

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Commission No. 905

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

May 4, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Letter Mexico

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

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Dear Mr. Rankin:

There are enclosed two copies each of memoranda dated April 21, April 22 and April 23, 1964, concerning the travel of Lee Harvey Oswald to Mexico.

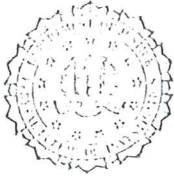
In connection with Oswald's possible expenditures during the period September 25, 1963, through October 3, 1963, we have determined that the cost of one-way bus transportation via both the Continental Trailways and the Greyhound bus lines on September 25, 1963, from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Houston, Texas, was \$9.70 and from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Laredo, Texas, was \$20.25. While Oswald's mode of transportation between New Orleans and Houston on September 25, 1963, is unknown, it has been established that he boarded a Continental Trailways bus at Houston on the morning of September 26, 1963, on which he traveled to Laredo, Texas. As set forth in the report in the Oswald case of Special Agent Edwin Dalrymple dated February 20, 1964, at Houston, Texas, one one-way ticket for transportation from Houston, Texas, to Laredo, Texas, was sold by the ticket agent on duty at the Continental Trailways bus terminal in Houston, Texas, between 10:30 p.m. on September 25, 1963, and 6:30 a.m. on September 26, 1963. The price of this ticket was \$10.60.

Our investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald's activity between September 25, 1963, and October 3, 1963, is continuing and results will be furnished to you as received.

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By Dept. of Justice
 letter, Nov. 3, 1970

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 END By js Date 16 DEC 1970



Commission No. 905c

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
April 23, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS OF LEE
HARVEY OSWALD IN MEXICO CITY

On November 26, 1963, a confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that, following a check of the registration records of numerous middle and lower class hotels in the downtown area of Mexico City (also known as Mexico, D. F., the "D. F." referring to "Distrito Federal" - Federal District), he had ascertained that on September 27, 1963, LEE HARVEY OSWALD had registered at the Hotel del Comercio, located at Calle (Street) Bernardino de Sahagun No. 19 and approximately eight blocks from the commercial heart of the Mexican capital. The records disclosed that OSWALD was registered as the occupant of room No. 18 until October 1, 1963, and was deleted from the hotel guest list on October 2, 1963.

According to source, there were only three employees at the hotel, and some of them were able to recognize OSWALD's photograph as having been a guest at that establishment but could recall virtually no information concerning the circumstances relating thereto.

OSWALD'S REGISTRATION AT HOTEL

Photocopies of the registration records of the Hotel del Comercio, Calle Bernardino de Sahagun No. 19, Mexico, D. F., as made available by Lic. RAFAEL HERNANDEZ OCHA, Assistant Chief of the Mexican Department of Immigration, reflect that on September 27, 1963, OSWALD registered at that hotel as "LEE, HARVEY OSWALD, USA, Texas, PHOTO, US citizen" and was assigned room No. 18.

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By Dept. of Justice
letter, Nov. 3, 1970

HRD by jjh Date 1-6-80

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Group 1

~~Excluded from Automatic
Downgrading and Declassification~~

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The owner and manager of the hotel, GUILLERMO GARCIA LUNA, explained on March 3, 1964, that upon arrival a guest is required to register in his own handwriting; however, as long as he remains at the hotel thereafter, the name is transferred to the registration list for subsequent days by the manager or his assistant.

EXAMINATION OF HANDWRITING ON HOTEL REGISTER BY FBI LABORATORY

On December 11, 1963, a photocopy of the above-described page of the Hotel del Comercio registration book was submitted to the FBI Laboratory for examination of the "LEE, HARVEY OSWALD" signature appearing thereon.

In a laboratory report dated December 18, 1963, the FBI Laboratory stated that examination of "Qc333, photocopy of page of registry book of Hotel del Comercio, Calle Sahagun 19, Mexico City, with signatures of guests registering on September 27, 1963, Line 18, bearing signature 'Lee Harvey Oswald'" had been made with the following result:

"It was concluded that the LEE HARVEY OSWALD signature on Line 18 of Qc333 was written by LEE HARVEY OSWALD, whose known writing appears on K4 and K5 in this case."

