SALVADOR DIAZ VERSON, a Cuban exile at Miami, Fla. attended Newspaper Writers Convention in Mexico City during 11/29-29/63. While in Mexico City, Cuban exile (FWU) BORRELL NAVARROS, employed by Mexican newspaper "Excelsior", told him LEE HARVEY OSWALD had met with a Cuban Embassy official in a Mexico City restaurant during OSWALD's visit to Mexico City about the end of 9/63. On his return to Miami, DIAZ informed ANGEL FERNANDEZ VARELA, another Cuban newspaperman, of the alleged contact of OSWALD and the Cuban Embassy official. FERNANDEZ VARELA, in turn, told JOSE I. LASAGA, a Cuban exile psychologist at Miami, of the contact. LASAGA, in submitting a paper to the White House on the psychological motivations of OSWALD, included information that OSWALD, while in Mexico City in 9/63, met the Cuban Ambassador in a Mexico City restaurant, and they drove off in the Ambassador's car so that their conversation would not be overheard. In response to specific inquiry, Dr. LASAGA advised a member of the White House staff that he had received the report concerning the contact of LEE HARVEY OSWALD with the Cuban Ambassador from ANGEL FERNANDEZ VARELA, an employee of the Voice of Cuba in Miami who, in turn, had received it from SALVADOR DIAZ VERSON. DIAZ VERSON reportedly had been in Mexico City following the assassination doing investigative work on behalf of an unnamed principal.
January 10, 1969

SALVADOR DIAS VERNON, 58 years of age, residing at 8779 S. W. 21st Street, Miami, stated he arrived in the United States as an exile from the Cuban regime of FIDEL CASTRO on March 19, 1959. He stated he had been Chief of the National Police in Cuba as of 1933, that he had been Chief of the Cuban Military Intelligence Service during the period 1948 - 1962, and that he is primarily, by profession, a newspaperman.

He said he had been in charge of the news desk for the newspaper "Excelsior" published at Havana, Cuba, until it was shut down by the CASTRO regime in August, 1961. DIAS stated he had been President of the Anti-Communist League of Cuba, and has always been actively opposed to the Communist threat. He pointed out that he had written several anti-Communist books since coming to the United States in exile, and is currently working on one to be entitled, "The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse," which deals with Communism.

Mr. DIAS stated that on November 29, 1963, he traveled from Miami to Mexico City to attend a Congress of the International Federation of Professional Newspaper Organizations (FIOPP), which lasted until November 29, 1963. He stated that on the evening of November 29, 1963, while he was present in the offices of the Mexico City newspaper "Excelsior," he became aware that the Mexican Federal Police had placed under arrest a Cuban citizen named SYLVIA DUAR, who was an employee of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. He said that the Mexican Police had determined that LEE HARVEY OSWALD, on his arrival in Mexico City in the latter part of September, 1963, had gone to a restaurant called El Caballo Blanco in Mexico City, together with SYLVIA DUAR, where the former Cuban official was last seen. SYLVIA DUAR was further reported to have placed OSWALD in contact with personnel of the Cuban Embassy, Mexico City.

Mr. DIAS stated that this information was published in the November 28, 1963, edition of the newspaper "Excelsior." He stated that the Mexican Police and the press, following the assassination of President KENNEDY, were greatly concerned over the visit of OSWALD to Mexico City, because of the speculation that the assassination was planned in Mexico.

Mr. DIAS continued that while on this visit to Mexico City, he also had contact with a newspaperman who lives in exile in Mexico City named Dr. BORRELL HAYVARROS. He said Dr. BORRELL is a Medical Doctor, and is employed with the Mexican newspaper "Excelsior." He said Dr. BORRELL had told him that OSWALD, on the day after his arrival in Mexico City in the latter part of September, 1963, had gone to a restaurant called El Caballo Blanco in Mexico City, together with SYLVIA DUAR, where he had met a Functionary of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. He said no mention was made by Dr. BORRELL that OSWALD and the official of the Cuban Embassy left the restaurant in a car to engage in private conversation.

Mr. DIAS stated that he did not attach any particular importance or accuracy to this meeting of OSWALD and an employee of the Cuban Embassy at the restaurant, because he did not believe Dr. BORRELL had any firm sources for this information, and further, he regarded Dr. BORRELL as a person who tended to invent details for a story.

Mr. DIAS also stated that the alleged meeting at the above restaurant was never reported in the Mexico City newspapers, and this also tended to discredit Dr. BORRELL's information, in the opinion of Mr. DIAS.

Mr. DIAS stated he returned to Miami from Mexico City on November 29, 1963, and shortly thereafter, had occasion to speak with Dr. ANUEL FERNANDEZ VARELA, whom he described as a former newspaperman in Cuba, and currently working in Mexico City, and both men expressed the opinion that the meeting of OSWALD and the official of the Cuban Embassy at the above restaurant had been a calculated story for publication, and not a true event.
dining an anti-Castro radio program called "The Voice of Cuba." He said he related to Dr. Fernandez the events which had transpired during his visit to Mexico City which were, for the most part, a matter of public information there, concerning the reported contact of Oswald with an official of the Cuban Embassy.

Mr. Diaz stated that his trip to Mexico City was strictly personal travel made at his own expense, and that the trip was in no way related to any mission or inquiry by him on behalf of any other person or organization.

