

Memorandum

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
RELEASE OF INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT.

TO : MR. SULLIVAN
FROM : MR. BRANIGAN
SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD;
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

JBH 3-8-93
KSR

- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Turner
- 1 - Mr. Gheesling
- 1 - Liaison

- Olson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

~~SECRET~~

This briefs six Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) dispatches from Mexico City dealing with allegation of Gilberto Alvarado Ugarte, Nicaraguan national, to the effect that he observed Lee Harvey Oswald receive \$6,500 in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City 9-18-63 as part payment to assassinate the President.

All CIA info handled per letter 9/23/88
SP-4 [unclear] 4/30/83
Declassify on: OADR

The American Ambassador, Mexico City, on 11-26-63, suggested to Secretary of State and Directors of the FBI and CIA, that the President of Mexico be advised that the source of this allegation will be put at his disposition on condition that Mexican authorities will rearrest and reinterrogate Silvia Duran, Mexican citizen employed at Cuban Embassy, Mexico City, who, according to source, witnessed the payment.

[Duran was arrested and interrogated by Mexican authorities 11-23-63] [was said to be completely cooperative and gave written statements concerning her knowledge of Oswald's two visits to the Cuban Embassy in late September, 1963, for purpose of seeking a visa to transit Cuba en route to USSR. Duran has not substantiated the source's allegation. CIA has today advised Bureau Liaison representative that Director McCone and Deputy Director Helms are opposed to the American Ambassador's suggestion and plan to continue investigation through normal channels to refute or substantiate the source's allegation. They do not plan to polygraph the source in Mexico.]

Our investigation which is going forward, shows that Oswald was in New Orleans on 9-17-63, checked out of his residence there 9-25-63 and entered Mexico 9-26-63. [unclear] attempting to definitely place Oswald's whereabouts on 9-18-63.

BACKGROUND:

DECLASSIFIED BY 9803 RDD/MS/20
ON 3-30-93 RE JFIL

5 DEC 6 1963

On 11-26-63 Gilberto Alvarado Ugarte, Nicaraguan, aged 23, reported to the American Embassy, Mexico City, that on 9-18-63 when in the Cuban Embassy, Mexico City, seeking a visa

Enc. 11-27-63
JCS:brt
(9)

~~All per [unclear] classified Secret~~

59 DEC 10 1963

5-865 (over)

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 10501

Reproduced from the Unclassified / Declassified Holdings of the National Archives

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SULLIVAN
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD; ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

~~SECRET~~

to travel to Cuba he observed a tall, thin Negro with dyed red hair, a white male carrying a Canadian passport and Lee Harvey Oswald in the company of a tall unidentified Cuban who came out of the Cuban Consul's office. The Cuban passed American currency to the Negro. The Negro, after expressing a desire to kill some man, was told by the male suspected of being Oswald, that he would do it. Thereupon, according to the source, the Negro gave Oswald \$6,500 in large denomination U.S. bills, stating that of the sum, \$1,500 was for extra expenses. Later, the source saw a female thought to be Silvia Duran, an employee of the Cuban Embassy, embrace Oswald. The Negro, the Canadian and Oswald then reportedly went upstairs in the Cuban Embassy. The source says he returned to the Cuban Embassy 9-26-63 where he again saw the redhaired Negro and the unidentified Canadian. (u)

Source claims to have telephoned the American Embassy several times in late September, 1963, using the pseudonym Jorge Kynaut to report that someone important in the U.S. was to be killed. Ugarte, the source, claims to have recognized Oswald after seeing his photograph in the newspaper whereupon he again contacted the American Embassy. (u)

Concerning Ugarte, he maintains that he entered Mexico 8-29-63 on his way to Cuba in connection with a penetration mission for the Nicaraguan Security Service. The Nicaraguans report that Ugarte served as an intelligence source from 1962 through August, 1963, when he was exposed as an agent and had to leave Nicaragua. He was then given a small bonus and retired from service. On 10-2-63 he wrote from Mexico City to the Nicaraguan Security Service and offered to resume work for them, stating he could penetrate Nicaraguan communist groups in Mexico. The Nicaraguans regard Ugarte as a good informant but added that he inclined to exaggerate. Certainly, Ugarte's representations concerning the reason for his presence in Mexico in August, 1963, to initiate a penetration in Cuba in behalf of Nicaraguans does not jibe with the information obtained from Nicaraguan Security Service. (u)

