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VII. Analysis of Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico

City

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A. Introduction

After the Warren Commission ~~investigation~~ published

its report two very important allegations related to Lee

Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City ^{CAME} ~~have come~~ to

the attention of the United States investigative agencies.

In 1964, Elena Garro de Paz reported that she had seen Lee

Harvey Oswald, accompanied by two other men, at a party

at the home of Ruben Duran Navarro, the brother-in-law of

Silvia Duran. ¹⁰⁶⁰ ~~(See Section VI, C.)~~ In 1967, Oscar Con-

treras Lartigue reported that he met Lee Harvey Oswald on

the campus of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. ¹⁰⁶¹(UNAM) ~~(See Section VI, D, above.)~~In addition, the testimony of the Warren Commission's
primary witness related to Mexico City, Silvia Tirado Duran,has been called into question. ^{by the critics throughout the years. 1062} ~~(See Warren Report pp. 299-~~~~304, 733-736; and Sections I, B, V, C, and VI, A, above.)~~

Some of the information that is inconsistent with

{ Ms. Duran's original story -- that Oswald visited the Consulate

on two occasions which were the only times she saw him --

was available at the time of the Warren Commission's

inquiry although it was ignored. ¹⁰⁶³ Some of the information

has developed

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after the publication of the Warren Report. ¹⁰⁶⁴ (~~See Sections V, C and VI, A and B respectively for details.~~)

The Garro and Contreras allegations, in conjunction with the weakening of Ms. Duran's story, raise three major questions: ⁽¹⁾ did Lee Harvey Oswald or an imposter visit the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City?; ⁽²⁾ other than his visits to the Cuban Consulate, what were Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City?; and, ⁽³⁾ was Lee Harvey Oswald traveling alone in Mexico? ~~These three questions do, of course,~~ overlap somewhat in detail; ^{e.g. i.e.} ~~For example,~~ if Oswald was not ~~traveling~~ alone, did one of his companions impersonate him at the Cuban Consulate? ^{Nonetheless} Each of the three questions will be dealt with in separate sections below. ~~If the discussion at times seems slightly redundant it is because that is an unavoidable side-effect of the interrelatedness of the questions.)~~

In an attempt to answer the ^{re} questions, ~~posed above~~ the House Select Committee on Assassinations has: 1) interviewed Mexican ¹⁰⁶⁵ and Cuban citizens ¹⁰⁶⁶ who could have knowledge of Oswald's visits to the Cuban Consulate; 2) interviewed Mexican citizens ¹⁰⁶⁷ who could have knowledge of Oswald's activities and associations in Mexico City; 3) Conducted an extensive review of the files of the Central Intelligence

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Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that pertain
to Oswald's sojourn in Mexico City. ¹⁰⁶⁸ ~~CS~~

B. Did Lee Harvey Oswald or an Imposter Contact
the Cuban and Soviet Consulates in Mexico City?

Lee Harvey Oswald himself probably visited the Cuban
Consulate at least once since his application for a Cuban
intransit visa bears his signature. ¹⁰⁶⁹ ~~(Cite to Handwriting~~
~~analysis.)~~ Though the Cuban Consulate allowed visa appli-
cants to take blank applications out of the Consulate to
be returned when completed, ¹⁰⁷⁰ Silvia Duran was certain that ^{stated she}
Oswald signed the application in her presence. ¹⁰⁷¹ ~~(HSCA Inter-~~
~~view of Silvia Duran, 6/6/78, JFK Document #311681, pp. 31-~~
~~32.)~~ Oswald's signature on the Cuban visa application,
however, does not by itself rule out the possibility
that someone impersonated Oswald in contacts with the
Cuban and Soviet Embassies. — ~~_____~~

An analysis of the telephone conversations (which
the CIA's Mexico City Station intercepted by tapping the
Soviet Consulate and the tele-
phone) reveals that someone, later identified as Oswald,
visited the Cuban Consulate at least two times and the
Soviet Consulate at least three ¹⁰⁷² ~~es~~ times. ~~(See Sections II,~~

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^{+testimony}
~~stories~~ would tend to indicate that Oswald, or someone impersonating him, visited the Cuban Consulate at least one and possibly two additional times on September 27, 1963. Silvia Duran says that Oswald first visited the Cuban Consulate at approximately 11:00 a.m. requesting an intransit visa to Cuba with Russia as the final destination. ¹⁰⁸³ (~~Duran Interview, 6/6/78, JFK Document #011681.~~) Ms. Duran sent Oswald to obtain photographs that he needed for the visa application. ¹⁰⁸⁴ (~~Ibid., p. 20-23.~~) Eusebio Azcue recalls that this visit probably occurred on the date on the visa application, 9/27/63. ¹⁰⁸⁵ (~~Public testimony of Eusebio Azcue, 9/18/78, p. 36.~~)

Although unlikely, if someone impersonated Oswald in Mexico, it is possible that the individual's first visit occurred before Oswald's arrival. It is unlikely because such actions would have been poor tradecraft.)

