

MEMORANDUM

November 3, 1995

To: Jeremy Gunn

From: Michelle Seguin

Subject: Sylvia Duran-Lee Oswald Affair: June Cobb's Recollection

Per your request, I have read the section in *Oswald and the CIA*, written by John Newman, regarding the Sylvia Duran-LHO affair that allegedly took place while LHO was in Mexico City in September-October 1963. I also have reviewed June Cobb's 201 file at the CIA for confirmation of her story that she recounts to Newman, the story he describes in his book.

First of all, Newman uses a timeline to present all of the allegations surrounding the Duran-LHO affair, which I believe is helpful in sorting out the information.

September 1964 - Elena Garro de Paz tells June Cobb about the infamous party that took place at the Duran's home. In her interview with Newman, Cobb states that "she does remember Elena telling her story, but the description of Cobb's handling of this story in the *Lopez Report* seems unfamiliar to her today."

October 5, 1964 - June Cobb files a report with the CIA station regarding the "twist party" at the Duran's home - no mention of a Duran-LHO affair.

October 12, 1964 - Flannery from the CIA station in Mexico City writes memo regarding Elena Garro story, stating that Elena had told her story to Eunice Odio. June Cobb says that this is probably true.

November 1964 - Nathan Ferris, embassy legal attaché, interviews Elena Garro and her daughter.

November 24, 1964 - In a memo, a CIA agent reports information about Cobb, erroneously characterizing her as an "American Communist" and stating that Elena Garro had also told her story to a U.S. Embassy official "who claimed to represent the Warren Commission."

December 1965 - Date when Ray Rocca claims the Cobb memo was first found.

December 10, 1965 - Charles Thomas, a political officer at the U.S. Embassy, meets with Elena Garro de Paz to discuss her story. He then writes a memo that, according to the *Lopez Report*, "had 'more details' than the story as told to Cobb more than a year earlier. Elena repeated the story of the twist party, but according to Thomas's memo, one of the new 'details' was Elena's charge that Silvia Duran 'was Oswald's mistress while he was there.'"

December 12, 1965 - Mexico City Station sends cable to headquarters regarding Elena Garro's new allegations and says that the station will follow up on the story and send results in another cable.

December 25, 1965 - Charles Thomas meets again with Elena Garro, after which he writes another memo. According to this memo, "Elena stated that it was 'common knowledge' that Silvia had been Oswald's mistress" and that Victor Rica Galan could verify this allegation.

December 27, 1965 - Nathan Ferris writes memo to the ambassador, and circulates it to the CIA station, reporting the results of his interviews with Elena Garro and her daughter. He states that Elena told substantially the same story as she had to Thomas but that inquiries failed to substantiate her allegations.

December 29, 1965 - CIA station sends cable to headquarters reporting the contents of the Ferris memo.

May 26, 1967 - CIA agent reports another story about a Duran-LHO affair but also includes the relationship between Theresa Proenza and Silvia Duran. The station relays this information to headquarters approximately one month later.

Two other factors on which Newman depends heavily to present his evidence are a) assuming that Alberu was the person who made the 5/26/67 report and who was the key to the Oswald-Duran sex story; and b) assuming that Charles Thomas was a CIA covert action operative who was a key player in the development of the Oswald-Duran sex story. Based on the records described above and these two additional factors, Newman concludes that the story of a Duran-LHO affair was invented after the Warren Commission investigation to falsely implicate the Cuban government in the Kennedy assassination.

As far as June Cobb's 201 file is concerned, there are no records of her relationship with Sylvia Duran, Elena Garro de Paz or any other individual connected with the "twist party" or LHO-Duran sex story, including her infamous October 5, 1964 report. The logical explanation for these documents not to be in her 201 would be that they were pulled for entry into Oswald's 201. I have not located them yet and thus cannot confirm or deny Newman's claims.

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