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Discovery of OSWALD in Mexico City Briefing Purposes Circa 10 Dec 63

(Exact Date Unknown)

On I October 1963, the CIA Mexico City Station intercepted a telephone call Lee OSWALD made from an unknown location in Mexico City to the Soviet Embassy there, using his own name. Speaking broken Russian and using his true name, OSWALD was talking to the Embassy guard, OBYEDKOV, who often enswers the phone. OSWALD said he had visited the Embassy the previous Saturday (28 September 1963) and spoken to a consul whose name he had forgotten, and who had promised to send a telegram for him to Washington. He wanted to know if there were "anything new." The guard said if the consul was dark it was (Valeriy Vladimirovich) KOSTIKOV. The guard checked with someone else and said that the message had gone out but no answer had been received. He then hung up.

This piece of information was produced from

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By 9 October, the OSWAID telephone conversation of 1 October

had been transcribed and a summary of it cabled to Washington.

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as the possible assassin and asking for traces. The message was passed on at once by the Chief CI, Mr. Angleton, to Mr. Birch O'Real of his Special Investigations Unit. Mrs. Betty Egeter of this Unit immediately recognized the name of Lee CEMAID and went for his file. At the same time, Mrs. Bustos of the Mexico Desk, who had written our first feport on OSHALD on 10 October recognized the name from radio reports and went after the same file. Mr. Reichbardt, Mexico Desk Chief, who was home on leave, heard the news and phoned in a reminder that we had something on OSWALD. While we were preparing a cable to Mexico City asking them for more information on CSVALD, Mexico City itself heard CSVALD's name on the Voice of America broadcast and cabled to us a reminder of the information the Station hea sent in on him.

For the next week, a dozen people in the Agency were continuously engaged in bandling incoming messages on the case, writing reports to be cabled out, tracing the names mentioned, and researching files. Within a week, 27 cabled reports had gone out to the White House, the State Department, and the FAI. Many cables of guidance and inquiry had been sent to

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our overseas stations, and many pieces of information on OSWALD and his wife had been received back. The Mexico City Station researched telephone tops very thoroughly and came up with several more conversations probably involving OSWALD, but not actually mentioning this name; these connected him also to the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City. Several Mexicans were arrested and questioned about his activities, giving a good picture of what he was really up to. Many conferences were held with the FBI liaison officer who asked us for certain actions and passed us information from the FBI investigation. One the minus side, a hest of fabricators, some anonymous, bombarded oversees embassies with spurious tips on the case, most of which we investigated. All of these are soon discredited, but they are still coming in.

During this phase of our work, we served primarily in support of the FEI, which was entrusted by the President with the major responsibility for the investigation. The FEI was too busy to supply us with much of its own information, but answers were given to specific questions we posed to assist our investigation. The Department of State did photograph its entire

Soviet Consular file on OSWALD which had been publicly given by the Soviet
Ambassador to the Secretary of State. On Friday 6 December 1963, Deputy
Attorney General Katzenbach invited us to review the FBI's comprehensive
report on the case to make sure our sources were not jeoperaized and that
our information was correctly quoted. We found the report highly
interesting and no threat to our security, as long as it was read only
by the authorized investizative bodies.

After the first few days, the CIA investigation of the case was bandled at Headquarters by a small staff usually charged with investigation and analysis of the most important security cases, and by a few officers and analysts of our Western Hexisphere Division.

## Reports From Mexico

As soon as our Mexico City Station realized that Lee OSMALD was the prime suspect, it began re-escening all the written telephone transcripts in its files covering the Soviet Embassy for the pertinent period. The actual tapes were also reviewed, but many of them had been erased after the

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discovered and their contents cabled to Washington, where they were discovered to the White House, the State Department, the Federal Eureau of Investigation.

OSWALD's name was not actually mentioned in these additional calls, but similarity of speech and various plain points of content link them to him. These calls are summarized below in chronological order.