Ms. Duran also stated that Oswald returned at approximately 1:00 p.m. with four photographs. ¹⁰⁸⁶⁻¹⁰⁸⁶ (~~Duran Interview, 6/6/78, JFK Document #011681, p. 23.~~) Eusebio Azcue also stated that the individual later identified as Oswald returned to the Cuban Consulate about 1:00 p.m. with the photographs probably on "the date that appears on the application, that is to say on the 27th." ¹⁰⁸⁷ (~~Public~~)

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Committee believes that there is a possibility that the

~~Testimony of Eusebio Azcue, 9/18/78, p. 32-33~~ The argument between Azcue and the individual ~~probably~~ occurred during this visit. (See Sections V, C, and VI, B, above.)

Ms. Duran stated that Oswald's third, and last visit, occurred in the late afternoon after working hours on the 27th. ¹⁰⁸⁹ ~~(Duran Interview, 6/6/78, JFK Doc. #011681, p. 37.)~~

This visit is confirmed by ¹⁰⁹⁰ ~~(the CIA's)~~ tap on the Soviet Consulate. ~~(See above.)~~

In addition to the alleged Oswald visits to the Consulates, there were other telephonic contacts that may have been between Oswald, or an imposter, and the Consulates. ¹⁰⁹¹

~~(See Sections III, A, 1, and III, B, above.)~~

Several details about Oswald's visits to the Cuban Consulate, and telephonic contacts with both Consulates ¹⁰⁹² ~~indicate~~ that the individual involved was not Oswald.

Silvia Duran's description of Oswald did not resemble Oswald's true physical appearance. ¹⁰⁹² ~~(HSCA Interview of Silvia Duran, 6/6/78, JFK Doc. #01668; Cite also early report. See Section V, C for details.)~~ This

description, which appeared early in the reporting of information obtained from Ms. Duran was deleted from subsequent reports and was not at all mentioned in the Warren Report. ¹⁰⁹³ (See Sections V, C, for details.) Eusebio Azcue's

description of Oswald was similar to Silvia Duran's, but

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more detailed. ¹⁰⁹⁴ (~~Azac site.~~) Perhaps the most remarkable thing about these descriptions is their similarity to Elena Garra de Paz' description of one of Oswald's alleged companions. ¹⁰⁹⁵ (~~See Section II, C, 4-3 and III, A, 1 above and V, B, 1 below.~~)

(NOTE: add blond man on Knoll if found.)

Another possible indication that an imposter, ¹⁰⁹⁶ ~~as M-1~~ also well as ^{hand} ~~Oswald~~, visited the Consulate is the 9/28/63 (intercepted) conversation. Silvia Duran adamantly denies that Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate on Saturday, September 28, 1963. ¹⁰⁹⁷ In light of (the CIA) intercept of that date, Ms. Duran has either lied to the Committee, or the individual who visited the Consulate on September 18 was not Oswald. ¹⁰⁹⁸

(Note: the CIA's classification of the transcript of this conversation prevented the HSCA from directly confronting Ms. Duran with the information.) Ms. Duran, in light of the inconsistencies detailed in Sections V, C and VI, A above, may not be the most credible witness, but there are indications that she was truthful when she stated that Oswald did not visit the Consulate on September 28. The September 28, 1963 conversation was linked to Oswald because of the marginal notations made by the CIA translator on the transcript. ¹⁰⁹⁹ (~~See Sections II, C, 4-3 and III, A, 1 above.~~) The translator noted on the transcript that the

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notes the possibility, but does not conclude,
The Committee ~~declines to speculate about~~
~~whether~~ ^{that} the missing production from the
Pulse camera and the LILYRIC base has
~~anything~~ ^{some} to do with the possibility that
someone impersonated Oswald in Mexico.

