSWALD's alleged mission described by ALVARADO. The conversation between the red-haired Negro and OSWALD, as reported by ALVARADO, makes no mention of a specific person.]

28 November 1963

Mexico Station requests that a Spanish-speaking polygraph operator be made available for ALVARADO and possibly for others.

[MEXI-7120 (IN), 28 November 1963]

28 November 1963

Headquarters responds that there is no Spanish-speaking polygraph operator.

"2. For reasons of security and compartmentation, prefer not to have Agency operator double-tracked with Mexican operator. Would only confuse the case. Prefer to wait until all Mexican resources exhausted before we decide if we want to resume management of case, including polygraph.

"3. Seasoned operators available here on short notice."

[DIR 85667, 28 November 1963]

28 November 1963

Mexico Station reports that

"1. COS in contact with acting Minister of Gobernacion Luis ECHEVARRIA at 1430 hrs Mexico City time and ECHEVARRIA grateful that ALVARADO being turned over to Gobernacion.

"2. ECHEVARRIA was given ALVARADO's present address and alias under which he registered. Mexicans will pick him up and question him on basis of very brief story given ECHEVARRIA by COS."

[MEXI-7124 (IN), 28 November 1963]

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29 November 1963

Mexico Station reports that the COS is handling the OSWALD case personally and that continuous liaison with the Ambassador and the Legal Attache is necessary. The COS wishes to control these contacts personally.

[MEXI-7126 (IN 70104), 29 November 1963]

29 November 1963

An official of the Ministry of Governacion reported to the Station that ALVARADO claims he present inside the Cuban Embassy when OSWALD given six thousand five hundred dollars. The Station comments that ALVARADO gave the Mexicans the same story he gave Station officers. One difference is that ALVARADO failed to identify Silvia DURAN from several photographs he was shown. ALVARADO had identified her when he was being questioned by the Station.

[MEXI-7127 (IN 70145), 29 November 1963]

29 November 1963

Headquarters asks Mexico Station ". . . (to) continue to keep us filled in on status of interrogation of Silvia DURAN, ALVARADO, and others implicated as fast as you can get information. We have no other ready source of information on these cases. Request you utilize capable officer for liaison with Gobernacion to skim off details and relay them to your office for cabling to us at regular intervals. Request status report, even negative, by 0900 Mexico time. Be sure to keep us informed of what information if any is leaked to public information media."

[DIR 85672, 29 November 1963]

29 November 1963

In the interest of speed, Headquarters wishes to be "sure that you are immediately giving the Legal Attache everything you get about ALVARADQ and DURAN so the Legal Attache in Mexico City can cable the same data direct to FBI Headquarters. Please

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satisfy yourself that the Legal Attache there has adequate commo facilities and secretarial staff to keep its Headquarters informed as fast as you keep us informed, and advise us on this.

"2. If you find that the Legal Attache there does not have adequate commo or staff and wants to rely on us to relay the material, they may of sourse send messages right through our channels, or you can rely on us to relay the information as we have been."

[DIR 85712, 29 November 1963]

29 November 1963

The Mexico Station responded to the above message by stating that

"1. The Legal Attache is locally being advised by COS personally of everything Station learns concerning OSWALD case and, now, on ALVARADO interrogation.

"2. Fell sure that Legal Attache's office, which almost same size as the Station, has adequate staff for reporting needs.

"3. Usual procedure here is that COS notifies Headquarters, reports to the Legal Attache and to the Ambassador orally then subsequently advises the Legal Attache by memorandum.

"4. Headquarters is assured that all information known to Station on these cases is being given to them and shortly after information obtained."

[MEXI-7128 (IN 70162), 29 November 1963]

29 November 1963 (date of dissemination)

Headquarters disseminates to the FBI, State department and the White House that "The first very sketchy report on the progress of the Mexican official interrogation of Gilberto ALVARADO, . . . shows he is telling essentially the same story. . . . The Mexican official doing the interrogation of ALVARADO says he 'doubts' ALVARADO's story and will begin work to 'break' him."

