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ORIGINAL

HEARINGS

Before The

John F. Kennedy Subcommittee

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TESTIMONY OF BALMES NIVES HIDALGO, JR.

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House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

Subcommittee on the Assassination of
President John F. Kennedy of the
Select Committee on Assassinations

August 10, 1978

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Testimony of Balmes Nieves Hidalgo, Jr.

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TESTIMONY OF BALMES NIEVES HIDALGO, JR.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1978

House of Representatives,
Subcommittee on the Assassination
of President John F. Kennedy
of the Select Committee on
Assassinations,
Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:46 p.m., in
room 340, Cannon House Office Building, the Hon. Richardson
Preyer (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Preyer, Burke, Dodd and Fithian.

Staff members present: E. Berning, M. Goldsmith, C. Berk,
W. A. Cross, O. Wagner, D. Hardway, J. Conzelman and C. Fenton.

Mrs. Burke (presiding). The subcommittee will please come
to order.

The Chair recognizes Elizabeth Berning to name those offi-
cially designated to be on the subcommittee pursuant to the
Committee Rule 12.6.

Miss Berning. Mrs. Burke, you, Mr. Preyer, Mr. Dodd and
Mr. Thone are regular members of the Kennedy Subcommittee.
Mr. Fithian will be substituting for Mr. Dodd.

Mrs. Burke. Let the record show that there were three

1 members present. There are two members who are present who
2 are still remaining and the Chair will swear the witness.

3 Will the witness state his name, please.

4 Mr. Hidalgo. Balmes Nieves Hidalgo, Jr.

5 Mrs. Burke. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you
6 give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
7 truth, so help you God?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. I do.

9 Mrs. Burke. The hearing is in closed session pursuant to
10 the vote that was taken before the recess and that vote still
11 remains and the hearing is in closed session. If there is
12 anyone in the room who is not a member of the staff or an
13 attorney for the witness, they will leave.

14 Let the record show that the committee is in closed
15 session.

16 I would like to read a brief statement concerning the
17 subject of the investigation. This committee is operating
18 under the mandate of House Resolution 222 to conduct a full and
19 complete investigation and study into the circumstances surround-
20 ing the assassination and death of President John F. Kennedy,
21 including determining whether the existing laws of the United
22 States concerning the protection of the President and investi-
23 gatory jurisdiction and capability of agencies and departments
24 are adequate in their provisions and enforcement and whether
25 there was full disclosure of evidence and information among

1 agencies and departments of the United States Government and
2 whether any evidence or information not in the possession of
3 an agency or department would have been of assistance in
4 investigating the assassination and why such information was
5 not provided or collected by that agency or department and to
6 make recommendations to the House if the committee deems it
7 appropriate for the amendment of existing legislation or the
8 enactment of new legislation.

9 This is the mandate of the committee.

10 You may be seated, Mr. Hidalgo.

11 Would your counsel state his name.

12 Mr. Gaines. Stanley H. Gaines, 150 Little Falls Street,
13 Falls Church, Virginia.

14 Mrs. Burke. The staff will proceed to interrogate.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you.

16 Mrs. Burke, prior to the beginning of this hearing Mr.
17 Gaines asked me if he might make a brief statement and I
18 indicated to him I had no problem with that.

19 Mrs. Burke. Certainly.

20 Mr. Gaines. I would like to assure this distinguished
21 committee that Mr. Hidalgo has been apprised of the charter
22 of the committee, of the seriousness of the committee's charter
23 and the scope of it which is considerably broad and intends to
24 answer all relevant questions to the best of his recollection.

25 I would simply like to impress on the committee, although

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1 I recognize it may be carrying coals to New Castle, that a
2 man who has spent many years as an officer in the Central
3 Intelligence Agency has a conditioned reluctance to disclose
4 methods notwithstanding the acknowledged entitlement of this
5 committee to receive such information if the committee deems
6 the information pertinent but I raise this point only by way
7 of appealing to the committee as we may from time to time, if
8 considered necessary, to carefully weigh the pertinence or
9 relevance or indispensability of names of persons who may have
10 risked life or limb or liberty or careers in the service of
11 the United States. If that information is deemed relevant,
12 there is no question that it will be provided if we are called
13 but there may be cases where the committee feels that although
14 it would be entitled to the information it can do without it
15 and in such cases we would request that the committee forego
16 the identification of persons.

17 That includes the identity of the witness himself. It
18 would be tragic or could be tragic if the fact were disclosed
19 to the press, for example, that he appeared before this com-
20 mittee in the capacity of a witness.

21 Finally, only by way of underscoring what I have said and
22 notwithstanding Acting Director Carlucci's letter to the
23 committee, this officer, like others in his category, feels a
24 personal fiduciary responsibility toward persons whom he
25 induced to work in a clandestine capacity for the United States

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1 Government and whose efforts in that regard he directed which
2 makes it additionally difficult, if not painful, for him to
3 disclose who those persons were, particularly if some of them
4 are still in hostile territory.

5 Having said that, there are no reservations on Mr.
6 Hidalgo's part to answer any questions, save of course his
7 privilege of self-incrimination if required.

8 That is all.

9 Mrs. Burke. Thank you very much.

10 Counsel may proceed.

11 TESTIMONY OF BALMES NIEVES HIDALGO, Jr.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. For the record would you please state your
13 name and address.

14 Mr. Hidalgo. Balmes Nieves Hidalgo, Jr., 403 Silver Rock
15 Road, Rockville, Maryland.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, do you also go by the name of
17 Barney Balmes Hidalgo?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. Barney is a childhood name and so much easier
19 to pronounce rather than Balmes and nearly everyone, including
20 relatives, calls me Barney.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. I take it the answer to my question is yes.