The information recorded hereinafter was furnished by a confidential source abroad:

IDENTITIES OF PERSONS AT HOTEL DURING SAME PERIOD AS OSWALD

A review of copies of the pages of the Hotel del Comercio registration book for individuals who registered or remained at the hotel from September 26, 1963, through the night of October 1-2, 1963, revealed the following with respect to their names, city and state of origin, room or rooms occupied, and date or dates of occupancy.

Because of the fact that some of the names were abbreviated and others not decipherable, Hotel del Comercio owner, GUILLERMO GARCIA LUNA, assisted in clarifying those names.

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<u>Name and Residence</u>	<u>Room No.</u>	<u>Dates of Occupancy</u>
Sr. MONTOYA Puebla, Puebla	23	October 1, 1963
FRANCISCO GUTIERREZ Puebla, Puebla (Chauffeur)	25	October 1, 1963
FELIPE ESCOBEDO	26	October 1, 1963
ALFONSO GARCIA Monterrey, Nuevo Leon	27	October 1, 1963

INTERVIEW OF MANAGER AND
OTHER PERSONNEL AT HOTEL

GUILLERMO GARCIA LUNA advised on March 3, 1964, that he is the owner and manager of the Hotel del Comercio, which is located approximately five blocks north of the main east-west thoroughfare of Mexico, Paseo de la Reforma, and two blocks east of the principal north-south artery, Avenida Insurgentes. He explained that his hotel caters to commercial travelers, most of whom are Mexican citizens; that it has a total of thirty rooms, most of which are equipped with a private bath; that for a single room the minimum rate, without bath, is 13.00 pesos (\$1.04 U.S.) and the maximum, with bath, is 20.00 pesos (\$1.60 U.S.). He added that the hotel is in the heart of the area of many of the bus terminals in Mexico City and also is only a few blocks from the passenger railroad station.

GARCIA LUNA furnished the following observations concerning the stay of LEE HARVEY OSWALD at the Hotel del Comercio. He received OSWALD and caused him to sign the hotel registration book, which is utilized in place of registration cards. He believed OSWALD's arrival had occurred between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. The guest makes the initial entry in the registration book with data which includes his name, place of origin, occupation, and nationality; thereafter, so long as the guest remains at the hotel, his name and identifying data are transferred to the registration book page for the current date, after he has made payment in

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advance for his room for the ensuing night. Inasmuch as payment is made in advance, no effort is made to obtain an exact home address from the registrant.

The hotel has four floors, and OSWALD was assigned room No. 18 (with bath) on the third floor at a daily rate of 16.00 pesos (\$1.28 U.S.). The rooms on the latter floor are numbered from 18 through 23. The hotel registration book reflects that OSWALD paid for his room on October 1, 1963, which, according to GARCIA LUNA, indicates he was entitled to and probably slept at the hotel the night of October 1-2, 1963, and departed therefrom during the day of October 2, 1963. GARCIA LUNA stated he could not recall the circumstances of OSWALD's departure nor the hour thereof, but merely was judging normal procedure on the basis of information in his record.

GARCIA LUNA advised that he speaks a few words of English and received the impression that OSWALD neither spoke nor understood any Spanish. He had not observed OSWALD in the hotel during the day nor had he ever seen him accompanied by any individual or individuals. He recalled that OSWALD had been carrying a medium-size, brown handbag, which he believed had a zipper and was either of Naugahyde or canvas material. He did not remember that OSWALD had ever worn a coat and believed he usually appeared in a short-sleeved shirt of a knit variety.

Inquiry was made of GARCIA LUNA as to other personnel at the hotel who might recall OSWALD on the basis of having any reason to notice or contact him, and he stated that those persons would be his assistant, SEBASTIAN PEREZ, and the maid who cleans the rooms on the upper two floors, MATILDE GARNICA.