[DIR 85744, 29 November 1963]

29 November 1963

Chief of Mexico Station forwards memorandum to Mr. Clark

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D. ANDERSON, Legal Attache, containing the results of three interviews, conducted by the local security officer and members of the Mexican Station on 26 November 1963, of Gilberto Nolasco ALVARADO Ugarte. [See memorandum for complete text.]

29 November 1963

Official of Ministry of Gobernacion stated that after his first session with ALVARADO he believed ALVARADO's story to be a fantastic lie; after second session and all previous and interim interrogations, ALVARADO sticks to same story on OSWALD. Official stated "Although this still preliminary, either ALVARADO is telling the truth essentially or he is the best liar I have talked to in my many years and I have talked to some of the biggest." He is inclined to believe ALVARADO is telling the truth in general outline, but believes he is mixed up on dates.

[MEXI-7156 (IN), 29 November 1963]

29 November 1963

Mexico Station reports that Captain WHEELLOCK has arrived in Mexico City and is staying at the Geneve Hotel.

[Ibid.]

29 November 1963

Captain WHEELLOCK meets with official from Ministry of Gobernacion; he tells the official that ALVARADO has been 75% accurate in his reporting and had had access to and furnished good information on communism in the past. WHEELLOCK said, however, ALVARADO is inclined to "go off on his own" at times and impossible to control.

[MEXI-7168 (IN 70860), 30 November 1963]

30 November 1963

At 1030 hours (Mexico City time), official from Ministry of Gobernacion told the Chief of Station that "ALVARADO has signed a statement saying that story of seeing OSWALD inside the Cuban Embassy is completely false. He also stated that he had not

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seen anyone handed money by Cuban consular officers. He said too he had not called the U. S. Embassy (as he had previously claimed) on 20 September to warn them. His first call to the Embassy was on 25 November, the evening he saw the U. S. Embassy security officer.

[MEXI-7168 (IN 70860), 30 November 1963]

30 November 1963

Mexico Station reports that the Legal Attache is being informed of the above information (as well as other information contained in MEXI-7168).

[MEXI-7168 (IN 70860), 30 November 1963]

30 November 1963 (date of dissemination)

Headquarters disseminates information to FBI, State Department, and the White House, that ALVARADO admitted his story was a fabrication.

[DIR 86063, 30 November 1963]

30 November 1963

Headquarters asks the Station obtain all details on ALVARADO's confession. The Station is asked to "continue to follow all leads and tips. The question of whether OSWALD acted solely on his own has still not been finally resolved.

[DIR 86064, 30 November 1963]

2 December 1963

Captain WHEELOCK saw ALVARADO during afternoon for first time. Meeting lasted only seven minutes. In brief interview in company of two Mexican officials, ALVARADO reverted to his previous story. He claimed he did see OSWALD, did call the U. S. Embassy to report. (Embassy investigation does not support latter statement.) He went to say that he told the Mexicans he was fabricating because he was "mentally mistreated", i.e., threatened with physical harm, although he was not actually physically mistreated.

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WHEELLOCK said he unable to come to any definite conclusion as to ALVARADO's veracity; however, he would be able to do so once he returned to Managua and had chance to complete the interrogation.

(NB: ALVARADO was to be deported to Nicaragua on 4 December.)

[MEXI 7203 (IN 71702), 2 December 1963]

3 December 1963

Headquarters tells Mexico Station that although we are confident that ALVARADO is a fabricator and that his retraction of his confession is false, it has been decided that he should be placed on the polygraph. Headquarters asks that Station arrange to have ALVARADO to be released to us for several days and ask WHEELLOCK to remain in Mexico to assist.

Calvin DAVIS of the Office of Security will arrive on 4 December. Polygraph should be administered in safehouse and all sessions should be recorded. DAVIS will be in charge of the polygraph interview; however, he will be assisted by Clark ANDERSON, who has been selected here as interpreter. The FBI will notify ANDERSON of this. The idea is that ANDERSON would be able to testify at any later hearing.

[DIR 86563, 3 December 1963]

3 December 1963

ECHEVARRIA, acting minister of Gobernacion, agrees to permit the COS to "borrow" ALVARADO. Station submits plan for handling LAVARADO:

- a. Clark ANDERSON and Joe GARCIA of Legal Attache office to pick up ALVARADO from Gobernacion.
- b. ALVARADO will be taken to safehouse or hotel suite.
- c. ANDERSON ro GARCIA will act as interpreters.
- d. Plan to "borrow" ALVARADO early morning of 5 December and return him that evening.