22 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you.

24 Is it true that you have been employed by the CIA?

25 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

1 Mr. Goldsmith. For how many years were you affiliated
2 with the CIA?

3 Mr. Hidalgo. Eighteen.

4 Mr. Goldsmith. What years were those, sir?

5 Mr. Hidalgo. 1952 through 1958. I am sorry.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Would you like to clarify that?

7 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, that does not make sense. You must
8 understand there are going to be lapses here. 1952 through
9 1970. February of 1952 to February of 1970. Thank you.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. In what general capacity did you work for
11 the CIA?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. I was an intelligence agent.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. Now as an intelligence agent for the CIA
14 were you required to sign the secrecy oath?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. In that regard I would like you at this
17 time to have an opportunity to read JFK Exhibit No. 94.

18 For the record that is the release letter of 23 March 1978
19 issued by Acting Director Carlucci to Chairman Stokes.

20 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir, I am aware of it.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Have you had a chance to examine that
22 exhibit?

23 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you understand it?

25 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

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1 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, on July 28, 1978, were you
2 interviewed by two staff employees of the Select Committee on
3 Assassinations?

4 Mr. Hidalgo. It was in July of 1978, yes.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hardway who is sitting on my left and
6 Mr. Berk who is sitting on my right.

7 Mr. Hidalgo. That is right.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. Subsequent to that interview did you have
9 any discussion with any employee of the CIA concerning what you
10 told Mr. Berk and Mr. Hardway?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. Concerning what I told Mr. Berk and Mr.
12 Hardway, no, sir.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. So no one from the CIA, I take it, dis-
14 cussed the substance of your discussion with Mr. Berk and Mr.
15 Hardway.

16 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Is that correct?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. May I say they are no longer the people I
19 talked to because we are still friends and I see them occa-
20 sionally. They are not now with the CIA.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. I understand.

22 Has anyone from the agency discussed with you the substance
23 of your testimony that you are about to give here today?

24 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Now you indicated that you worked as an

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intelligence agent for the CIA. Is there a difference between a case officer and an intelligence agent?

Mr. Hidalgo. Not in my meaning of the word, no, sir.

Mr. Goldsmith. Could you give the committee some background in your particular areas of expertise as an intelligence agent?

Mr. Hidalgo. Well, general collection of information, interrogation of suspected agents of foreign countries, methods of acquiring information by many means, counterintelligence was the fourth really.

Mr. Goldsmith. Were you generally involved in clandestine activities?

Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

Mr. Goldsmith. I would like to focus now on the period 1960 through 1964 and I ask you to give the committee a summary of the assignments that you had during that period.

Mr. Hidalgo. Well, from 1960 through 1964 I was assigned to the division having to do with Cuba in general and the things that were going on at that time between Cuba and the world in general.

Mr. Goldsmith. Was that task force W that you were working with?

Mr. Hidalgo. I don't recall the name of it.

Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever work for a program referred to as the Durable Assets Program?

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Mr. Hidalgo. I don't recall working for that, no. I may have, I don't know.

Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever work with the JM wave station in Miami?

Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

Mr. Goldsmith. Would you indicate to the committee where specifically you were located during these assignments during the period from 1960 to 1964?

Mr. Hidalgo. In Washington, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Mexico, Guatemala, Salvador. I believe I have covered them. If I left anything out, I don't mean to. Puerto Rico.

Excuse me. There is an island a few miles off from Puerto Rico and actually my work was not in Puerto Rico, it was on this island.

Mr. Goldsmith. Fine. Now you indicated you spent some time in Washington, D. C. Do you recall what time period you spent in Washington, D. C.?

Mr. Hidalgo. Well, Washington, D. C., was my official station.

Mr. Goldsmith. During that entire period?

Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir. The others were TDYs.

Mr. Goldsmith. What is a TDY?

Mr. Hidalgo. Temporary duty stations.

Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether the CIA had a domestic

1 exploitation section?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. Domestic --

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Exploitation section during the period that
4 you were working for it.

5 Mr. Hidalgo. Not by that name. If you tell me what --

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Specifically by that name, do you know
7 whether the agency had such a unit?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. I am not quite aware of it. I may know it
9 by some other name is what I am trying to say.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Now you indicated a moment ago that you
11 spent some time in Mexico during the period 1960 through 1964.
12 Approximately how many times did you visit Mexico for the
13 agency?

14 Mr. Hidalgo. I am trying to recall this as best I can.
15 When the staff interviewed me I made the remark that I had been
16 there in 1964 and since then my wife corrected me on that. She
17 said, "You were not there, we were on our honeymoon in 1964 so
18 you were not in Mexico." So it must have been 1961 and/or 1962.
19 I don't recall 1963 but 1961 and 1962 are the dates that really
20 now come to mind. Since then let me say I have been raking my
21 mind, going over in my mind everything and everything that I
22 did because I do want to cooperate with you.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. I understand.

24 Now what was the purpose of the trip to Mexico in 1961?

25 Mr. Hidalgo. All the trips that I took to Mexico were in

1 connection with an operation I had going against the Communist
2 Party in Mexico.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Is it possible, sir, that you were also
4 in Mexico in 1963?

5 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't recall it now but like I say it has
6 been quite a few years ago.

7 Mr. Gaines. Counsel, may I simply point out to the
8 committee members what I think counsel knows, that Mr. Hidalgo
9 suffered a major stroke in 1958 and a minor one in 1964 and
10 that that may account for what would appear to be an unusual
11 lapse of memory. There are many things that he just cannot
12 remember or cannot remember when asked but there is no inten-
13 tion to evade any of your questions.