They cover the period from 27 September 1963 to 3 October 1963, the whole span of OSWALD's visit to Maxico City as later learned from travel records.

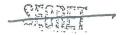
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27 September - A man phones the Soviet Hilitary Attache and says he needs a visa to go to Odessa. Man answering says he should call 15-60-55 and ask for the Consul. Caller asks for the address, and it is given to him. (There is no special reason for linking this call to OSWALD.)

27 September, 4:05 FM - The Cuban Consulate phoned the Soviet Consulate. Silvia Duran, Mexican national clerk of the Cuban Consulate talked to a Soviet efficial, saying that a male American citizen was at the Cuban Consulate asking for a transit visa to pass through Cuba on his way

to the Soviet Union. She wants to know to whom he talked in the Soviet Consulate and who told him he would have no problem about it. If a Soviet visa is assured, the Cuben Consulate can great him a transit visa and simply notify Cuban imalgration authorities. The Soviet first asks her to wait, and then she has to explain the whole thing over again to another Soviet official, who takes her telephone number and promises to call her Silvia DURAN concludes this call by telling the Soviet she herself has moved and gives her new address for the Soviet Enhancy bulletin. He asks her to phone (Sergey Benenovich) KUKHARSHKO (Second Secretary who puts out the Bulletin) to give him the new sadress and he asks who the Cuban Cultural Attache is. Silvia DURAH gives the Attache's name as Teresa PROSEZA and miss ber telephone number.

27 September, 4:26 PM - A Soviet official calls Silvia DURAN back and tells her that the "American" had been to see the Soviet's and shown them a letter from the Soviet Consulate in Washington indicating that he had been waiting for visas for himself and his wife to go to the Soviet Union for a long time, but that no enswer had come from Washington, adding



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Consul, and that they had taken his address. The Soviet raplies that he know that. The American then says, somewhat enignatically: "I did not know it then. I went to the Cuban Embassy to ask them for my address because they have it." The Soviet invites him to stop by again and give them the address, and the American agrees to do so. (In this conversation, the American was speaking hardly recognizable Russian.)

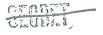
As far as our records show, OSWALD did not phone the Soviet or Cuban Embassics again until Thesday 1 October 1963. The intervening days were a Sunday and a Monday. The contents of his later calls seem to show be did not contect the Soviets on those days.

Loctober, 10:31 AM - A men calls the Boviet Military Attache in broken Russian and says he had been at their place the previous Saturday

(28 September) and talked to their Consul. They had said they would send a telegram to Washington, and he wanted to know if there were anything new.

The Soviets ask him to call another phone number and gives him 15-50-55, saying to ask for a Consul.

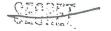
I October 10:45 AM - (This is the phone call in which OSWALD



used his true name and which was therefore cabled to Washington on 9 October 1963.) Lea OCHALD called the Soviet Esbassy and amnounced his own name, saying he had visited them the previous Saturday and spoken with a Consul. They had said they would send a telegram to Washington, and he wanted to know if there were anything new. He did not remember the name of the Consul. The Soviet, who was Embassy guard OBYEDROV replied: "MOSTIKOV; be is dark." OSHALD replied: "Yes, my name is OSWALD." The Soviet excused himself for a minute and then said they badn't received enything yet. OSWALD asked if they bean't done anything and the guard replied they had sent a request but that nothing had been received as yet." OSWALD started to say: "And what ... ", but the Soviet hung up.

3 October 1963 - A man speaking broken Spanish at first and then English phoned the Soviet Military Attache and asked about a visa. The Attache's office referred him to the consulate, giving the number 15-60-55.

The caller wrote it down. The attache official shrugged off enother



ended. (There is no special reason to tie this in with OSWALD, who is now known to have re-entered the US at Laredo the same day.)

President LOFEZ Matoos after 22 November. The next day, 23 November, he called it to the attention of our Chief of Station, who was already working feverishly on the case. Similarly, the Mexicans noticed the involvement of Cuban Consular employee Silvia DUBAN, a Mexican national.