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caller spoke "terrible, hardly recognizable Russian."¹¹⁰⁰
(~~Cite transcript.~~) On October 1, 1963, a man called
the Soviet Consulate and identified himself as "Lee Os-
wald."¹¹⁰¹ (~~Cite transcript.~~) This man also stated that he
had been at the Consulate on Saturday, the 28th.¹¹⁰² (~~Ibid.~~)
The translator noted that this was the same man who had
called the Consulate "a day or so ago" and had spoken-
in broken Russian.¹¹⁰³ From this information, and possibly
a voice comparison (see Section IV, B, above)¹¹⁰⁴ the 9/28
caller was identified as Oswald.¹¹⁰⁵ The problem with assum-
ing that the caller on 9/28 and 10/1^{10/1} was Oswald is that
Oswald spoke fluent Russian.¹¹⁰⁶ (Cites.) Granted, Ms.
Duran's denial of the Saturday visit and the proficiency
of the caller's Russian is not sufficient evidence to
conclude that the person who visited the Cuban Consulate
on Saturday and who called the Soviet Consulate on Satur-
day and on October 1st was an imposter.¹¹⁰⁵ Yet the informa-
tion is sufficient to seriously question the assumption
that it was Oswald, especially in light of Azcue's and Duran's
descriptions and Elena Garro de Paz's ^{allegation.} story.
~~Three calls that also occurred early on September~~
¹¹⁰⁷ Three calls that also occurred early on September
27, 1963, may have been made by an imposter. At approxi-
mately 10:30 a.m. a man called the Soviet Military Attache

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looking for a visa to Odessa and was referred to the Soviet Consulate. ¹¹⁰⁸ At 10:37 a.m. a man called the Soviet Consulate and asked for a visa to Odessa. ¹¹⁰⁹ He was told ¹¹¹⁰ to call back at 11:00. At 1:25 p.m. a man called the Soviet Embassy and was told the Consul would ¹¹¹¹ return ~~Consul~~ between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. that day.

While only the callers' requests for a visa to Russia ¹¹¹² (Odessa) connect these calls to Oswald, the HSCA believes that they do fit logically into a time sequence created by what is known from testimony (and the electronic intercepts) ^{for example,} about his actions on that day. [The following is a reasonable possible chronology of Oswald's actions on 9/27/63 based on analysis of the available evidence. Oswald probably arrived in Mexico around 10:00 a.m. on September 27. ¹¹¹³ (Cite WR.) By 10:30 Oswald had time to arrive at the Hotel del Comercio and to place a call to the Soviet Military Attache who referred him to the Consul. ¹¹¹⁴ The military attache also gave the caller directions to the Consulate. ¹¹¹⁵ During the 10:37 a.m. call to the Consulate, the caller learned that he could contact the ^{Soviet} Consul at 11:00 a.m. ¹¹¹⁶ This done, Oswald then ^{visited the} went to the Cuban Consulate, where he arrived around 11:00 a.m. ¹¹¹⁷ (HSCA Inter-^{Soviet} view with Silvia Duran, 6/6/78. JFK Dec. #011681, p. 31.) This meeting ^{only} lasted approximately fifteen minutes. ¹¹¹⁸

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~~(Public Testimony of Alfredo Mirabal Diaz, 9/18/78, p. 119.)~~

^Q ~~and sent~~ ^{WAS THEN SENT} Oswald to obtain photographs and to the Russian Embassy to get the necessary Russian visa. ¹¹¹⁹ ~~(HSCA Inter-
view of Silvia Duran, 6/6/78, JFK Doc. #11681, p. 23.)~~

Oswald returned to the Cuban Consulate around 1:00 p.m. ¹¹²⁰

~~(Ibid., p. 31.)~~ At this point, ~~he~~ ^{he} had his encounter with Azcue ^{and} completed ~~this VISA~~ application. ~~(Ibid.)~~ Oswald

~~probably~~ realized at this point that he would have prob-
lems obtaining the visas. ¹¹²¹ After this visit to the Cuban

Consulate, which lasted approximately fifteen minutes ¹¹²³

~~(Public testimony of Alfredo Mirabal Diaz, 9/18/78, p. 119)~~

Oswald tried to contact the Soviet Consul whom Oswald
claimed had assured him that he would have no problems
obtaining a visa. ¹¹²⁴ ~~(cite)~~ Hence, the 1:25 call. ¹¹²⁵ During

this conversation Oswald learned that the Consul would
be in that evening between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. ¹¹²⁶ Os-

wald returned to the Cuban Consulate at 4:00 and ~~persuaded~~ ^{called}

Silvia Duran ~~to intercede with~~ the Soviet Consul on his
behalf. ¹¹²⁷ ~~(HSCA Interview of Silvia Duran, 6/6/78, JFK Doc.~~

~~#01168, p. 37.)~~ Hence, the 4:05 and 4:26 p.m. calls in-
volving Duran. ¹¹²⁸

But there is a problem with attributing the first
three calls on September 27, 1963 to Oswald. The conversa-

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ations are all in Spanish. With the exception of Delgado, 1127
the evidence indicates that Oswald did not speak Spanish. 1130
(Cites.) Hence, either the above-detailed calls were not
made by Oswald or Oswald could speak ^{Spanish} English.

