

#4 RC 272

Nelson Delgado  
Entry 44  
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Page : 1

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM

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*Delgado -  
Oswald as  
"marksman"*

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OSWALD, LEE, MARKSMANSHIP

BONEFEDE, DOM, ARTICLE IN THE "NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE"

DELGADO, NELSON

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OF THE DIRECTOR



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

June 18, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
The President's Commission  
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.  
Washington, D. C.

REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE

ON 12/6/94 dat

 RELEASE IN FULL RELEASE IN PART TOTAL DENIAL

Dear Mr. Rankin:

The "New York Herald Tribune" for June 14, 1964, contained an article by Dom Bonafede entitled "What Oswald's Marine Buddy Told Probers." The article reports that Nelson Delgado, a Specialist Fourth Class now serving in the Army at a New Jersey missile site, told a Staff Counsel of the President's Commission that the FBI "badgered" him for what he believed was an attempt to distort the nature of his testimony. The article further reported that in essence, Delgado's testimony recapitulated, with clarification, what he had earlier told the FBI - plus the contention the Agents sought to deflate his story, particularly his statements that he taught Oswald to speak adequate Spanish and that Oswald was not an expert marksman.

A copy of the article which appeared in the June 14, 1964, issue of the "New York Herald Tribune" is enclosed.

For the information of the Commission, this Bureau interviewed Nelson Delgado on four occasions: December 10, 1963; December 13, 1963; January 15, 1964; and February 6, 1964. Results of each of these interviews have been furnished to the Commission.

During our first interview with Nelson Delgado on December 10, 1963, Delgado made a number of statements which did not conform with data we received from other sources concerning Oswald. He alleged that Oswald was a poor shot with a rifle and he indicated he suspected Oswald cheated in obtaining a qualifying score with the rifle. He also alleged that Oswald was in correspondence with the Cuban Consulate in Los Angeles in 1959 and he indicated that he and Oswald used to talk of going to Russia via Mexico and Cuba, similar to the manner in which the "two mathematicians who defected" went to Russia when they defected (presumably Bernon F. Mitchell and William H. Martin, former

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

employees of the National Security Agency, who defected to Russia in the Summer of 1960 and whose defections were publicized by the Soviets in September, 1960). Delgado also alleged that during his acquaintanceship with Oswald he taught Oswald the Spanish language and that in a short time Oswald was able to speak and understand Spanish excellently.

As our investigation continued, it became quite evident Delgado was exaggerating his acquaintanceship with Oswald, was lying to us on various points and was fabricating certain incidents relating to Oswald's contacts with the Cubans. We reinterviewed Delgado on December 13, 1963; January 15, 1964; and February 6, 1964, in an effort to pin him down on his statements and resolve the various allegations originated by him. We learned that Delgado was not proficient in the Spanish language and, consequently was not in a position to have taught Oswald such language. Delgado admitted that his remarks indicating that Oswald was a poor shot with a rifle had no basis in fact, and that Oswald obviously attained a qualifying score with a rifle and could not have cheated in attaining such score. Delgado also admitted that he never observed Oswald visit the Cuban Consulate in Los Angeles in 1959 and he indicated he never saw any written material which Oswald received from the Cuban Consulate.

Delgado was confronted by the interviewing Agents regarding his statements that he and Oswald discussed going to Russia via Cuba and Mexico in a manner similar to the two Americans, Mitchell and Martin, who allegedly followed this route. It was pointed out to Delgado that Mitchell and Martin had not defected to Russia until the Summer of 1960, approximately one year after he had terminated his association with Lee Harvey Oswald. Delgado then admitted that he was in error on that point. He added that his recollection of his conversation with Oswald in this particular matter was extremely vague.

This letter is being forwarded to the Commission for record purposes. The FBI in no way attempted to influence Delgado to change his story regarding his knowledge of or association with Lee Harvey Oswald. Instead, our contacts with him were for the purpose of attempting to obtain the true facts in the matter. It was evident to the interviewing Agents that Delgado was exaggerating the extent of his knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald and was making numerous statements that had no basis in fact.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*

Enclosure

*NOTE: We should have been more specific in our questioning of Delgado. He was not a good shot. He was not a rifleman. He was not a marksman. He was not a sharpshooter. He was not a sniper. He was not a soldier. He was not a warrior. He was not a fighter. He was not a hero. He was not a patriot. He was not a brave man. He was not a man of honor. He was not a man of integrity. He was not a man of principle. He was not a man of conscience. He was not a man of faith. He was not a man of hope. He was not a man of love. He was not a man of kindness. He was not a man of compassion. He was not a man of mercy. He was not a man of forgiveness. He was not a man of peace. He was not a man of justice. He was not a man of truth. He was not a man of honesty. He was not a man of integrity. He was not a man of honor. He was not a man of principle. He was not a man of conscience. He was not a man of faith. He was not a man of hope. He was not a man of love. He was not a man of kindness. He was not a man of compassion. He was not a man of mercy. He was not a man of forgiveness. He was not a man of peace. He was not a man of justice. He was not a man of truth. He was not a man of honesty.*

*FBI B.S.*