14 Mr. Preyer. Thank you.

15 Counsel.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Perhaps at this time I might ask, Mr.
17 Hidalgo, how old are you?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. I am 59 years old.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, have you ever examined your
20 office personnel file?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. Now you have indicated you were involved
23 in an operation against the Communist Party in Mexico.

24 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Were you also involved in any operations

1 against the Cuban government in Mexico?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. Not in Mexico, no, sir.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. When you were in Mexico on these opera-
4 tions against the Communist Party, was the local CIA station
5 to your knowledge aware of your presence in Mexico?

6 Mr. Hidalgo. YES, sir. I had the contact.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. So someone at the Mexico City station knew
8 you?

9 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, knew that I was there.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall what the cryptonym was of
11 the operation against the Communist Party in Mexico?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir, I really don't.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. I believe you have indicated that to the
14 best of your recollection you were in Mexico two times during
15 this period.

16 Mr. Hidalgo. Two, perhaps three.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Was the purpose of your visit each time
18 with regard to this operation against the Communist Party?

19 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, without going into sources
21 or methods, I would like you to give just some general details
22 on this operation.

23 Mr. Hidalgo. The operation, as I say, took a couple of
24 visits to set up and culminated with my gathering every bit of
25 information from all of the files of the Mexican Communist
Party -- I mean all of the original files of the Mexican

1 Communist Party and other properties.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you work with any other individuals
3 on this project?

4 Mr. Hidalgo. I had this contact who assisted me in
5 setting up what we called a safehouse and put me in touch with
6 [] that assisted me in my
7 job.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. So there was some involvement with []
9 [] in part, is that correct?

10 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Just assisting you in general terms?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. And your local contact, was he from the
14 Mexico City station?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. He was in Mexico City, yes.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Well, the CIA officer is what I am asking
17 you.

18 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir. Let me add I was under unofficial
19 cover, I was not there using my true name, so therefore this
20 one contact knew I was there and arranged things for me.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall which name you were using
22 at that time?

23 Mr. Hidalgo. You mean to him or in my official capacity?

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Whatever name you were using in your
25 unofficial cover in Mexico.

1 Mr. Hidalgo. It could have been Bernard. It could have
2 been Benny. It could have been -- I used so many. I am sorry,
3 I don't know. If someone called me and said, "What is your
4 name?" and I said Bernard, I would say that was your first
5 name. I would not --

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Again in general terms was this operation
7 a success?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Were the materials that you obtained
10 given to anyone else at the CIA?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Was the material given to an individual
13 in Mexico City?

14 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. So was it an individual at the CIA head-
16 quarters?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, were you ever involved in any
19 operations in Mexico City aimed at the Cuban embassy or consulate?

20 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. When you were in Mexico City were you
22 aware of the photo and telephonic surveillance operations which
23 the Mexico City station had against the Cuban and Soviet embassy
24 and consulate?

25 Mr. Hidalgo. I knew there was one but I did not know

1 where it was located.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know a woman named Sylvia Duran?

3 Mr. Hidalgo. Sylvia Duran. The name is familiar to me,
4 very familiar in hearing, but that is as far as I can go, I
5 mean truthfully.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall in your interview with Mr.
7 Berk and Mr. Hardway when asked whether you used Sylvia Duran
8 your response was, "Sure do know her but I sure don't want to
9 discuss it"?

10 Mr. Hidalgo. Okay. I sure do know of her is what I
11 should have said. Now I am discussing it as to where I heard
12 it and I will tell you how that name popped up if you wish.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. Please do.

14 Mr. Hildago. Okay. In this operation that I did in
15 Mexico City I believe it was the last visit that when it was
16 finally accomplished I needed some information as to times and
17 places which would enable me to countervent the security of the
18 Communist Party security system. In other words, I wanted to
19 do my job and not get caught. The case officer there that I
20 had contact with said that he had someone, an agent, a Mexican
21 national, who could tell me these things and without giving me
22 her name, etc., we arranged or I arranged a method of meeting
23 her using intelligence trade craft to more cover my tracks,
24 cover her tracks so that we could meet and she mentioned this
25 name in the conversation but it had nothing to do with what I

1 was there for so when the name came up, the name popped into
2 my memory.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever meet with Sylvia Duran?

4 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir, not to my knowledge. I met one
5 woman there and she was someone else.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. To your knowledge did Sylvia Duran ever
7 assist you directly or indirectly in any operation?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether Sylvia Duran was
10 affiliated in any way with the CIA?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether she was affiliated in
13 any way with Cuban intelligence?

14 Mr. Hidalgo. At the time when this contact told me of it
15 I tied the two together, yes, sir.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Why did you make that connection?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know. Now at that time it was
18 obvious to me as an intelligence agent that there was some
19 connection there but it was of no interest whatsoever to me.
20 I do remember that when I next saw this contact of mine I
21 mentioned the fact to him and let him proceed to do whatever
22 he wanted to.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. So for purposes of clarification, during
24 this period you felt that Sylvai Duran may have been connected
25 in some way with Cuban intelligence, is that correct?

1 Mr. Hidalgo. With Cuban operations. You know, the Cuban
2 operation versus say Guatemala or Russian or whatever.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. I am not sure that I understand. When
4 you say Cuban operations do you mean operations by the Cuban
5 government?

6 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, rather than saying, yes, I took it for
7 granted that she was an agent of the Cuban intelligence. That
8 is why I told this contact and he took it from there to inves-
9 tigate further.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether that issue was ever
11 resolved?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir, I never even bothered to check on
13 it.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have any information about that
15 today?

16 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Are you familiar with the cryptonym AMMUG/1?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. Without disclosing the identity of this
20 individual would you tell the committee generally who he was?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. AMMUG/1 was a Cuban intelligence officer,
22 he worked for Directorio General Intelligencia, DGI, the Cuban
23 government, the counterpart of CIA. He defected to Canada in
24 I believe 1964 and was brought into the United States and that
25 is what he did. He was a defector.

