Memorandum of Conversation: Further on Oswald and Kennedy Assassination.

Date: 07/13/66

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Topics:
- De Paz, Elena GA

Document Information:
- Originator: DOS
- To: The Record
- Title: Memo of Conversation: Further on Oswald and Kennedy Assassination.
- Date: 07/13/66
- Pages: 6
- Subjects: De Paz, Elena GA
- Document Type: Paper, Textual Document
- Classification: Confidential
- Restrictions: 1A, 1B
- Current Status: Released with Deletions
- Date of Last Review: 08/03/93

Classified Attachment

[R] - Item is Restricted
SUBJECT: Further on Oswald and Kennedy Assassination

REFERENCE: Memorandum this Subject of December 25, 1966

PARTICIPANTS: Elena Garro de Paz, Mexican writer
Charles Wm. Thomas, Political Officer

COPIES TO: ABN, DCM, P, PB, L, CID, CR/P (2)

CARDED

1. Miss Paz described some developments which may have some bearing on her claim that she saw Lee Harvey Oswald at a party at the home of her cousin, Rubén Barba, when Oswald was in Mexico prior to the Kennedy assassination.

2. She stated that her writer friend, Carlos Solzranzo, is quite well acquainted with Cuban Ambassador Joaquin Hernandez Arana. She said Solzranzo was apparently not particularly leftist but that his brother, Alfonso, was a communist. Ambassador Hernandez had told Solzranzo that he would very much like to meet Ms. Paz. Solzranzo accordingly arranged a party at his own home on June 30, 1966, and invited both of them. Also present were Tita Montenegro and his wife; Eulina Vargas, the leftist journalist with November 9 who is a close personal friend of President Diaz Ordaz; Emmanuel Carballe, the pro-Castro writer; Aquilino Díaz Canada, head of the publishing firm called Editoria de Martis; and Plumidoro, the painter. She said Soriano was probably invited to make her feel at ease, since he is a friend of hers and was the only anti-communist there besides herself.

3. During the evening, Ambassador Hernandez, whom she described as intelligent and cultured, concentrated his attention on her and did his best to flatter her by launching her literary productions. In addition, he expressed great interest in her friend, Carlos Madrazo. He issued a personal invitation to her to attend the annual literary festival of the Casa de las Americas in Havana. She explained to him that she was not a Fidelista and that she wouldn’t go to Havana unless Juan Soriano went with her. Hernandez then invited Soriano to attend as well, but the latter roundly denounced the Castro regime over the objections of the others present, who urged them both to attend the festival.

4. Later, her friend, Victor Hito Colls, the pro-Castro journalist, who, she says, personally dislikes Ambassador Hernandez, warned her not to go to Cuba alone.

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GROUP 5 - Downgraded at 12-year interval; not automatically declassified
5. On July 4, a driver from the Cuban Embassy delivered to her home on Calle Almacen in Loma Virreyes an envelope containing two letters and some printed matter from the Casa de las Americas in Havana. The first letter, written last October, gave her address as Vermont 30, and the second letter, written in April, gave her address as Vermont 29. The envelope for the first letter, with the above address, was marked for return to the sender, which was the Cuban Embassy here. The second envelope, which contained the whole package, had no address as it was hand-carried to her home (see attachments).

6. Sen. Pas stated that the only possible reason the letters were addressed to her at Calle Vermont was because she spent several days at the Hotel Vermont immediately after the Kennedy assassination (see referenced memo). The correct address of the hotel, however, is Vermont 29. She concluded the Cuban Government carried that street and number, with a minor error, as her regular address.

