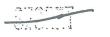
We Discover Lee OSWALD in Mexico City

CIA did produce one very significant piece of information on Lee OSWALD before he shot President Kennedy. On 1 October 1963, our Mexico City Station intercepted a telephone call Lee OSWALD made from someplace 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 answers 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 The guard said if the consul was dark it was (Valeriy Vladmirovich) The guard checked with someone else and said that the message had gone out but no enswer had been received. He then hung up.

This piece of information was produced from

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which are transcribed and reviewed by our small staff in Mexico City. By 9 October, the OSWALD telephone conversation of 1 October had been transcribed and a summary of it cabled to Washington. The name Lee OSWALD meant nothing special to our Mexico City Station, but in their report they did judge him to be an American male.

The cabled report was received in Washington on 9 October and checked in our files, where it was immediately noted that the Lee OSWALD phoning the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City was probably the Lee OSWALD who had defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 and returned to the UEA in 1962. On 10 October 1963, the day after the report from Mexico City, CIA Headquarters sent out a cabled report about Lee OSWALD's phone call to the Soviet Embassy; the report went to the FBI, the Department of State (because OSWALD was a US citizen), and to the Mavy Department (because he was a former Marine.) The cabled report to these agencies highlighted the

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Liklihood that the Lee OSWALD mentioned was probably the former defector.

A copy of this same cable was delivered by hand to the Immigration and

Naturalization Service, with which we have no cable link. The same day

a long cable went out to Mexico City informing our Station of the back
ground of defector Lee OSWALD and asking for more information. Our Station

was instructed to pass its information on the phone call to the Mexico

City offices of the FBI, the Embassy, the Naval Attache, and the Immigra
tion and Naturalization Service. This was done.

In its original report of 9 October, Mexico City had said it had a photograph of an apparent American male leaving the Soviet Embassy on 1 October 1963, the day OSWALD phone there. A very sensitive operation in Mexico City provides us with secretly taken photographs of many but not all visitors to the Soviet Embassy there, taken with telephoto lenses. Accordingly, we cabled the Mavy Department on 24 October 1963 asking for a photograph of Lee OSWALD from his Marine Corps days so we could compare photos. We had not received this photograph by 22 November 1963, but in any event, it turned out that the man photographed outside the Soviet

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several photo obserntion points in Mexico City had ever taken an identifiable picture of Lee OSWALD.

Our Mexico City Station very often produces information like this on US citizens contacting Seviet bloc embassies in Mexico City. Frequently the information we get is extremely incriminating, and on one or two occasions we have even been able to apprehend and return to the USA American military personnel who are attempting to defect. In all such cases, our Headquarters desk requests and obtains the special permission of the Deputy Director for Flans to pass the derogatory information on a US citizen to other government agencies. Derogatory information on Americans is not treated routinely; in each case the DDF or his Assistant personally scrutinize the information, make sure it is credible, and decide whether and to whom it will be passed. Only in absolute emergencies is the Kexico City Station enthorized to pass such information directly to the FBI office in the U.S. Embassy.

At this writing (13 December 1963) we do not know what action the FBI



FRI may have made local checks through Mexican authorities to see if

Lee OSWALD was actually in Mexico City on 1 October. Indeed, later in
vestigation has confirmed all the details of his trip, where he stayed,

and what he did. To avoid crossing lines with the FBI, our Mexico Station

undertook no local investigation of its own. As we now know, OSWALD left

Mexico on 3 October and was no longer there when our report was put out.

22 November 1963

When word of the shooting of President Kennedy reached the offices of our operating divisions and staffs on the afternoon of Friday 22 Hovenber 1963, transistor radios were turned on everywhere to follow the tragedy. When the name of Lee OSWALD was heard, the effect was electric.

A phone message from the FBI came at about the same time, naming OSWALD

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'Meal of his Special Investigations Unit. Mrs. Betty Egeter of this Unit immediately recognized the name of Lee OCHALD and went for his file. At the same time, Mrs. Bustos of the Mexico Desk, who had written our first report on OSHALD on 10 October recognized the name from radio reports and went after the same file. Kr. Reichhardt, 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 CSWALD's name on the Voice of America broadcast and cabled to us a reminder of the information the Station hea sont in on him.

For the next week, a dozen people in the Agency were continuously engaged in handling 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 FMI. 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 antivities, 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 sinus side, a host of fabricators, and the form payor and are a some anonymous, bembarded 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 &i& photograph its entire

file on OSWALD and pass them to us, end the FRI gave us a copy of the 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 jeopardized 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.

handled at Headquarters by a small staff usually charged with investigation and analysis of the most important security cases, and by a few officers and enalysts of our Western Hemisphere Division.

## Reports From Mexico

As soon as our Mexico City Station realized that Lee OSHALD was the prize suspect, it began re-sereening 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 bad been erased after the

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 Mexico City as later learned from travel records.

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 Buran, 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 grant him a transit visa and simply notify Cuban immigration authorities. The Soviet first asks her to wait, and then she has to explain the whole thing ower 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 Embassy bullatin. He asks her to phone (Sergey Benenovich) KUKHARSHKO (Second Secretary who puts out the Bulletin) to give him the new address and he asks who the Cuban Cultural Attache is. Silvia DURAH gives the Attache's name as Teresa PROERZA and mids 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

shown the Soviets a Letter showing he was a member of an organization in fever of Cuba and had claimed that the Cubans could not give him a visa without a Bussian visa. Silvia DUFAN rejoins that they have the same problem; the "American" is still at the Consulate; they cannot give him a transit viza unless he is assured of a Soviet visa, even though he just wants to go to Cuba to whit there for his Soviet visa to be granted. He does not know anyone in Cuba. They end the conversation on this note.