There is not enough evidence to firmly conclude
that some one did impersonate Oswald in Mexico. On the
other hand, the evidence is of such a nature that the pos-
sibility cannot be dismissed.

the testimony of

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more
evidence
that he
may
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C. What were Lee Harvey Oswald's Activities in Mexico City?

When the Warren Commission wrote about Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City, it concluded:

By Saturday, September 28, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald had failed to obtain visas at both the Cuban and Soviet Embassies. From Sunday, September 29, through Wednesday morning, October 2, when he left Mexico City on a bus bound for the United States, Oswald spent considerable time making his travel arrangements, sightseeing and checking again with the Soviet Embassy to learn whether anything had happened on his visa application. ¹¹³¹

~~(Warren Commission Report, p. 301.)~~ Subsequent to the Warren Commission's Report, the allegations of Elena Garro ¹¹³² (See Section VI, C, above.) and Oscar Contreras Lartigue ¹¹³³ (See Section VI, D, above.) came to the attention of the United States inves-

tigative agencies. The main allegation of both these people, that they met Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico City, remains to this day without direct corroboration. Yet the Committee feels that it cannot dismiss these allegations ^{without giving them any consideration} ~~entirely out of hand for several reasons illustrated below.~~

The testimony of Silvia Duran and the Cuban Consulate Officials Azcue and Mirabal place Oswald's last contact with the Cuban Embassy on Friday evening, September 27, 1963. ¹¹³⁴

(See Section VII, D, above.) The transcripts (from the CIA's wiretaps on the Soviet Consulate) place Oswald's last visits to the Soviet and Cuban Consulates on Saturday morning, September 28, 1963. ¹¹³⁵ (See Sections 3, A, 1 and III, B, 2, above.)

Oswald's last telephonic contact with the Soviet Consulate came on Tuesday, October 1, 1963. ¹¹³⁶ (Ibid.) Oswald's activities on the days between September 28 and October 1, are not clearly recorded. The Warren Commission speculated that he spent

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most of this time sightseeing and making travel arrangements. ¹¹³⁷
~~(Warren Report, p. 301.)~~ It is entirely possible that Oswald did spend some of his time during this weekend sightseeing and making his travel arrangements. It is also entirely possible that, after his failure to obtain his visas on Saturday, September 28, that Oswald did not give up completely and did attend a party where he would have come into contact with the Cuban Consular officials and, later, sought help from pro-Castro students.

It is entirely possible that Ruben Duran had a "twist party" on September 30, or October 1 as Elena Garro has claimed. ⁽¹¹³⁸⁾
 Ruben, Horacio, Lydia and Silvia Duran all admitted that they frequently had twist parties in 1963. ¹¹³⁹ (

~~It should be noted that this party allegedly occurred on a night when Oswald's activities are not known.~~ Only Silvia Duran

recalled Elena Garro attending any of the "twist parties" at the Duran's home. ¹¹⁴⁰ She recalled Elena and Elena's daughter, Elinita, attending one twist party at Ruben's home in 1963. ¹¹⁴¹ (

All ^{other} The Durans adamantly deny ¹¹⁴² that Lee Harvey Oswald had ^{attended} been ~~a twist party at one of their homes (1142)~~ at any party at any of their homes. (

Many of the details of Elena Garro's allegations have not been, or cannot be, corroborated. For example, Elena's allegation that some of the people who had been at the party were taken to Veracruz under the protection of Governor Lopez Arias ⁽¹¹⁴³⁾ has not been verified. Ruben Duran denied that he

had ever discussed the assassination with Elena Garro. (1144.)
 Eusebio Azcue denied that he had discussed President Kennedy
 with Emilio Carballido at a party at the Duran's home as
 alleged by Elena Garro. (1145.) The Committee has not
 been able to verify whether or not guards were posted out-
 side of Elena's home in 1963 as she claims. ~~_____~~