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Mr. Goldsmith. Did he provide information to the CIA?

Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

Mr. Goldsmith. How significant was the defection of AMUG/1 considered to be?

Mr. Hidalgo. It was quite an effective, important defection.

Mr. Goldsmith. Is it fair to say he provided a wealth of information?

Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know his present whereabouts?

Mr. Hidalgo. I would suspect he is in Miami but I do not know.

Mr. Goldsmith. When was the last time you saw him personally?

Mr. Hidalgo. 1964 I believe, late 1964.

Mr. Goldsmith. What role, if any, did you have in handling this defector?

Mr. Hidalgo. I was his hand holder and interrogator for all the time that he was in the Washington area.

Mr. Goldsmith. How many personal contacts did you have with him during that period?

Mr. Hidalgo. Quite a few. I lived in the same apartment that he did.

Mr. Goldsmith. So you saw him virtually on a daily basis?

Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir. All day I spent with him and night.

1 Mr. Goldsmith. For how long a period was he in Washington?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. Now that you could help me.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Approximately, Mr. Hidalgo?

4 Mr. Hidalgo. From the time he got to Washington, D. C.,
5 until June -- see if I remember this date now. My wife will
6 kill me because it is the day before we got married. Late June
7 1964 when another agent took over temporarily while I went on
8 my honeymoon.

9 Mr. Preyer. Mr. Hidalgo, I am sorry. I think we will
10 have to recess for about ten minutes.

11 (Whereupon, at 3:15 p.m., the hearing recessed until 3:36
12 p.m.)

13 Mr. Preyer. The committee will come to order.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo --

15 Mr. Gaines. He wants to add something.

16 Mr. Hidalgo. On those places I operated, I left out two
17 that might be important to you, I don't know. One was Germany
18 and the other one was Scotland.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. I believe my last question was for how
20 long a time period --

21 Mr. Preyer. If you will excuse me, Mr. Goldsmith.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. Yes, sir.

23 Mr. Preyer. If I could interrupt this hearing for a
24 matter that is not related to this hearing. A subpoena in the
25 name of Jules Mayer Turnable that was issued on August 2, 1978,

1 was made returnable today at two o'clock before this committee.
2 The committee will permit compliance with the subpoena next
3 week by Tuesday, August 15, at two p.m.

4 I am sorry to interrupt you. You may proceed, Mr.
5 Goldsmith.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you.

7 Mr. Hidalgo, I believe my last question to you prior to
8 our recess was how long a time period have you actually spent
9 with AMMUG and you attempted to answer that question and my
10 recollection of your testimony is that you indicated the last
11 date that you spent with him but you never really told us when
12 you started spending time with him so again I would like to
13 ask you how much time, for how long a time period, did you
14 spend time with him?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't recall the starting date but it
16 was immediately upon his arriving in the Washington area from
17 Canada.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. Can you estimate how much time was
19 involved, a couple of months?

20 Mr. Hidalgo. Oh, yes. Total five, six months at one
21 time and then after this June date I again saw him for about
22 two or three weeks so it was a bit of a time.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. During that five or six month period
24 initially you had daily contact with him I take it.

25 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir. I actually lived in the same

1 house he was in.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Before we continue with AMMUG I have a
3 few further questions to ask about Sylvia Duran. Did you file
4 a report concerning information you had received about Sylvia
5 Duran?

6 Mr. Hidalgo. No. All I did in that case was I saw this
7 contact of mine in Mexico City and told him about it and it
8 would have been something like, look, so and so, I am here on
9 something else, you know, this is out of my bailiwick and I
10 have no interest in it but if you are interested to follow it
11 up, go ahead, and that was the end of it.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall telling Mr. Berk and Mr.
13 Hardway at the time of your interview with them that in fact
14 you had previous information concerning Sylvia Duran?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. To my case officer, yes; to my contact down
16 there.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. You didn't mean a written report?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. I didn't mean a formal written report, no.
19 When I came back I probably wrote a simple debriefing report
20 as to what I did during the time I was away, this was the normal
21 thing to do, but it would have been focused on my operation,
22 the success of it, etc.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. With regard to this operation I believe
24 you testified that you were in Mexico on two or three occasions.
25 For approximately how long a time period were you in Mexico on

1 each occasion?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. Let me see if I can recall that. It would
3 not have been more than a week with the exception of the last
4 one I think it was about ten to fourteen days.

5 Mr. Goldsmith. Now was it your understanding that this
6 woman who told you about Sylvia Duran, was it your understand-
7 ing that she reported regularly on Duran?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. No. I knew she reported regularly but not
9 specifically on Duran.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Was she a close associate of Sylvia Duran?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know that. My interest in this
12 woman was simply one of getting my operation through success-
13 fully and protecting myself and others.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. I take it, returning to AMMUG, that this
15 individual was subjected to a series of intensive debriefings,
16 is that correct?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. And in the course of these debriefings I
19 take it that he provided information regarding Lee Harvey
20 Oswald, is that correct?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. Not to me he didn't, sir.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. To whom did he provide information?

23 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know if he did. Not to me. All
24 the information that I was interested in getting from him and
25 my group was interested in was intelligence information of

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1 Cuban operations against the United States and against other
2 countries and it was just to get us an insight eye into the
3 Cuban intelligence system.

4 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether AMMUG provided infor-
5 mation concerning Oswald's contacts with DGI personnel in
6 Mexico City?

7 Mr. Hidalgo. He spoke about Mexico City and I remember
8 showing him many, many photographs from that situation that
9 you mentioned before, the photographic surveillance.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever show him any of the photo-
11 graphs from the Mexico City station that had been obtained on
12 Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico City?