Silvia DUFAN says that she will note this on his "card," and the Soviet concludes by saying, "Besides he is not known." He excuses hisself for the inconvenience be has caused and Silvia DUFAN says it is all right.

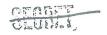
28 September - Silvia DURAH calls the Soviet Embassy from the Cuben Consulate. She says that she has the American with her again. The Soviet answering asks her to wait. When another Soviet takes up the phone, Silvia puts the American on. The American tries to talk Russian to the Soviet who enswers in English. The American eks him to speak Eussian. The American says that he had been in the Soviet Embassy and spoken with the

Consul, and that they had taken his address. The Soviet raplica 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 for as our records show, OSWALD did not phone the Soviet or Cuban Embassies again until Tuesday 1 October 1963. The intervening days were a Sunday and a Monday. The contents of his later calls seem to show be did not contact the Soviets on those days.

1 October, 10:31 AM - A men calls the Boviet Military Attache in broken Russian and says he had been at pheir 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.

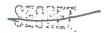
I October 10:45 AM - (This is the phone call in which OSWALD



used his true name and which was therefore cabled to Washington on 9 October 1963.) Les OSHALD called the Soviet Esbassy and amounced 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 enything new. He did not remember the news of the Consul. The Soviet, who was Exbassy guard OBYEDROV replied: "KOSTIKOV; be is dark." OSHALD replied: "Yes, my name is OSWALD." The Soviet excused himself for a minute and then said they bean't received enything yet. OSWALD asked if they hear'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 the this in with OSWALD, who is now known to have re-entered the US at Laredo the same day.)

The information on Lee OSWALD also came to the attention of
President LOFEZ Mateos 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 Nextcan 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 November 1963, in the midst of a party at their home. All
the guests were soon released but Silvia and her humband were questioned
and released on 25 November 1963.

Silvia's husband, Horacio DURAH Navarro, an industrial designer, said under police interrogation that when OSWALD was named as the assassin

bad 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 husband, and the Soviet

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.

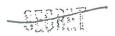
Eilvia DURAH was errested again on 27 Hovember and half until 29 Hovember. She told essentially the same story over again.

Well-placed sources within the Cuban Embassy in Werico City stated
that when Silvia DERAH was released from police arrest the first time on
25 Hovember, she was quite pleased with berself. She told her colleagues
the same story set out above, adding only that the Mexican police had
threatened to extradite 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 not 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 bad any secret connection with the Soviets or Cubans in Maxico cannot yet be answered, but certain parts of the evidence indicate to the contrary. Silvin DEMAN and the

con 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 Mexicon 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 OSEALD's trafficking with the Cubana and Soviets in Mexico City is his assertion in his call of 28 September that he did not know his address when he was at the Soviet Consulate and came to the Cuban Consulate because they had it. It is hard to explain just what he meant, but it should be remembered that he was talking in Mussian, 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 DUFAH and wanted to look it up on her card.

A particularly simister aspect of OSWALD's dealings with the Soviets in Kexico City arises from the liklihood that he met with Soviet Consul Valeriy Vladimirovich EOSTIKOV. In his 1 October phone call to the Soviet Embassy, the guard ORYEDKOV suggests that the Consul OSWALD had talked to was KOSTIKOV if he was tark. 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 "MOSTIN," but there is no person of that exect name in the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City. KOSTIKOV is accredited as a Consular Attache and focs actually do a lot of consular work; but he is believed to be a Soviet KOB officer, and it is believed that he works for Department 13 of the NCB, the Department charged with sabotage and assassinations. suspicion that KOSTIKOV is a KOB officer arose from his work hebits, and his association with other KGB officers. It was hardened when it was

found that he handled a Soviet agent 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.

Embassy guard Ivan Ivanovich OBIEDEOV is biuself believed to be a KGB man from previous assignments as a bodyguard and sureillant. 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 grim 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 Seviet 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 Kexico, 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 Cuben attitude toward the errest 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 Osveldo DORTICOS and Cuban Ambassador to Mexico Josephin HERMANDEE Armos on 26 Bovember 1963, the day after Silvia BURAN was released from her first errest. At 09:40 AM that morning, President DORTICOS phoned the Ambassacor from Havana and asked him several questions about a report which the Ambassador had sent in on the errest of Silvia 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 AZCIE, and he says that Hexican pelice bruised Silvie DURAE's arms 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 Ambassador

about "money," and the President 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. President DORTICOS instructed HERNAMEZ to Keep on questioning Silvia DURAN and to phone him back.

At 7:39 FM that evening Ambassader HERNAEDEZ did call Fresident

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 Ambassader

HERMANDEZ persists in misunderstanding DORTICOS, answers 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 President DORTICOS press for information about Cuban money passed to OSWALD, but rusors were current in Mexico and even, we understand, in the USA, that OSWALD had returned from Mexico

City with about \$5,000. Ferhams 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.