But other details of Elena's story ~~are very~~ ^{are} ~~make it hard to~~
~~dismiss out of hand.~~ ^{credible.} Perhaps the most striking is the sugges-
 tion that Oswald's relationship with Silvia Duran was more
 extensive than just the business contacts in the Cuban
 Consulate. (1146) Another detail is the manner in which ~~her~~ ^{she} Elena's
 allegations were handled, and the manner in which this
 Committee's attempts to investigate those allegations have
 been frustrated. (1147)

In 1965 Elena Garro reported that Silvia Duran
 had been Oswald's mistress while he was in Mexico City. (1148)
 In 1967 this report was confirmed by (a CIA agent) who talked
 to Silvia Duran. (1149) The CIA Station did not consider the
 information significant (and told the agent to end his
 contact with Ms. Duran) (1150) (See Section VI, A, 2, above
 for details.) If that information is accurate, ^{that} then Silvia
^{ed} ~~inviting~~ Oswald to a party would not have been ~~that~~ surprising.
 Silvia Duran admitted that the Mexican police had questioned
 her on this point but denied that she had had an affair
 with Oswald. (1151.) Ms. Duran denied having any extra-marital
 affairs while she was married to Horacio Duran. (1152) ().

This denial is not consistent with evidence of her reputation

at the Cuban Consulate. ([redacted])

reported to his case officer that all that would have to be done to recruit Silvia Duran, whom he referred to by using the Spanish word for whore, would be to get a blonde blue-eyed American into bed with her. ([redacted]) There is CIA also/information that indicates that Silvia Duran had an affair with a Cuban Ambassador to Mexico in the early 1960's. ¹¹⁵³ ¹¹⁵⁴

The HSCA attempted to interview ([redacted]) ¹¹⁵⁵ about Ms. Duran. An interview with [redacted] was also desired so as to attempt to verify whether ~~she~~ Elena Garro ^{had} created a disturbance at the Cuban Embassy on November 23, 1963. ¹¹⁵⁶ The Committee's attempts to interview [redacted] were frustrated. ¹¹⁵⁷ (~~See appendix 3.~~)

Ms. Garro's claim that she stayed at the Hotel Vermont ^{was} ~~were~~ verified by the Mexico City Legal Attache on October 13, 1966. ¹¹⁵⁸ (~~See Section VI, C, 10, above for details.~~) Ms.

Garro claimed that she had been held there by Manuel Calvillo whom she believed worked for the Mexican Ministry of Govern- ¹¹⁵⁹

ment. (In 1963, Mr. Calvillo was an unwitting asset of the Central Intelligence Agency. ¹¹⁶⁰) Ms. Garro claimed that she told Mr. Calvillo her story on November 23, 1963. ¹¹⁶¹ (Yet) the

CIA Mexico City Station did not receive a report (from Calvillo) on this matter until November 24, 1964, the same day that Elena first told her story to American officials. ¹¹⁶² For these

reasons, it was felt that Manuel Calvillo could well be a key ^{determining} to ~~unravelling~~ the veracity or ~~inaccuracy~~ of Ms. Garro's story. The Committee's attempt to interview Mr. Calvillo

were also frustrated. (~~See appendix 3:~~)

There is also circumstantial corroboration of Ms. Garro's allegation's regarding June Cobb Sharp. (For example, Ms. Cobb was indeed a CIA agent and she did file the first report of Ms. Garro's story. ¹¹⁶⁴ It should be noted that this first report was accurate in its detail) in that Ms. Garro's story remained essentially the same in subsequent repetitions. Ms. Garro claimed that she kicked Ms. Cobb out of her house. ¹¹⁶⁵ (There is a notation on Ms. Cobb's report that she was not able to regain access to Ms. Garro. ¹¹⁶⁶) The Committee attempted to obtain an interview with Ms. Cobb, but was once again frustrated. ¹¹⁶⁷

Reviewing the manner in which the CIA Mexico City Station and the Legal Attache's office in Mexico City handled Ms. Garro's allegations reveals that, at best, ¹¹⁶⁸ they were handled in an irresponsible manner because they were dismissed after a superficial investigation. The first report that came to the CIA was mis-filed and forgotten. ¹¹⁶⁸ The Legat, after talking to Elena, dismissed her story after interviewing one person whom she said may have been at the party. ¹¹⁶⁹ The manner in which the official American Community handled Charles Thomas' reporting is detailed in Section VI, C, 11, above.) Mr. Thomas speculated in 1969 about why Ms. Garro's story had been largely ignored by the American official's in Mexico:

It would appear that whereas the FBI has discounted the Elena Garro allegations, the CIA is still considerably disturbed by them. The CIA may not have pressed for