13 Mr. Hidalgo. All the photographs I remember showing him
14 were photographs provided to me by my direct superior in
15 Washington headquarters and I assumed that all of them were
16 from this surveillance. Now perhaps others were included in
17 that, I was not.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. I understand. My question is do you
19 recall whether he was shown any photographs of Lee Harvey
20 Oswald?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. Not to my recollection, I did not. Whether
22 he was shown photographs by my direct superior or at times when
23 some other agent took over, I cannot comment on that but I did
24 not.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether AMMUG was permitted to

1 listen to any tape recorded statements of Lee Harvey Oswald's
2 voice?

3 Mr. Hidalgo. Not to my knowledge. He was, as I say, at
4 times with other people but when my direct superior came in I
5 left. At times I needed relief, I needed to get away a little
6 bit, and other agents would come in.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether any of the AMMUG
8 debriefing reports were sent to the CIA office designated as
9 SI?

10 Mr. Hidalgo. I would imagine they might have been.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know what the term SI refers to?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. I would say Special Intelligence.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. What is Special Intelligence?

14 Mr. Hidalgo. That is all I know. I was not interested.
15 Because of the compartmentation I had, I wanted not to know.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have any idea what the purpose of
17 the SI unit was?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. Was any of the information concerning
20 Oswald sent to SI?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. Why would this information have been sent
23 to the SI unit?

24 Mr. Hidalgo. Disseminated to people that were interested
25 in it. Let's take, for example, that AMMUG said there is a

1 factory in Cifenasago or another part of Cuba that we guarded
2 because of this, that or the other thing, that would not be of
3 interest to me but I would report it to my immediate superior
4 and it would not be of interest to him but he would funnel it
5 to somebody that might be interested in that information. So
6 information that we received on AMMUG was dispersed to many
7 parts of the agency.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. Did AMMUG provide any information with
9 regard to Sylvia Duran?

10 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Did he provide any information in regard
12 to a woman named Louisa Calderon?

13 Mr. Hidalgo. That would be Cul-nin-o my knowledge of
14 Spanish tells me.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. You know more about that than I, sir.

16 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't recall that. Again I must say that
17 this was fourteen years ago and since then, and even before I
18 retired, I went on to other cases and I don't like to --
19 Understand the mentality of the spy, if that is what you want
20 to call me, you compartment your mind and once you finish an
21 operation you botch it up very neatly and shove it away. It
22 is for everyone's good.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Did AMMUG provide any information in
24 reference to a woman named Teresa Proenza Proenza? She was a
25 culture attache in Mexico City.

1 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know. Again I don't recall that.
2 Remember, my main objective with AMMUG was knowing of my
3 opposite numbers in Cuba.

4 Mr. Goldsmith. Is your testimony today that AMMUG never
5 gave you personally any information concerning Oswald?

6 Mr. Hidalgo. That is my recollection. The name does not
7 pop up to me. That is one of the reports that I wrote down.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. Did Mr. -- AMMUG's I guess case
9 officer -- ever discuss with you the information that AMMUG
10 provided regarding Oswald?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. No. Mr. was my direct superior.
12 I reported to Mr. . Mr. did not report to me.
13 Do you follow?

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Yes.

15 Mr. Hidalgo. So if I heard anything from him it was not
16 my privy to know about it. He would review the information I
17 got from AMMUG and if he ever came down to me and said, "What
18 about this?" it would be something that I had written and he
19 did not understand.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. And he never asked you to question AMMUG
21 about Oswald?

22 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

23 Mr. Goldsmith. Were your interrogation sessions with
24 AMMUG tape recorded?

25 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir. Mine were not. Remember, I was

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1 with him. Sometimes he would talk for ten, twelve, fourteen,
2 sixteen hours. In the middle of the night he would get up and
3 could not sleep. He would be worried about his family in Cuba.
4 We would talk and play cards. All the time talking and cooper-
5 ating. I never bothered tape recording it, it was quite open.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Were any of the sessions with AMMUG tape
7 recorded not necessarily involving you?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. They may have, I don't know.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever receive information about a
10 DGI case officer in Mexico City named Ernesto?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. Ernesto. Yes, I believe I remember that
12 name but right now I could not tell you what it was. I prob-
13 ably reported on it.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Pardon me?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. I probably reported on it then because that
16 was something I was interested in. Any identification of DGI
17 agents I would immediately take down.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. Is this information that you would have
19 obtained from AMMUG or from someone else?

20 Mr. Hidalgo. From AMMUG probably or -- now wait. I
21 handled other defectors, remember.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. I understand.

23 Mr. Hidalgo. But the name Ernesto I believe would have
24 been from AMMUG.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Can you give the committee any more details

1 about this particular officer?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir, unless you have something to refresh
3 my memory.

4 Mr. Goldsmith. I am told that this individual whom I
5 referred to as Ernesto may have been an individual named Andres
6 Armona who also may have been a red headed Cuban. Is that
7 familiar?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. That name sounds familiar. Of course there
9 are red headed Cubans so if that was said it would have
10 impressed me that much but the name sounds like I might have
11 heard it. Again you have access to any of my records at the
12 time and if it is there I would admit it but right now I cannot
13 recall the information.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you know Win Scott?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. I know him as I know Mr. Berk. Not partic-
16 ularly. Mr. Scott, here I am.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Who was Win Scott?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. He was a member of the affair there of the
19 operations. I don't know what his other input was.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Was he station chief of the Mexico City
21 station?

22 Mr. Hidalgo. I seem to remember that he was but I never
23 -- I am sorry.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. How many personal contacts, if any, did
25 you have with Mr. Scott?