[MEXI 7229 (IN 72877), 3 December 1963]

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4 December 1963

Headquarters approves Station's plan and adds that the "exact role of the FBI men is up to their local chief"

The FBI has specified that Mr. ANDERSON act as their participant in the interrogation and any variance should have approval of Mr. ANDERSON.

[DIR 86621, 4 December 1963]

5 December 1963

More plans by Station for interrogation of ALVARADO.

[MEXI-7256 (IN 74273), 5 December 1963]

5 December 1963

Mexican Station forwards copies of Mexican interrogation report on Gilberto ALVARADO Ugarte. Station notes that a copy of this report was handed to the Legal Attache.

[HMMA-22561, 5 December 1963]

5 December 1963

Preliminary questioning of ALVARADO took place.

[MEXI 7267 (IN 74696), 6 December 1963]

6 December 1963

ALVARADO submitted to examination by polygraph. The results of this examination indicated that he was fabricating his story. Interrogation revealed that ALVARADO was unsure as to the day of the week he allegedly saw OSWALD. He thinks it was on Tuesday which would have been 17 September. When ALVARADO was shown a series of photographs during the testing, deception patterns became evident. When he was confronted with this he answered that he had the utmost confidence in the polygraph and that it must be correct. The interrogation was concluded with ALVARADO admitting he must have made "honest mistake" in relating original story in his identification of OSWALD.

ALVARADO to be held by the Mexicans until 9 December.

[MEXI-7289 (IN 75588), 7 December 1963]

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~~SECRET~~7 December 1963 (date of dissemination)

Headquarters cables a dissemination to the FBI on the results of the examination by polygraph of Gilberto ALVARADO.

"The re-interrogation of Gilberto ALVARADO, Nicaraguan informant who claimed to have seen Lee OSWALD receive money to assassinate Kennedy, has been concluded. Our Mexico City Station advises us that ALVARADO admitted he must have been mistaken in saying that he saw OSWALD in the Cuban Embassy. Also, he was uncertain of the date on which he might have seen someone like OSWALD and thought it must have been on a Tuesday, which would have made it 17 September 1963. Although the final report of the polygraph interview is not yet available, the preliminary finding is that ALVARADO evidenced deception reactions when talking about OSWALD.

"It is expected that ALVARADO will be deported to Nicaragua on 9 December 1963.

"A representative of your Bureau participated in the interrogation of ALVARADO."

[DIR 87667, 7 December 1963]

7 December 1963

An official of the Ministry of Gobernacion advised the Chief of Station that ALVARADO will be returned to Managua by TACA flight no. 773 leaving Mexico at 0930 hours on 8 December.

[MEXI-7290 (IN 75835), 7 December 1963]

13 December 1963 (date of dissemination)

Headquarters forwards a translation of the Mexican police interrogation report on Gilberto ALVARADO to the FBI.

"1. Attached is a translation of the Mexican police interrogation report on Gilberto ALVARADO, Nicaraguan who claimed to have seen Lee OSWALD accept \$6500 in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City to assassinate President Kennedy. The report states that ALVARADO retracted these assertions and admitted that he made them to induce the U. S. to take stronger action against Cuba.

"2. The two persons whom ALVARADO met and to whom he first told his story are undoubtedly officers of this Agency. His claim that they used FBI credentials is, of course, absolutely false. Our officers use no credentials in Mexico City.

"3. As you know, ALVARADO retracted the confession of fabrication which he made to the

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Mexican police and had to be reinterrogated by representatives of this Agency and your Bureau. This later interrogation showed that he was probably lying."

[CSCI 3/779,136 13 December 1963. (Comment: Translation was made of the Mexican police report forwarded to Headquarters as an attachment to HMMA-22561, 5 December 1963.)]

31 January 1964

The Agency forwards a memorandum to the Warren Commission enclosing a presentation of the information developed by CIA on or about Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico City. A summary of the information relating to the monetary payment to OSWALD and the investigation of this allegation appears on pages 11 through 14 of the enclosure.