MS Garro's
allegations

further investigation, however, for a number of reasons: 1) considering the sensitive overlap and subtle competition between two intelligence collecting agencies, it had to yield to the FBI's clear jurisdiction; 2) there are obvious complications in conducting such an investigation in a foreign country; 3) there is a close and delicate relationship between the CIA Station Chief and [redacted]

[redacted] and 4) some of the people appearing in the Elena Garro scenario may well be agents of the CIA. Under the circumstances it is unlikely that any further investigation of this matter will ever take place unless it is ordered by a high official in Washington. 1170

~~(Thomas Memorandum dated 7/25/69, JFK Document # 11684.)~~

~~The Committee's last hope was~~ ^{attempted} to locate Elena Garro.

Although the Committee established telephonic contact with Ms. Garro, it was never able to arrange an interview. [1171]

Consequently, the Committee was totally frustrated in this aspect of its investigation, but yet believes that there is a strong possibility that Lee Harvey Oswald did attend a twist party at the home of Ruben Duran.

The Committee also considers it possible that Lee Harvey Oswald contacted pro-Castro students at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, hereinafter UNAM.) as claimed by Oscar Contreras Lartigue. ¹¹⁷² ~~(See Section VI, D, above for details.)~~ Silvia Duran admitted that she had told Oswald of two ways in which he could get a Cuban visa: 1) he could get an intran-sit visa by first obtaining a visa to another Communist country such as Russia; 2) he could obtain a regular Cuban visa by knowing someone in Cuba who would, ~~after a fashion,~~ vouch for him. ¹¹⁷³ ~~()~~ It is possible that after Oswald's attempts to obtain a visa by the first method were frustrated

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on Saturday, September 28, that he ~~made me find~~ ~~tried as a last-ditch~~ effort to locate someone trusted by the Cuban Consulate to vouch for him. ^H There is no direct evidence about how Oswald could have learned of the pro-Castro group at UNAM. ^{INTERVIEW H} Oscar Contreras says that Oswald first contacted him as he was leaving a round-table discussion at the school of philosophy. ^{on P. 275} It is known that, in 1963, the Duran^s were close friends with the Chairman of the Philosophy Department at UNAM, Ricardo Guerra, who held seminars on Kant, Hegel and Marx in the Duran^s home. ¹¹⁷⁵ It is possible, if Silvia Duran had more than just a purely business relationship with Oswald, that she referred Oswald to one of Guerra's Marxist seminars in his search for help. Unfortunately, Contreras does not name who headed the round table discussion at which he met Oswald. ¹¹⁷⁶ Silvia Duran denied that she referred Oswald to anyone for help. ¹¹⁷⁷ Ricardo Guerra is presently the Mexican Ambassador to East Germany and was not available to the Committee for an interview. On both ^{of} the Committee's trips to Mexico, the Mexican Government told the Committee that Mr. Contreras would be made available for an interview. The interview never occurred. ¹¹⁷⁸ (See ~~appendix 3.~~) Although the Committee's attempt to investigate Mr. Contreras' allegations met largely with frustration, ^{the allegation.} it is felt that those ~~allegations~~ can not be dismissed. ~~out of hand.~~

D. Was Lee Harvey Oswald alone while he travelled in Mexico?

The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald travelled alone while he was in Mexico. ¹¹⁷⁹ All of the witnesses,

with the exception of Elena Garro de Paz who stated that Oswald was accompanied by two "beatnik looking boys" ¹¹⁸⁰ ~~(See Section VI, C, above for details.)~~ at Ruben Duran's party, have stated that when they saw Oswald in Mexico he was alone. But yet the Committee does not believe that it can readily dismiss Ms. Garro's allegation that Oswald had a companion in Mexico in light of: 1) the corroboration of details of Ms Garro's story and the manner in which the American ¹¹⁸¹ ~~authorities handled the investigation of that story (See Section VII, C, above.)~~; 2) The possibility that someone ¹¹⁸² impersonated Oswald in Mexico (~~See Section VII, D above.~~) the and 3) the similarity in/description of Oswald by Ms. Duran and Mr. Azcue and the description of Oswald's companion by Ms. Garro. ¹¹⁸³ (~~See Sections VI, A, B, and C, above.~~)

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The Commission undertook an intensive investigation to determine Oswald's purpose and activities on this journey, with specific reference to reports that Oswald was an agent of the Cuban or Soviet Governments. As a result of its investigation, the Commission believes that it has been able to reconstruct and explain most of Oswald's actions during this time.

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