7. Since Manuel Calvillo had taken her to the hotel ostensibly to protect her from the communists, this raised the question of how the Cubans obtained that address. She stated that as far as she was aware, the only people who knew she had been at the Hotel Vermont were Manuel Calvillo and two close friends of his, Ernesto de la Peña and Margarita Michellea. Two other friends of these three who might have learned of it are Bunting, Davis, and June Cobb. She said she had always been very suspicious of all three of those people because she had gone out of their way to cultivate her when she returned from Europe in 1963 and had made such a point of being outspoken professional anti-communist. She remembered that many years ago Margarita Michellea had been a communist. She now wondered whether Calvillo and perhaps the other two as well were Cuban agents. She stated again that Calvillo was a close personal friend of Oscar Palomares and Gustavo Diaz Ordas, and that guards, presumably from Gobernacion, had been placed outside her home when she had returned from the Hotel Vermont. In fact, since Calvillo's recent dismissal from his position at the Secretariat of Education (for leaking information to the press about the Fondo de Cultura Economica), he had shown her two personal telegrams from President Diaz Ordas assuring him that another job would be found for him in the near future. She added that she had told Calvillo that she had gone to the US Embassy at one point to tell what she knew about her alleged encounter with Oswald. To add to her suspicions, she remembered that what appeared to be a gunman who often accompanied Calvillo and Palomares was a Spanish refugee named (now) Valencia. She said Valencia's first wife was a Russian communist he had married during the Spanish Civil War. She had subsequently taken their children and returned to the Soviet Union.

8. She thought it possible that the Cuban Embassy had now deliberately given her the letters from the Casa de las Americas with the Vermont Street address in order to frighten her. She was already concerned about what appeared to be three gunshots that had been fired through her upstairs window.
rear bedroom window while she was out of the house about three weeks ago. She said that with all the leftists in town accusing her of being an agent of the FBI and the government irritated with her because of her support for Carlos Nadrao, she did not feel entirely safe living alone with her daughter. She said her brother was now sleeping at the house to ease their anxiety.

Finally, she stated that she had recently encountered her cousin, Lydia Furtun, and that the latter had been very friendly and wanted to meet her again. She said Lydia was very poor and had a small job with *Diffusion Cultural* at the Anthropological Museum.

**CARDED**

Attachments:
As stated (to P/B, L, and CEB only)

P:CWThomas:hag

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CASAS DE LAS AMÉRICAS

La Habana, 7 de abril de 1950

Señor, Elme Zarco
Venecia 29
México 13, D. F.

Destinatario: Héctor

El 15 de junio de 1949, se celebra el VI Festival de Cine, que pretende ser el Festival de Cine más importante de América Latina. Este festival se realizará en varias ciudades de América Latina, pero su principal sede será la ciudad de México, donde se presentarán obras de cine deaskan a nuestro país. Comprendo que el objetivo es el mejoramiento de la producción cinematográfica en América Latina, y en este sentido, me complace extender mis mejores deseos para que su trabajo se destaque en este importante evento.

Con el fin de contribuir a esta importante iniciativa, le sugiero que considere la posibilidad de enviar a México algunas de sus obras más recientes. En esta ciudad, las obras de cine son apreciadas y valoradas por la crítica y el público, lo que podría propiciar un mayor reconocimiento para su labor. Además, el Festival de Cine de México ofrece la oportunidad de colaborar con otros artistas y profesionales del cine, lo que podría ser beneficioso para su desarrollo profesional.

Por lo tanto, le aconsejo que no dude en contactarme para discutir sobre la posibilidad de su participación en el VI Festival de Cine de América Latina. Estoy seguro de que su trabajo tendrá un amplio reconocimiento en esta importante plataforma.

Con saludos,

[Signature]

Subdirector
La Habana, 14 de octubre de 1955
"CASA DE LAS AMERICAS"  

ELENA SIROTE
Venezuela 50
México 18, D.F.

Distinguida señora,

Con especial satisfacción me dirijo a usted para informarle, en nombre de la Casa de las Américas, que su obra "Un hogar solitario", fue seleccionada por nuestra institución para ser llevada a escena como parte del Festival de Teatro Latinoamericano 1955. La representación de la obra está a cargo del grupo "Teatro Libre de La Habana", bajo la dirección de Hugo Rey. Por lo tanto, le solicito que esté pendiente de la programación del festival, ya que la obra se producirá el 10 de noviembre.

Como es sabido, los festivales de teatro latinoamericanos fueron iniciados en El Cigarral, con el objeto de dar a conocer al público de Cuba las más altas expresiones del teatro en América Latina y a sus más prestigiosos autores.

Al cumplir este objetivo, como Casa de las Américas, le puedo garantizar una atención especial en su representación.

Cordialmente,

Manuel Salich
Subdirector

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