[Memorandum for Mr. J. Lee RANKIN, dated 31 January 1964; subject: Information Developed by CIA on the Activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico City, 28 September - 3 October 1963.]

21 April 1964

The General Counsel, J. Lee RANKIN, of the Warren Commission forwards the following memorandum to the Deputy Director for Plans:

"On behalf of the Commission I would like to thank you and your representatives for the fine cooperation which was extended to representatives of the Commission during the course of their work in Mexico City from April 8 through April 13, 1964. I am informed that Mr. SCOTT, the Chief of your Station in Mexico City, was particularly generous with his time and advice and, in fact, contributed greatly to the success of our mission in Mexico.

"During their stay in Mexico City the Commission representatives discussed with Mr. SCOTT and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that portion of the Lee Harvey OSWALD investigation which concerned Gilberto ALVARADO Ugarte. We are aware, of course, from previous reports that the allegations made by ALVARADO were thoroughly investigated by Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation representatives in Mexico City in liaison with the responsible law enforcement authorities. Reference is made to the discussion of these allegations in your memorandum dated January 31, 1964 at pages 11 - 14.

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"Upon review of our complete file on this matter, we find that we lack full documentation of the investigation conducted of these allegations. It would be helpful if our records could be supplemented by a report from your Agency supplying more details regarding the investigation undertaken by your Agency and other concerned Agencies into this matter and your evaluation as to the truth of ALVARADO's assertions. In particular, it would be helpful if a report could be submitted by the expert who conducted the polygraph examination which emphasizes the specific conclusions which he made based on the responses by ALVARADO in answering key questions on this matter."

[Letter to Mr. Richard Helms, Deputy Director for Plans, dated 21 April 1964, from J. Lee RANKIN, General Counsel.]

1 June 1964

In response to the above letter from the General Counsel of the Warren Commission, the Agency forwarded by memorandum the texts of the following disseminations relative to ALVARADO that were made to other U. S. Government agencies:

- a. OUT Teletype No. 85089, dated 26 November 1963, relative to Gilberto ALVARADO.
- b. OUT Teletype No. 85199, dated 27 November 1963, Subject: Lee Harvey OSWALD.
- c. OUT Teletype No. 85662, dated 28 November 1963, relative to Gilberto ALVARADO.
- d. OUT Teletype No. 86068, dated 30 November 1963, relative to Gilberto ALVARADO.
- e. OUT Teletype No. 85666, dated 28 November 1963, relative to Gilberto ALVARADO.
- f. Memorandum, dated 12 [sic - 13] December 1963, Subject: Mexican Interrogation of Gilberto ALVARADO.
- g. OUT Teletype No. 87667, dated 7 December 1963, Subject: Lee Harvey OSWALD.

[Memorandum for Mr. J. Lee RANKIN, dated 1 June 1964, from Richard HELMS, Deputy Director for Plans; Subject: Gilberto ALVARADO Ugarte.]

13 October 1964

The General Counsel forwards the following letter to the Honorable John A. McCONE, DCI:

"We are enclosing a copy of your SECRET document

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dated January 31, 1964, concerning information developed by CIA on the activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico City, 28 September - 3 October 1963.

"We have deleted all references to the Secret Agent by the marking, "D". Since this document was cited in our summary report, we are requesting your authority to publish it in this form. If this is not agreeable, may we have a synopsis of this document which may be published."

[Letter to John A. McCONE, Director, Central Intelligence Agency, dated 13 October 1964, from J. Lee RANKIN, General Counsel. Enclosures: Commission Documents 347 and 1084.]

20 October 1963

The Deputy Director for Plans forwards a memorandum to the General Counsel of the Warren Commission in response to the latter's letter of 13 October 1964.

"The Commission's Report (pages 307-308) contains information furnished by this Agency in memoranda dated 31 January and 1 June 1964. Since both include information relative to intelligence methods and operations which should not be placed in the public domain, I suggest the use of the revised and consolidated versions dated 4 June 1964 which is forwarded as an attachment."

[Memorandum for Mr. J. Lee RANKIN, dated 20 October 1964, from Richard HELMS, Deputy Director for Plans.]

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