

406 pages

Assassination Records Review Board Final Determination Notification

AGENCY : HSCA
 RECORD NUMBER : 180-10110-10484
 RECORD SERIES : REPORT ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S TRIP TO MEXICO CITY
 AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

Central Intelligence Agency
 has no Objection to Release

October 7, 1996

Date: *2003 as sanitized*

Status of Document: Postponed in Part

Number of releases of previously postponed information: 437

Reason for Board Action: The Review Board's decision was premised on several factors including: (a) the significant historical interest in the document in question; (b) the absence of evidence that the release of the information would cause harm to the United States or to any individual.

Number of Postponements: *301*

The redactions in this document have been postponed under the provisions set forth in The John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992. The postponement dates and the substitute language for the redactions contained within this document are as follows:

All redactions with the substitute language: "CIA A," "CIA B," "CIA C1," "CIA C2", "CIA D," "CIA E," "CIA F," and "CIA G" are CIA Employees. They have been postponed under Section 6(1)(A) of the JFK Act until 05/1997, at which time the Review Board will reconsider the postponements based on additional evidence provided by the Central Intelligence Agency.

All redactions with the substitute language: "Describes technical operation," "Describes organization," "Describes group," "Describes operation," "Describes people," "CIA Senior Official," "Describes location," "Describes individuals," "Describes technical operation and individuals," "No suitable substitute language," or "Describes meeting" have been postponed under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act until 10/2017, when they have been scheduled for release.

All redactions with the substitute language "Crypt," "Crypts," "Source," "None," "Identifying Information," or "Name" have been postponed under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act until 08/2006, when they have been scheduled for release. (There are two exceptions to this. The first appears on page 13 of the footnotes where two "crypt" redactions have been postponed under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act until 10/2017, when they have been scheduled for release. The second appears on page 57 of the footnotes where four "source" redactions have been postponed under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act until 12/1996, at which time the Review Board will reconsider the postponements based on additional evidence provided by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The sole redaction without substitute language (p. 44) might properly be postponed under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK act. The Review Board will reconsider this postponement by 09/1997.

Board Review Completed: 08/06/96

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10110-10484
RECORDS SERIES : REPORT ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S TRIP TO MEXICO CITY
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : HSCA
FROM :
TO :
TITLE : LEE HARVEY OSWALD THE CIA AND MEXICO CITY
DATE : 00/00/78
PAGES : 393
SUBJECTS : CIA

OSWALD, LEE, POST-RUSSIAN PERIOD, TRAVEL, TRIP TO
MEXICO

CIA, METHODOLOGY, PHOTOSURVEILLANCE

SOVIET EMBASSY

CUBAN EMBASSY

DOCUMENT TYPE : REPORT
CLASSIFICATION : UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTIONS : 3
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED WITH DELETIONS
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/06/96
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : Redacted and declassified.

Box 1.

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Pages 512 - 520 | 9 Contents |
| 116 - 300 | 185 Text |
| 301 - 350 | 50 Notes |
| 351 - 471* | 121 Text & docs listed |
| 472 - 511** | |

* includes 4 missing pages

** 4 pages missing - 484, 5, 6, & 7

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT

as sanitized

Paul J. Miller
21 Aug 1993



COPY

Reproduced in the National Archives

DECLASSIFIED

AUTHORITY *CIA Memo + stamp*

of August 21, 1993

BY *H. Chalmers* DATE *8/21/93*

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
THE CIA AND MEXICO CITY

Part I & Part II

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT

as sanitized

Frank S. Row

21 Aug 1993



COPY

Reproduced at the National Archives

DECLASSIFIED

AUTHORITY *CIA Memo +*
stamp of August 24, 1993
BY *Chal* DATE *8/21/93*

OSWALD, THE CIA, AND MEXICO CITY

**WRITTEN BY DAN HARDWAY AND EDWIN LOPEZ
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS**

*THIS VERSION HAS GONE THROUGH THREE ROUNDS OF DECLASSIFICATION.
IT WAS ORIGINALLY RELEASED BY THE CIA IN 1993.*

*THE REMAINING REDACTIONS WERE REVIEWED BY THE JOHN F. KENNEDY
ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD IN NOVEMBER, 1995 AND AGAIN IN
OCTOBER, 1996.*

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy # 2 of 3

(This form is to be used for material extracted
from CIA—controlled documents.)

014975

OUTLINE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE CIA AND MEXICO CITY.

Part I.