1 Mr. Hidalgo. None.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Were you involved in any operations for
3 Mr. Scott?

4 Mr. Hidalgo. I may have been involved in operations that
5 he also was involved in, I don't know, but I was never directly
6 responsible to Mr. Scott as such. None of my trips to Mexico
7 were strictly TDYs and for one purpose only and so I was not
8 privy to any operation that he had there.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know an individual by the name of
10 David Phillips?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Who was David Phillips?

13 Mr. Hidalgo. David Phillips is a personal friend of mine
14 and an intelligence officer, an excellent intelligence officer
15 of the agency.

16 Mr. Goldsmith. How did you get to know Mr. Phillips?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. In day-to-day operations at Washington.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you know Mr. Phillips when he was in
19 Mexico City?

20 Mr. Hidalgo. I never saw him in Mexico City. I knew he
21 was in Mexico City but I never met with him there.

22 Mr. Goldsmith. Were you involved in any operations with
23 Mr. Phillips at any time?

24 Mr. Hidalgo. I was involved in operations in which Mr.
25 Phillips was involved in but never together.

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1 Mr. Goldsmith. How often have you had personal contact
2 with Mr. Phillips?

3 Mr. Hidalgo. Then?

4 Mr. Goldsmith. Through the years.

5 Mr. Hidalgo. Through the years after he retired I called
6 him. We belonged to the same association. We are both retired
7 and I talk to him frequently.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. Was your relationship with him both a
9 business relationship as well as a personal friendship rela-
10 tionship?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes. More or actually friendship than
12 operational.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you know an individual named Maurice
14 Bishop?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. Again Mr. Bishop was in the organization but
16 I had no personal day-to-day open relationship with him.
17 Phillips, yes; Bishop, no. I knew them both and Phillips I
18 knew. I know Mr. Berk is over there and I know Mr. Hardway is
19 over there but I have no relationships with them. Do you
20 follow me?

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Yes. I believe you indicated that with
22 Mr. Phillips your relationship was both business and personal.

23 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Now with Mr. Bishop -- was this Mr. Maurice
25 Bishop?

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1 Mr. Hidalgo. I believe that was the name, yes. His was
2 strictly a business knowledge.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. How long has it been since you have seen
4 Maurice Bishop?

5 Mr. Hidalgo. Less than twice or three times in the hall
6 way somewhere.

7 Mr. Goldsmith. When was the last time that you saw him?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. It would have to be before 1970 somewhere.

9 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know what position, if any, he held
10 with the agency?

11 Mr. Hildago. He held a position higher than mine but I
12 did not know, you know.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever have any personal contact
14 with Mr. Bishop?

15 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't believe so. If it was, it was not
16 that important that it would impress itself upon me.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Did he work in the Western Hemisphere
18 Division?

19 Mr. Hidalgo. I think so but again I am not sure of all
20 the details.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know any other individuals who
22 were familiar with Mr. Bishop who have known him?

23 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know. Perhaps Mr. [], perhaps
24 Dave Phillips.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Was Mr. Bishop's office located at CIA

1 headquarters in Langley?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. I believe so.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall which floor his office was
4 located on?

5 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether Mr. Bishop ever went
7 by any other name?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir, I have no knowledge of any of his
9 other names.

10 Mr. Goldsmith. Would you make your best effort, please,
11 to describe Mr. Bishop's fiscal description? What did he look
12 like?

13 Mr. Hidalgo. I could not even make a mental image of
14 Mr. Bishop right now.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. Approximately how old is he today?

16 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know. This must seem strange to
17 you, it really must, I know but, you see -- How can I say it?
18 The relationship of one agent to another is a thing that you
19 try your best not to -- not to know.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Was Mr. Bishop an administrator or a case
21 officer?

22 Mr. Hidalgo. I would say his position was higher than
23 mine. A little honcho against a chief.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Where did you generally see him on those
25 occasions when you did see him?

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Mr. Hidalgo. I imagine in the agency perhaps.

Mr. Goldsmith. For example, in the hallway, in the cafeteria?

Mr. Hidalgo. In the hallways or cafeteria. Never certainly at my desk.

Mr. Goldsmith. What is your best recollection as to the number of times that you saw him?

Mr. Hidalgo. A couple of times, two or three.

Mr. Goldsmith. When you saw this individual and you knew that he was Maurice Bishop, how did you know that the gentleman that you had in mind was not that Maurice Bishop?

Mr. Hidalgo. Someone might have said, "That is Maurice Bishop," and it was different from Dave Phillips or [] guys that I know.

Mr. Goldsmith. Did you know a man named Firgault?

Mr. Hidalgo. I don't think so.

Mr. Goldsmith. At this time I would like to show you an exhibit, I believe it is JFK Exhibit No. 104, and I would like to ask you to examine that and to tell the committee whether you recognize that individual.

Mr. Hidalgo. I don't believe so, sir.

Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you. You can put that aside now. Did you know an individual named Antonio Veciana Blanc?

Mr. Hidalgo. Now this name sounds familiar to me in my Cuban operation, I don't know where. It may have been with

1 the brigade or he may have been an agent of an agent. I knew
2 literally hundreds -- hundreds -- of the Cubans.

3 Mr. Goldsmith. Did Mr. Bishop have any involvement in the
4 affairs of the brigade? By brigade I am not referring to the
5 Bay of Pigs operation.

6 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know if he did. I was not aware of
7 everyone. He might very well have been involved in this thing.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. Getting back to Mr. Bishop, when was the
9 first time you saw him to the best of your memory?

10 Mr. Hidalgo. I would think about the early Sixties.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Were you ever formally introduced to him?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. No.