Our Station suggested that she be arrested and interrogated about OSWALD.

The Mexican authorities had the same idea and she and her humband were arrested on 23 Hovember 1963, in the midst of a party at their home. All

Silvia's bushend, Horacio DURAN Navarro, an industrial decigner, said under police interrogation that when OSWALD was named as the assassin

the guests were soon released but Silvia and her husband were questioned

and released on 25 November 1963.

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bed waited on OSWALD when he came to apply for a Cuben transit visa;
he remembered she had said she dealt with the Soviet Consulate as well
to find out whether he had a Soviet visa. Horacio DURAN recalled his wife
had said OSWALD became engry and she had to call out the Cuben Consul,
Eusebio AZCUE, to quiet him.

Silvin DERAN told the same story. She was a leftist sympathizer with Wuba and had worked for the Mexican-Cuban Institute of Cultural Relations.

She recalled OSWALD well, described him accurately, related how he had wanted a Cuban visa but could not get one without the assurance of a Soviet visa, and remembered his tiff with the Consul. She admitted she had phoned the Soviet Erbassy about him.

The sum total of the statements of Silvia DURAN and her husband was to confirm that OSWALD was in Mexico to get a Cuban visa so he could wait in Cuba for his Seviet visa. The Soviet Consular file passed to the State Department in Washington by the Soviet Embassy confirms a long exchange between first, Mrs. Marina OSWALD, and later her busband, and the Soviet

about "money," and the Fresident apparently wanted to know whether the Mexicans thought the Cubans bad paid OSWALD money. HERNAMEZ insisted the Mexicans had not offered Silvia DURAN money, and DORTICOS gave us trying to put across his point. Fresident DORTICOS instructed HERNAMEZ to keep on questioning Silvia DURAN and to phone him back.

At 7:39 FM that evening Ambassador HERNANDEZ did call Fresident WWW DORTICOS back, saying he had questioned "that person" again and she has nothing new to add. Fresident DORTICOS returns to the issue of whether "they had threatened her so that she would make a statement that the Consulate had given money to the manifold that American." But Ambassador HERMANDEZ persists in misunderstanding DORTICOS, masses in the negative, and says: "Absolutely nothing was given to her." DORTICOS seems to give up, and the conversation dies out after a few more general remarks.

We do not know for sure what made Fresident DORTICOS press for information about Cuben money passed to OSWALD, but rusors were current in Mexico and even, we understand, in the USA, that OSWALD had returned from Mexico

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City with about \$5,000. Ferhaps DORTICOS was trying to learn whether the Mexican police believed that the Cubans had financed OSWALD. In any event, the Cuban Government sent the Mexicans a stiff note of protest over the arrest and detention of Silvia DURAN, but the Mexicans rejected the note.

Consulate in Washington about their requests for permission to return to the Soviet Union. OSWALD was still writing to the Soviets in Washington about this as late as 9 November 1963.

Eilvis DURAH was errested again on 27 Hovember and half until 29 Hovember. She told essentially the same story over again.

Well-placed sources within the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City stated that when Silvia DERAH was released from police arrest the first time on 25 Hovember, she was quite pleased with herself. She told her colleagues the same story set out above, adding only that the Mexican police had threatened to extracite her to the United States to confront Lee Harvey OSWALD. The reaction within the Cuban Embassy to the news of President Kennedy's death was sombre. To date, there is now credible information in CIA files which would appear to link Lee OSWALD with the Cuban government or the Cuban intelligence service.