I. Introduction.

- A. Issues Addressed. (p. 1.)
- B. Differences Between the Warren Commission Investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald's Activities in Mexico City and the House Select Committee on Assassinations' Investigation. (p. 3.)
- C. Conclusions. (p. 5.)
- D. Structure and Relevancy. (p. 10.)

II. Central Intelligence Agency Surveillance Operations in Mexico City in September and October 1963.

- A. Photographic Surveillance Operations Aimed at the Cuban Diplomatic Compound. (p. 12.)
 - 1. Introduction. (p. 12.)
 - 2. Physical Positioning of Surveillance Bases and Targets. (p. 12.)
 - 3. Objectives of Operation and Scope of Coverage Provided. (p. 13.)
 - 4. Disposition of Production from the Operation. (p. ?)
- B. Photographic Surveillance Operations Aimed at the Soviet Diplomatic Compound. (p. 31.)
 - 1. Introduction. (p. 31.)
 - 2. Physical Positioning of Surveillance Bases and Targets. (p. 31.)
 - 3. Objectives of Operation and Scope of Coverage Provided. (p. 33.)
 - 4. Procedure and Timing Involved in Processing Production from the Operation. (p. 45.)
 - 5. Responsibility for the Operation. (p. 47.)
 - 6. Coordination of Photographic and Electronic Surveillance Operations. (p. 52.)
- C. Electronic Surveillance of Telephones at the Soviet and Cuban Diplomatic Compounds in 1963. (p. 53.)
 - 1. Existence. (p. 53.)
 - 2. Responsibility. (p. 53.)
 - a. General. (p. 53.)
 - b. Analysis and Reporting of Information Obtained. (p. 54.)
 - 3. Telephone Lines Covered. (p. 56.)

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

512

20-1063

Classified by derivative



Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

(This form is to be used for material extracted
from CIA—controlled documents.)

Outline: Page Two.

4. Production from Operation. (p. 58.)
 - a. Types. (p. 59.)
 - b. Handling Procedures. (p. 59.)
 - (1) Resuma. (p. 59.)
 - (2) Cuban Tapes. (p. 60.)
 - (3) Soviet Tapes. (p. 61.)
 - (a) General Handling. (p. 61.)
 - (b) Retention and Reuse of Tapes. (p. 62.)
 - (c) English Language Conversations. (p. 64.)
 - (d) Handling by Tarasoffs. (p. 66.)
 - (e) Expedited Procedure for English Language Conversations or other Conversations of Special Interest. (p. 67.)
 - (f) Handling in the Station. (p. 70.)
 - (g) Format of Transcripts. (p. 71.)
 - c. Voice Comparisons. (p. 72.)

III. Information About Lee Harvey Oswald's Stay in Mexico that was Known by the CIA Mexico City Station Prior to the Assassination of John Kennedy and the Sources of that Information.

- A. Information that was Available. (p. 72.)
 1. Information Available to the Mexico City Station from Electronic Surveillance Aimed at the Soviet Consulate and Military Attache's Office. (p. 73.)
 - a. September 27, 1963, Friday. (p. 73.)
 - b. September 28, 1963, Saturday. (p. 76.)
 - c. October 1, 1963, Tuesday. (p. 78.)
 - d. October 3, 1963, Thursday. (p. 79.)
 2. Information Available to the Mexico City CIA Station from CIA Headquarters. (p. 80.)
 3. Information Available to the Mexico City Station from Electronic Surveillance Aimed at the Cuban Diplomatic Compound. (p. 81.)
 4. Information Available to the Mexico City Station from Photographic Surveillance of the Soviet and Cuban Diplomatic Compounds. (p. 81.)
 5. Possibility that Additional Information from the Electronic Surveillance on the Soviet Compound was Available to the Mexico City Station. (p. 82.)

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

2001064

Classified by derivation.

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~

(This form is to be used for material extracted from CIA—controlled documents.)

Outline: Page Three.

