

U.S. HAILS MEXICO FOR OSWALD DATA

Expects to Get All the Facts
When Inquiry Is Finished

By PETER KIHSS

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MEXICO CITY, Dec. 3—United States Ambassador Thomas C. Mann praised the Mexican Government today for what he called its spontaneous and cooperative inquiry into the activities of Lee H. Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy.

The Mexican investigation has so far indicated that Oswald came here alone last September in an unsuccessful quest for Cuban and Soviet visas. There was some speculation that Oswald might have spent so much time here because he might have misunderstood a Soviet rebuff and had false hopes.

United States authorities have consistently declined to discuss the investigation here, but Ambassador Mann issued a statement that said:

"The Government of Mexico spontaneously launched its own investigation, in accordance with its own procedures in an effort to uncover all the facts concerning Oswald's visit to Mexico which might throw light upon the assassination of President Kennedy.

"I am confident that when its investigation is completed, all of the facts will be made available to my Government. I am glad to say that the cooperation of the Mexican Government has been excellent in all respects and that I appreciate its help."

Possibly Hoped in Vain

A visit to the Soviet Embassy showed today that its consulate hours were only from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Tuesdays and Fridays. Oswald arrived in this city by bus on Friday, Sept. 27. That same afternoon he vainly sought a visa from the Cuban Consulate for a transit trip to the Soviet Union.

The impression official investigators have hitherto given has been that Oswald sought the Soviet visa the next day, Saturday, Sept. 28. Soviet Ambassador Semion T. Bazarov was on his way to Acapulco today, and the Soviet version was unavailable.

But there was some speculation that Oswald might have shown up at the Soviet compound more than once, perhaps on Friday and Saturday, and perhaps have come back again on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

One suggestion was that he

might have naively believed that a telegram would be sent to Moscow about his case and an early reply would be forthcoming. Thus he might have stayed here until disillusioned.

He finally took a bus for Nuevo Laredo on Wednesday, Oct. 2. The Mexican Ministry of Interior said again today that Soviet officials had finally told Oswald there might be a delay as long as four months in acting on his visa application.

Mexican Federal District police were stationed today outside both the Cuban and Soviet Embassies, which are four blocks apart. They could note any visitors.

When he visited the Cuban consulate, Oswald had talked to Mrs. Silvia Tirado de Duran, a clerk of Mexican nationality, who gave him a visa application form. After that, he talked to the consul general, Eusebio Azcue.

Oswald was understood to have arrived alone, and to have asked for a transit visa for travel to the Soviet Union only for himself, without requesting visas for his Russian wife or children.

He said he was a friend of Cuba and of the Soviet Union. The consul general replied that Cuban routine required that Oswald show a visa from the country of destination first, no matter what that destination.

Oswald reportedly became violent in language to the point at which the consul was said to have told him that if

it were up to the consul, he would not grant a visa to Oswald.

As Oswald left, he slammed the consulate door. It is understood he did not return to the Cuban office.

His visit led to the questioning of Mrs. Duran by Mexican Federal police on the ground that she had failed to register as an employe of the Cuban Embassy and had not asked permission of the Mexican Government to take such a job.

This in turn led the Cuban Foreign Ministry to send a protest about her alleged mistreatment, which Mexico rejected. Cuban Ambassador Joaquin Hernandez Armas told Mexican newsmen at the airport here yesterday that the incident was closed.

The ambassador said the attitude of two or three persons—meaning police officers—could not reflect the feeling of the people or hurt friendly relations between the two countries.

Honor Guard Captain Dies

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (UPI)—Capt. Michael D. Groves, who helped arrange military honors for President Kennedy's funeral, died tonight while dining with his family. He was 27 years old. Captain Groves directed honor guards at the White House, Capitol Rotunda, Arlington Cemetery and the Caisson detachment during the President's funeral.