13 Mr. Goldsmith. And from the time that you first saw him
14 in the early Sixties until the last time that you saw him,
15 which I believe you said would have been about 1969 or 1970,
16 approximately how many times did you actually see this man?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. It would not have been that late because in
18 late 1964 or early 1965 I left the Cuban operations and went to
19 another country of interest, so in those times, say 1960 to
20 1964, it might have been two or three times.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Is it fair to say in light of your last
22 comment that once you stopped working in Cuban operations, you
23 left that particular area, you no longer saw Mr. Bishop?

24 Mr. Hidalgo. If I did, it would be just in the hallway
25 and I don't think so. I was now in another part of the agency

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1 taking TDY trips for that part of the agency.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. So by that, in other words that would
3 irfer that Mr. Bishop worked in the area of Cuban operations?

4 Mr. Hidalgo. No, not necessarily. He might have worked
5 in -- you know, there are so many operations. He might have
6 been transferred to somewhere else, I don't know. You see,
7 where in the case of [] and Dave Phillips I continued
8 to seek them out and say, "How are you, Dave? How are you
9 doing?" Go to lunch, play some poker. In the case of Bishop
10 this is not so.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever see Mr. Bishop at the JM
12 wave station?

13 Mr. Hidalgo. No. In the JM wave station you have to
14 understand that I was assigned to the JM wave station but I
15 stayed away from the JM wave station. It sounds peculiar. I
16 was assigned there and yet I was not there. I was assigned
17 there shortly after I went there and met my own cover and did
18 my own operations. So when I did go to the JM wave station,
19 it was just a matter of just quickly in and get it over with.

20 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you ever see Mr. Bishop's picture in
21 the newspaper?

22 Mr. Hidalgo. I may have, I don't recall. There was a
23 time there after early 1964 where you could have asked me to
24 identify my children and I could not have done it. That is
25 when I had my second stroke and that was when I left JM wave.

1 I was evacuated actually out.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. But you are certain nevertheless that
3 during your stay at the agency on at least two or three occa-
4 sions you saw an individual whom you knew to be Maurice Bishop?

5 Mr. Hidalgo. Whom someone told me, "That is Maurice
6 Bishop."

7 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions
8 at this time. I may have a few follow-up questions. If the
9 committee has questions, I will yield at this time.

10 Mr. Preyer. All right.

11 Mr. Fithian.

12 Mr. Fithian. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 Do you get any feel for whether other people that you get
14 to see just casually at the CIA are -- I don't know how to put
15 this -- higher or lower on the pecking order?

16 Mr. Hidalgo. Pardon?

17 Mr. Fithian. Do you have a feel for an individual that
18 you see casually over at the agency as to whether or not they
19 are higher up in the structure?

20 Mr. Hidalgo. A feeling?

21 Mr. Fithian. Yes.

22 Mr. Hidalgo. You mean when I was working at the agency
23 if I saw someone --

24 Mr. Fithian. You didn't see them, you were not working
25 with them every day, you just see them from time to time, do

1 you get a feel, whether by eating lunch or what they are doing,
2 as to whether they are above you in rank or equal or whatever?

3 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, I think I know what you are trying to
4 say. Essentially, yes, sir.

5 Mr. Fithian. Do you have an impression that Bishop was
6 higher?

7 Mr. Hidalgo. I would say he was a higher grade than I was.

8 Mr. Fithian. Higher grade than you were?

9 Mr. Hidalgo. Of course I was not a very high grade.

10 Mr. Fithian. That is the only question I had, Mr. Chair-
11 man.

12 Mr. Preyer. Was your office in Langley in the CIA head-
13 quarters?

14 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes. At the time I was in headquarters.
15 That is where I went.

16 Mr. Preyer. And Dave Phillips' office was also there?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

18 Mr. Preyer. And you would go out occasionally on missions
19 such as going down to Mexico?

20 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

21 Mr. Preyer. But you would be working for the CIA in
22 Washington and not for Win Scott, the chief of the Mexican
23 station?

24 Mr. Hidalgo. That is correct, sir. When I went to
25 someone's area on an operation, they would be advised that I

1 would be coming into the country. Meeting with them, no. If
2 I need any contact, if I got into trouble and needed something,
3 I would always be able to call and they would recognize the
4 name and they would assist me if they could.

5 Mr. Preyer. You say you knew Dave Phillips well but you
6 didn't have an operation relationship with him, you didn't work
7 with him on operations.

8 Mr. Hidalgo. That is correct, sir. It is just, you know,
9 two guys that met and happened to like each other.

10 Mr. Preyer. Was his office near yours?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. It was on the same floor.

12 Mr. Preyer. Was he higher in rank or lower in rank than
13 you?

14 Mr. Hidalgo. Higher, sir.

15 Mr. Preyer. And Maurice Bishop's office was not on
16 the same floor as yours in Langley?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know. It was a very large floor
18 and there were many people on the floor that had nothing to
19 do with what I had to do.

20 Mr. Preyer. Did Bishop have some relationship in his
21 appearance and age to Phillips?

22 Mr. Hidalgo. Again I cannot recall Bishop's appearance
23 at all.

24 Mr. Preyer. Do you recall more on the name when people
25 said, "That is Maurice Bishop"?

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1 Mr. Hidalgo. Maurice Bishop, right. It might have been ³⁹
2 a secretary or a fellow case officer or someone.

3 Mr. Preyer. All right. Thank you.

4 Well, let me just ask one other question. Staff might
5 answer this. Who is AMMUG? Do we know him by any other name?

6 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir. At one time I could give you his
7 name, etc. Right now I can only give you his first name. His
8 first name I believe was Vladimer and the name I used confi-
9 dentially was Laddie.