6. Possibility that the CIA Photosurveillance Obtained a Photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald. (p. 90.)
 - a. Missing Materials. (p. 91.)
 - b. Likelihood that the Photosurveillance Operation would have Missed Oswald. (p. 91.)
 - c. Reports of the Existence of a Photograph. (p. 93.)
 - (1) Phillip Agee Allegation. (p. 93.)
 - (2) Daniel Stanley Watson Allegation. (p. 97.)
 - (3) Joseph Burkholder Smith Allegation. (p. 99.)
 - (4) Joseph Piccolo, Jr. Allegation. (p. 102.)
 - (5) Statements of [CIA D] (p. 105.)
 - d. HSCA Investigation of the Possibility that the Mexico City Photosurveillance Operation Produced a Photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald. (p. 107.)
 - (1) Introduction. (p. 107.)
 - (2) Investigation of the Allegations. (p. 108.)
- B. Information Connected to Lee Harvey Oswald by the Mexico City Station Prior to the Assassination.
 1. Introduction. (p. 115.)
 2. Information Available from the Soviet Wiretaps that was Connected with or involved Lee Harvey Oswald. (p. 116.)
 3. When were the intercepted Conversations Linked to Lee Harvey Oswald? (p. 120.)
 4. The Photograph of the Mexico Mystery Man. (p. 122.)
- IV. Reconstruction of the CIA Mexico City Station an Headquarters Actions Prior to the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.
 - A. Introduction--CIA Interest in and Liaison with FBI Regarding American Cityizens in Contact with Soviet Bloc Embassies in Mexico City. (p. 123.)
 - B. Narrative of Mexico City Station Actions Prior to the Assassination. (p. 124.)
- V. Mexico City Station Reporting of Information Concerning Oswald After the Assassination.
 - A. Reporting of Information Concerning the Photograph

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~

314

Classified by derivation: _____

(This form is to be used for material extracted from CIA—controlled documents.)

Outline: Page Four.

of the Mexico Mystery Man. (p. 178.)

- B. Reporting of Information Concerning Lee Harvey Oswald from the Electronic Intercept Operation Aimed at the Soviet Embassy. (p. 180.)

PART II

C. Silvia Duran. (p. 184.)

VI. Information Not Available at the Time of the Warren Commission Investigation.

- A. Silvia Tirado (née Duran). (p. 191.)
 - 1. House Select Committee on Assassinations 6/6/78 Interview of Silvia Tirado. (p. 191.)
 - 2. CIA Information Not Available at the Time of the Warren Commission Investigation. (p. 194.)
 - a. LIRING/3 Allegation. (p. 194.)
 - b. Possibility that Silvia Duran was an Agent for either American, Mexican or Cuban Intelligence. (p. 197.)
 - (1) Was Silvia Duran an Agent, Asset, or Source for Mexican or American Intelligence? (p. 197.)
 - (2) Was Silvia Duran a Cuban Intelligence Agent? (p. 201.)
- B. The Cubans. (p. 202.)
 - 1. Eusebio Azcue Lopez. (p. 202.)
 - 2. Alfredo Mirabal Diaz. (p. 205.)
- C. Elena Garro de Paz. (p. 206.)
 - 1. Elena's Story as Reported October 5, 1964. (p. 206.)
 - 2. October 12, 1964, CIA Memo for the Record. (p. 208.)
 - 3. November 24, 1964, CIA Informant Report. (p. 209.)
 - 4. November 24, 1964, Elena Garro Meeting with Mexico City Legal Attache Officers. (p. 210.)

~~TOP SECRET~~

(This form is to be used for material extracted
from CIA—controlled documents.)

Outline: Page Five.

5. Charles Thomas Meeting with Elena Garro on December 10, 1965. (p.)
6. Charles Thomas' Meeting with Elena Garro on December 25, 1965. (p. 216.)
7. December 27, 1965, Legal Attache Memo to the United States Ambassador re Elena Garro. (p. 221.)
8. CIA Investigation of Elena's Allegation that She Created a Disturbance at the Cuban Embassy on November 23, 1963. (p. 223.)
9. Legal Attache 2/23/66 Memo to the United States Ambassador Regarding Elena Garro's Allegation. (p. 225.)
10. Legal Attache Memo to Winston Scott re Elena's Allegation that She Had Stayed at the Hotel Vermont from the Day After the Assassination Until November 30, 1963. (p. 225.)
11. Charles Thomas' September 30, 1969, Letter to State Department and Legal Attache's Response. (p. 226.)
12. House Select Committee on Assassination's Investigation of Elena Garro's Allegations. (p. 228.)

D. Oscar Contreras Lartigue. (p. 235.)

VII. Analysis of Lee Harvey Oswald's Activities in Mexico City.

A. Introduction. (p. 240.)

B. Did Lee Harvey Oswald or an Imposter Contact the Cuban and Soviet Consulates in Mexico City? (p. 242.)

C. What were Lee Harvey Oswald's Activities in Mexico City? (p. 250.)

D. Was Lee Harvey Oswald Alone While He Travelled to Mexico? (p. 259.)

Appendix I: HSCA Procedural Write-up: Cuba Trip 1. (p. 261.)

