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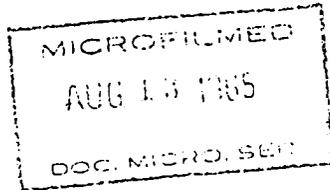
DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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FROM : THOMAS R. HALL
TO : MFR
TITLE : MEMORANDUM: SUBJECT - MEETING WITH MR. SLAWSON OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
COMMISSION ON 5 MAY CONCERNING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN CUBAN
PRESIDENT DORTICOS AND AMBASSADOR ARMAS
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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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1998



XAAZ - 22740

5 May 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Slawson of the Presidential Commission
on 5 May concerning telephonic conversation between Cuban
President Dorticos and Ambassador Armas

1. On 5 May, Mr. [267] and Mr. Hall met with Mr. Slawson of the Commission in Mr. [267] office. This meeting had been requested to ask for a fresh translation of the taped conversation between Cuban President Dorticos and Ambassador Armas.

Win Scott had told the Commission staff visiting Mexico City that his translators, in the rush at that time, might have misconstrued certain nuances of meaning in what was a difficult recording. In view of this, Mr. Slawson asked that a new translation be made, if possible, by a person knowledgeable of the Cuban dialect.

2. According to Mr. Slawson, only Messrs. Rankin, Willens, Coleman (?) and he presently know of the telephone taps in Mexico City. Slawson, Willens and Coleman were briefed on the taps during their visit to Mexico City.

3. In about three weeks the staff will begin presenting to the Commission evidence on the conspirational aspect of the assassination. At this time, apparently, their evidence is against the existence of a plot. They will wish to present to the Commission the Armas - Dorticos conversation. Slawson suggested the possibility that a knowledgeable CIA man could make this presentation, interpreting the conversation in the light of our study.

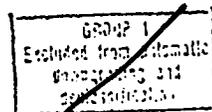
4. Mr. [267] said that we will again translate the tape, using the best available Cuban linguist, and once again study the nuances of the conversation. Any presentation to the Commission, however, would have to be referred to Messrs. Helms and Rocca for decision. According to Mr. Slawson, no member of the Commission now knows of the telephone taps in Mexico City (he did not mention Mr. Dulles).

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5. Mr. [26] carefully briefed Mr. Slawson (probably rebriefed him) on the importance of these telephone taps to U.S. security and the grave damage that would be done to U.S. - Mexican relations if knowledge of their existence became public.

6. Mr. Slawson quite clearly was a bit unhappy that certain information could not be used, since the taps were the only source. OSWALD's very bad Russian was the example he used. I asked what opinion Mrs. OSWALD had of her husband's Russian. She thought that he spoke it very well.

7. Mr. Slawson asked if the retranslation of the Dorticos - Armas conversation could be made available to him by the end of next week.

8. According to Mr. Slawson, ⁽²⁰¹⁻²⁴⁰⁷²⁰⁾ the Commission Staff had come up with the idea that Silvia DURAN might be invited to the United States, ostensibly to be interviewed by a periodical, and then questioned by the Commission. The Chief Justice turned down the proposal at once, on the ground that she was a Communist and U.S. - Mexican relations might be damaged. This idea has been abandoned.

9. From Mr. Slawson's remarks it is evident that the preparation of the Commission's report has begun, and is in its initial stages.

10. Mr. [26] called me after the meeting to say that the work of retranslating the Dorticos-Armas conversation from the tape had started.

Thomas R. Hall

cc: C/WH/3

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