The whole question of whether Lee OSMALD had any secret connection with the Soviets or Cubans in Mexico cannot yet be answered, but certain parts of the evidence indicate to the contrary. Silvin DEMAN and the

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Soviet Consular officials spoke of his as a man with "no friends in Cuha" on the one band, and as a man not "known" in the Soviet Embassy, on the other. The very openness of his visits and the phone calls speak against any secret role. His trip to Mexico was not itself a secret act; he traveled under his real name or a close variant of it, lived openly in Mexican hotels, and corresponded with the Soviets through the open mails about it when he got back to the US. His trip to Mexico was apparently make necessary because it was the nearest Cuban diplomatic installation where he could apply for a visa.

A perplexing aspect of OSKALD's trafficking with the Cubens and Soviets in Mexico City is his assertion in his call of 26 September that he did not know his address when he was at the Soviet Consulate and came to the Cuben Consulate because they had it. It is hard to explain just what he meant, but it should be remembered that he was talking in Russian, a language he could not manage, and that when he came to Mexico he was in the process of moving from New Orleans to Texas. He may not have memorized his new address in Texas, whatever it was, and may not have been able to



ley hands on it when he was in the Soviet Consulate that day. Perhaps he had earlier given the address to Silvia DUHAH and wanted to look it up on her card.

A particularly sinister aspect of OSWALD's dealings with the Soviets in Mexico City arises from the liklihood that he met with Soviet Consul Valeriy Visiimirovich KOSTIKOV. In his 1 October phone call to the Soviet Embessy, the guard OBYEDKOV suggests that the Consul OSWALD had talked to was MOSTIKOV if he was dark. OSWALD seems to agree with this, but the identification is very casual. In his 9 November letter to the Soviet Consulate in Washington, CSWALD gives the name of the man he dealt with as "KOETIK," but there is no person of that exact name in the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City. KOSTIKOV is accredited as a Consular Attache and soes ectually so a lot of consular work; but he is believed to be a Soviet ECB officer, and it is believed that he works for Department 13 of the MGB, the Department charged with sabotage and assassinations. suspicion that KOSTIKOV is a KGB officer arose from his work habits, and his association with other KGB officers. It was hardened when it was

found that he handled a Soviet agent who was trained to do sabotage work and that he turned this agent over to another KGB officer who is definitely known to work for the 13th Department. It is generally true in KGB work that sabotage agents are handled only by 13 Department officers.

Enbassy guard Ivan Ivanovich OBIEDEOV is bimself believed to be a KGB man from previous assignments as a bodyguard and surmillant. But unless some direct evidence of Equiet complicity is discovered, it is most likely that OSWALD's dealing with KOB men OBYEDKOV and KOSTIKOV was nothing more than a griz coincidence, a coincidence due in part to the Soviet bebit of placing intelligence men in the Embassies in positions where they receive a large portion of the visitors and phone calls. All of the five consular officers in the Seviet Embassy are known or suspected intelligence officers. Certainly if OSWALD had been a Soviet agent in training for an assassination assignment or even for sabotage work, the Soviets would have stopped him from making open visits and phone calls to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico after he tried it a couple of times. Our

experience in Kerico, studying the Soviet intelligence service at close range, indicates that they do make some mistakes and are sometimes insecure in their methods, but that they do not persist in such glaring errors.

Some insight on the Cuban attitude toward the arrest of Silvia DURAN and the involvement of the Cuben Consulate in the OSWALD case can be gained from two intercepted phone calls made between Cuban President Osvelde DORTICOS and Cuban Ambassador to Mexico Joaquin HERMANDEZ Armas on 26 Eovember 1963, the day efter Silvia BURAN was released from her first errest. At 09:40 AM that morning, President DORTICOS phoned the Ambassacor free Havana and asked him several questions about a report which the Ambassador had sent in on the errest of Silvis DURAN and the Lee OSWALD case. The whole conversation is consistent with the theory that OSWALD merely wanted a visa. The Ambassador did mention the altercation which OSWALD had with Consul AZCAE, and he says that Hexican pelice bruised Silvie DURAN's erms a little shaking her to impress her with the importance of their questions. They had asked her if she bad been intimate with OSKALD and she had denied it. Fresident DORTICOS twice asked Ambassedor