Appendix II: HSCA Procedural Write-up: Mexico Trip 1. (p. 265.)

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~

26-1057

516

Classified by derivation: _____

Classification:

~~TOP SECRET~~

(This form is to be used for material extracted
from CIA—controlled documents.)

Outline: Page Six.

Appendix III: HSCA Procedural Write-up: Mexico Trip 2.
(p. 273.)

Appendix IV: HSCA Procedural Write-up: Cuba Trip 2.
(p. 287.)

Appendix V: Biography: Elena Garro de Paz. (p. 297.)

Appendix VI: Glossary of Terms Used in Report. (p. 301.)

Appendix VII: Listing of CIA Documents Cited. (p. 305.)

Classification:

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

36-115-1

317

Classified by derivation

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~

(This form is to be used for material extracted from CIA—controlled documents.)

ADDENDUM TO FOOTNOTE # 614 OF "LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE CIA AND MEXICO CITY."

Some controversy has arisen in regard to the question of whether the tapes existed at the time of the assassination due to a memorandum from J. Edgar Hoover to the head of the Secret Service which said:

The Central Intelligence Agency advised that on October 1, 1963, an extremely sensitive source had reported that an individual identified himself as Lee Oswald, who contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring as to any messages. Special Agents of this Bureau, who have conversed with Oswald in Dallas, Texas, have observed photographs of the individual referred to above and have listened to a recording of his voice. These Special Agents are of the opinion that the above-referred-to individual was not Lee Harvey Oswald.

(Memorandum from Hoover to James J. Rowley, 11/23/63, pp. 4-5.) The HSCA has determined that this statement was probably based on another FBI memorandum which said:

Inasmuch as the Dallas Agents who listened to the tape of the conversation allegedly of Oswald from the Cuban Embassy to the Russian Embassy in Mexico and examined the photographs of the visitor to the Embassy in Mexico and were of the opinion that neither the tape nor the photograph pertained to Oswald, I requested Shanklin to immediately send a photograph of Oswald to our Legal Attache.

(Memorandum from Belmont to Tolson, 11/23/63, p. 1. Mr. Belmont was reporting the results of a conversation with the Special Agent in Charge in Dallas, Gordon Shanklin, that occurred at 11:50 A.M.)

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~

518

28-1960

Classified by derivation

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~

(This form is to be used for material extracted from CIA—controlled documents.)

ADDENDUM: Page Two.

Later that same day SAC Shanklin informed the Director that the tape of Oswald's voice had been erased: "It should be noted that the actual tape from which this transcript was made has been erased." (Teletype from SAC Dallas to Director, # 232220, 7:30 P.M. CST, 11/23/63. Emphasis in the original.)

The confusion about whether or not there was a tape apparently continued for several days after the SAC in Dallas informed the Director that such a tape did not exist. On 11/25/63 the FBI Legat in Mexico City sent a Cablegram to the director which said:

There appears to be some confusion in that no tapes were taken to Dallas but only typewritten transcripts supplied by CIA, the tapes not being available because they had been erased.

(Cablegram # 182 & 183, p. 2.)

The FBI was asked to explain the paragraph from the Hoover memorandum quoted above. It responded:

The paragraph appearing on pages 4 and 5 of the letterhead memorandum, which is quoted in your (FBI) request of March 17, 1978, contains some incorrect information regarding a tape recording of the voice of an individual who identified himself as Lee Oswald.

Retrievable information contained in files of the FBI indicates that this Bureau received information derived from transcripts of tape recordings furnished by another government agency which conducts intelligence type inves-

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~

519

46-1070

Classified by derivation: _____

~~TOP SECRET~~
Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~

(This form is to be used for material extracted from CIA—controlled documents.)

ADDENDUM: Page Three.

tigations. The transcripts indicated that on September 28, 1963, and October 1, 1963, the voice of an individual identifying himself as Lee Oswald was recorded by the other government agency conducting intelligence type investigations. Additionally, this government agency provided the FBI with photographs of an individual who appeared to be an American; these photographs being taken by said agency on October 1, 1963.

It is noted that the FBI never received the actual tape recordings from which the transcripts were derived, as the tapes were erased by the other government agency providing the transcripts....

As a result, no FBI employee ever listened to a tape recording purporting to contain Lee Harvey Oswald's voice as no tape was ever provided to this Bureau.

(JFK Classified Document # 131.) No FBI agent interviewed by the Committee recalled listening to any tape recording purporting to contain a conversation involving Oswald.

20-1071

~~TOP SECRET~~
Classification: _____

520

Classified by derivation: _____