10 Mr. Preyer. He was a Cuban defector?

11 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

12 Mr. Preyer. Who was connected with Cuban intelligence?

13 Mr. Hidalgo. Yes, sir.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Chairman, I state for the record the
15 committee does have this individual's true name but just for
16 sake of security we are not referring to it.

17 Mr. Preyer. All right.

18 Mr. Hidalgo. I appreciate that.

19 Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you.

20 Mr. Preyer. Thank you. I have no further questions.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Chairman, I have just a few more
22 questions if I may proceed. How much time do I have?

23 Mr. Preyer. Mr. Fithian and I will have to leave you in
24 a couple of minutes here. Will it take you more than a few
25 minutes or so? We have got to go and vote.

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1 Mr. Goldsmith. Yes.

2 Mr. Preyer. The committee will stand in recess for about
3 ten minutes.

4 (Whereupon, at 4:11 p.m., the committee recessed until
5 4:24 p.m.)

6 Mr. Preyer. The committee will resume its session.

7 Mr. Goldsmith.

8 Mr. Goldsmith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to
9 be brief.

10 I have a few more questions for you, Mr. Hidalgo.

11 Do you know whether David Phillips knew Maurice Bishop?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know that. He may have known him
13 but I don't know that.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Is it possible that the name Maurice
15 Bishop may have been an alias?

16 Mr. Hidalgo. Very possible.

17 Mr. Goldsmith. Why do you say that?

18 Mr. Hidalgo. Because others in the agency thought that
19 they knew me by X name and they called me by that name when in
20 fact it was not.

21 Mr. Goldsmith. So the use of aliases even at agency
22 headquarters was not at all uncommon, is that true, to your
23 knowledge?

24 Mr. Hidalgo. That is true.

25 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether Maurice Bishop was

1 ever involved in the Bay of Pigs operation?

2 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know. See, my part of the Bay of
3 Pigs operation was a specific area and even my immediate
4 superior during the Bay of Pigs did not tell me everything
5 about it and I didn't tell him everything that I was doing.

6 Mr. Goldsmith. Did you know William Harvey?

7 Mr. Hidalgo. That name I definitely know from hearing
8 it. Let's see. Again I could not give you a physical
9 description of the man but I don't think that is Maurice.
10 That is a true name. I do remember that, yes. Harvey was
11 mixed up in the Cuban operation definitely.

12 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you recall ever working for him?

13 Mr. Hidalgo. Not directly. Not directly.

14 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether the agency had any
15 penetration agents in the Cuban embassy in Mexico City in
16 1963?

17 Mr. Hidalgo. I don't know.

18 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you know whether the agency, other
19 than the information it received from AMO, ever received any
20 other information from Cuban sources concerning Lee Harvey
21 Oswald?

22 Mr. Hidalgo. No, I don't know who might have heard, if
23 anyone.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. Have you ever been in the Cuban embassy
25 in Mexico City?

1 Mr. Hidalgo. No, sir.

2 Mr. Goldsmith. Do you have any knowledge of any political
3 assassination plots on the part of the CIA during the period
4 1960 through 1964?

5 Mr. Hidalgo. Let me answer this way. I have no -- as my
6 attorney knows, I wanted to make a statement to this effect at
7 the start, if I may make it now. I now nor never knew of any
8 assassination plot by anyone in the United States Government,
9 in any agency of the United States Government, any knowledge of
10 any assassination plot.

11 Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Hidalgo, I asked you earlier whether
12 you knew what the term Domestic Exploitation Section referred
13 to and I believe your testimony was that you did not.

14 Mr. Hidalgo. That is right. It didn't make sense to me.

15 Mr. Goldsmith. Is it possible that the Domestic Exploi-
16 tation Section is a section that would have contacted persons
17 in the United States -- for example, relatives of people who
18 lived overseas -- in order to recruit those persons or to have
19 those persons assist the agency to recruit persons living
20 overseas to assist the agency?

21 Mr. Hidalgo. That might have been the domestic operations
22 but exploitation just does not make sense. You are right, it
23 certainly could be something like that.

24 Mr. Goldsmith. I have no further questions at this time.
25 Thank you, Mr. Hidalgo.

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1 Mr. Fithian. I have a question, Mr. Chairman.

2 On that last question, Mr. Hidalgo, that seems like such
3 a logical arrangement, whatever the name of it. As far as you
4 know is that --

5 Mr. Hidalgo. It is a logical thing. It is a very logical
6 sense.

7 Mr. Fithian. Do you know if the agency engages in that?

8 Mr. Hidalgo. I would imagine they are. It is a form of
9 intelligence. Why not?

10 Mr. Fithian. But do you of your personal knowledge know
11 that is or is not done?

12 Mr. Hidalgo. I have done it myself, yes, sir.

13 Mr. Fithian. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 Mr. Preyer. Thank you, Mr. Hidalgo. We appreciate your
15 being here today.

16 Under our rules when a witness completes his testimony if
17 ~~he~~ or his counsel would care to make a statement for five
18 minutes or less he is entitled to do so. If there is anything
19 further you would like to say at this time or add by way of
20 explanation of any questions you may have answered, the
21 committee will be glad to hear from you.

22 Mr. Hidalgo. I can only say, sir, that I came here a
23 little afraid that I would have to name people whose lives
24 would have been in jeopardy if that name became known and to
25 talk about things that would have placed me under possible

1 criminal charges if I had done so. I am glad and I appreciate
2 very much the way it has been handled and that such subjects
3 have not come up. I thank you very much for the way you have
4 conducted it.

5 Mr. Preyer. Thank you, Mr. Hidalgo. We appreciate your
6 cooperation with the committee.

7 At this time the committee stands recessed.

8 (Whereupon, at 4:30 p.m., the subcommittee recessed.)
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