SALVADOR DIAZ VERSOM, 8770 S. W. 21st Street, Miami, stated his information concerning the alleged meeting of Lee Harvey Oswald and the Cuban Embassy official in a Mexico City restaurant, about the end of September, 1963, came from the Cuban exile, Dr. Sorrell Rovarrons, employed by the Mexico City newspaper "Excelsior." Mr. Diaz stated that in relating the information to Angel Fernandez Varela at Miami, he referred to the person meeting Oswald as a Cuban Embassy employee, or official, and not as the Cuban Ambassador. He said he did not mention to Fernandez the use of a car by Oswald and the Cuban Embassy official. Mr. Diaz stated that to the best of his recollection, Rovarrons told him it was a Cuban Embassy officer involved, and not the Cuban Ambassador; also, Rovarrons did not tell Diaz the Cuban official and Oswald had left the Mexico City restaurant where they allegedly met, in a car. Mr. Diaz stated the Mexico City restaurant may have been named the Cabello Bayo, instead of the Cabello Blanco.

Mr. Diaz said he had made no notes of his conversation with Dr. Rovarrons, and he reiterated that he regarded the information of Rovarrons as highly questionable.
Dr. ANGELO FERNANDEZ VARELA, resident at 3830 N. E. 6th Avenue, Miami, stated that he had been in exile from the CASTRO regime in Cuba, and that he had been an attorney in Cuba, and also an editor for the Cuban newspaper "Informacion." He said he had been present in work for the radio program "Voz de Cuba" (Voice of Cuba), which is directed against the CASTRO regime, and he also directs the publication of the Spanish language propaganda leaflet entitled, "Informe Sobre Cuba," (Report on Cuba).

Dr. FERNANDEZ stated that he had known SALVADOR DIAZ VERNON in Cuba as a former police chief during the 1930's, and as a police reporter for the Havana newspaper "Excelsior."

Dr. FERNANDEZ stated that when DIAZ VERNON returned to Miami from Mexico City in the latter part of November, 1963, DIAZ VERNON advised him that while in Mexico City he had had contact with other newspapermen there and had learned that the Mexican Federal Police had arrested a Mexican citizen, SYLVIA DURAN, an employee of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, because of her connection between OSWALD and the Cuban Embassy.

Dr. FERNANDEZ said DIAZ VERNON also told him that OSWALD had stayed at the home of DURAN, and subsequently went with the Cuban Ambassador in Mexico City at a restaurant called Caballo Mayo, accompanied by SYLVIA DURAN. Dr. FERNANDEZ said he understood from DIAZ VERNON that DURAN, the Cuban Ambassador to Mexico, whose name FERNANDEZ did not know, and OSWALD, reportedly went for a ride together in a car. Dr. FERNANDEZ said that the federal police in Mexico City reportedly had turned over the information concerning these incidents involving OSWALD to the United States Embassy in Mexico City.
ANGEL FERNANDO VARELA, 3850 N. W. 6th Avenue, Miami, Florida, maintained that SALVADOR DIAZ VERSON of Miami had told him the person reportedly meeting with LEE HARVEY OSWALD in Mexico City was the Cuban Ambassador, and not just an Embassy officer. Dr. FERNANDEZ stated that according to what DIAZ VERSON told him, the Ambassador and OSWALD had left the Mexico City restaurant together in a car.

Dr. FERNANDEZ said it was possible that slight changes in the specifics of the information received by him from DIAZ VERSON might have occurred in its transmittal to him, and in the succeeding transmittal to Dr. JOSE L. LABAGA, of Miami, from Dr. FERNANDEZ.

Dr. JOSE IGNACIO LABAGA, 56 years of age, residing at 3840 N. E. 7th Avenue, Miami, stated that he came from Cuba as an exile in January, 1962. He stated he had graduated from the University of Havana with a Doctor's Degree in Philosophy, which was an equivalent of a degree in psychology, and that he subsequently had taken graduate work at Harvard University.

He said he is currently engaged as the Chief Clinical Psychologist for Catholic Welfare Service at Miami, Florida, working primarily with Cuban youths. He said he had taken considerable interest as a psychologist in the assassination of President JOSE F. KENNEDY by LEE HARVEY OSWALD and he had set forth the facts relative to the assassination, and his hypotheses as to the motivation of OSWALD in a paper which he submitted to the White House. He said in submitting his psychological paper, he had also included information from Dr. ANGEL FERNANDO VARELA relative to the reported contacts by OSWALD with Cuban agents in Mexico City. He said FERNANDEZ at the time informed him that the information had been received from SALVADOR DIAZ VERSON, whom Dr. LABAGA knows slightly. He stated that his information concerning the reported contact of OSWALD with a Cuban Embassy official came only from ANGEL FERNANDO VARELA, and he, Dr. LABAGA, had not contacted SALVADOR DIAZ VERSON in this matter.

Dr. LABAGA stated he included this information, which originated with DIAZ VERSON, in the paper submitted to the White House because he wanted to emphasize his point of view that OSWALD had contact with Cuban agents. He pointed out that his hypothesis is that OSWALD was motivated to commit the assassination only after his visit to Mexico City, having there received the necessary impetus to carry out the assassination.
He stated he did not mention the name of SYLVIA DURAN in connection with the reported contact of OSWALD and the Cuban Ambassador in Mexico City because the fact that DURAN, a Mexican citizen, was involved, was not pertinent to his hypothesis. He said it was his understanding from Dr. ANGEL FERNANDEZ that it was the Cuban Ambassador to Mexico City, name not known, and not some other official of the Cuban Embassy, with whom OSWALD had contact.

Dr. LASAYA stated that although he did not know for whom SALVADOR DIAZ YAMBON may have made the trip to Mexico City, he assumed that it would have been subsidised by someone or some agency. He said it was possible, however, that DIAZ YAMBON had made the trip for his own purposes and at his own expense.

Dr. LASAYA stated he had in the past acted as a delegate-genera1 for the anti-Castro organisation Movimiento Recuperacion Revolucionaria (Revolutionary Recovery Movement), and still cooperates with that organisation giving lectures, but is no longer a member of the Executive Committee.

He said he is currently engaged in writing a book on the psychological motivations of Communism.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT NO. 2947—Continued