[Silvia Duran, the Mexican national employed by the Cuban Embassy, Mexico City, was arrested by Mexican authorities 11-23-63 for interrogation.] [She was described as completely cooperative and gave written statements attesting to two visits by Oswald to the Cuban Embassy in late September, 1963. The purpose of these visits was to obtain a visa to transit Cuba to go to the USSR. According to Duran, Oswald was referred to the Soviet Embassy and subsequently returned to the U.S. without the visa. She does not substantiate Ugarte's allegation.] (u)

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 10501

Reproduced from the Unclassified / Declassified Holdings of the National Archives

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SULLIVAN
SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD; ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

CONCERNING TRAVEL OF OSWALD:

Our investigation has established that on 9-17-63 Oswald obtained a Mexican tourist card from the Mexican Consulate, New Orleans, and that on the same day he checked in at the unemployment bureau in New Orleans and completed necessary forms to obtain unemployment compensation which is mailed to the recipient by check within a few days. Check of airlines has revealed no passage of Oswald to Mexico under the name Oswald and known aliases on 9-17, 18 or 19-63. Mexican Immigration records establish that Oswald entered Mexico 9-26-63 and he departed 10-3-63. He is known to have checked out of his residence in New Orleans on 9-25-63. New Orleans is pressing inquiry to determine Oswald's whereabouts on 9-18. If he was in New Orleans on that date and it appears likely that such is the case, the allegations of Ugarte placing Oswald in the Cuban Embassy on 9-18-63, will be without foundation. [On 11-26-63 Liaison raised with CIA the advisability of considering affording Ugarte, the source, a polygraph examination. (u) (S)]

SUGGESTIONS OF AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, MEXICO CITY: (u) (S)

By 11-26-63 [dispatch CIA reported that Ambassador Mann, Mexico City, suggested to the Secretary of State and Directors of the FBI and CIA that Ugarte, the source, be put at the disposition of the President of Mexico on condition that he will agree to order the rearrest and reinterrogation of Silvia Duran. He suggested that Duran be confronted with Ugarte and that Duran be told she will not be allowed to leave Mexico and that her only chance for survival is to come clean with the whole story. The Ambassador believes that in view of the apparent character of Duran (although a married woman, she is supposed to be carrying on an affair with the Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations) she may break under the confrontation. He also suggests that the Mexican Government identify and arrest the unknown Negro, assuming he has not left Mexico. (u) (S)]

DISCUSSION WITH CIA: (u) (S)

On 11-27-63 Deputy Director, Plans, Richard Helms, advised that CIA is opposed at this time to attempting to polygraph examination of the source. Helms pointed out that Ugarte is a foreign national in Mexico and the U.S. may be put in a bad light should they attempt the polygraph in Mexico. At this time, CIA does not plan to polygraph the source. (u) (S)

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SULLIVAN
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD; ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

~~SECRET~~

On 11-27-63 Helms advised Bureau Liaison that he and the Director of CIA are opposed to the suggested proposal by the American Ambassador, Mexico City that the source be put at the disposition of the President of Mexico on condition that he rearrest and order the reinterrogation of Silvia Duran. It is CIA's view that investigation should proceed through established channels in Mexico in an effort to corroborate or disprove the allegation. (u)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Liaison inform State Department and CIA that [decision to act on Ambassador Mann's suggestion is one for them to make and that meanwhile,] the Bureau's investigation in an effort to definitely place Oswald on 9-18-63 is going forward. It is suggested that State and CIA be informed that Oswald has definitely been placed in New Orleans on 9-17-63, that he checked out of his New Orleans residence 9-25-63 and that Mexican Immigration records show he entered Mexico 9-26-63 and departed 10-3-63. *Our position is that aggressive, positive investigations must be continued to completely resolve the Mexico city angle. Right.* (u)

1. That Legal Attache, Mexico City, be advised of the foregoing and of results of our discussion with CIA. Legal Attache is also instructed to follow [with CIA, Mexico City,] steps being taken to locate and identify the unidentified Negro and Canadian referred to by Ugarte. (u)

Done WES

[Signature]

WES. ✓

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 10501