GARCIA LUNA stated that he was acquainted with a few of the guests who were at the hotel during the same period as OSWALD but did not have home addresses for any of them. He mentioned that several of the guests of that period are commercial travelers and return to the hotel from time to time. He agreed to advise the confidential source in the event any of those guests should return to the hotel.

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MATILDE GARNICA, maid at the Hotel del Comercio, advised on March 3, 1964, that she recognized the photographs of OSWALD as being of the young American who had occupied room No. 18 for almost a week during the latter part of last year. She explained that she handles the daily housekeeping duties for the third and fourth floors of the hotel, comprising rooms numbered 18 through 30, and ordinarily arrives at work between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., leaving at 9:00 p.m., upon completion of her working day.

Mrs. GARNICA related that she clearly recalls OSWALD, as few Americans stay at the hotel, and was somewhat intrigued by his presence there. He had very few personal effects, which he carried in what she described as a "small, brown, zippered handbag," which was either of canvas or imitation leather material. She did not believe she had seen OSWALD in the hotel on more than two occasions, the day of his arrival and the following Saturday as he still was in his room when she checked to determine which rooms were available for cleaning. She remembered that when she saw him in the room on the Saturday morning in question he said "good morning" to her in English, and a short time later left the hotel.

She never saw him with any other person and had no conversation with him, having received the impression that he neither spoke nor understood Spanish.

SEBASTIAN PEREZ HERNANDEZ, desk clerk and assistant to the owner of the Hotel del Comercio, advised on March 10, 1964, that he had not conversed with OSWALD but remembered him clearly inasmuch as very few Americans have stayed at the hotel. To the best of his recollection, OSWALD left the hotel each morning and did not return until evening, possibly after PEREZ HERNANDEZ had completed his working day and left the hotel. He stated OSWALD was alone whenever he noticed him at the hotel and usually wore a knit, short-sleeved sport shirt and no coat or jacket.

PEREZ HERNANDEZ advised that since OSWALD paid his rent in advance for the night of October 1, 1963, there would have been little reason for contact with him on the presumed date of his departure, October 2, 1963, and he was unable to

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remember any details in this connection.

On the basis of information that OSWALD probably left Mexico City by bus on the morning of October 2, 1963, PEREZ HERNANDEZ was reinterviewed on April 10, 1964, and he stated it had not occurred to him previously but it was possible that the night watchman, who remains at the reception desk during the night, might have been aware of OSWALD's departure from the hotel. He identified the watchman as PEDRO RODRIGUEZ and stated he could be located at the hotel after 9:00 p.m. or during the early morning hours.

On April 18, 1964, PEDRO RODRIGUEZ LEDESMA advised that he resides at Santa Clara, State of Mexico, and for many years has been the night watchman at the Hotel del Comercio, his working hours being from 9:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. He explained, however, that he often is able to leave the hotel by 8:00 a.m. or earlier if the owner and manager, GUILLERMO GARCIA LUNA, has arrived to relieve him and handle reception duties. With respect to LEE HARVEY OSWALD's stay at the hotel he furnished the following information.

He clearly recalls the young American whom he later identified in his mind as OSWALD and remembers that on the date of the latter's departure from the hotel and on the basis of sign language and the word "taxi," which he interpreted to indicate that OSWALD wanted a taxicab, RODRIGUEZ walked around the corner from the hotel to Orozco y Berra and Bernal Diaz Streets where he obtained a taxicab which had just left a passenger at the "Estrella Blanca" ("White Star") bus terminal. He stated definitely that he did not know the taxi driver and had not known or discussed with the driver or OSWALD the latter's intended destination. He said OSWALD carried his own luggage downstairs and waited in front of the hotel with the luggage until RODRIGUEZ returned with the taxicab.

He believed OSWALD left the hotel between 6:30 and 7:00 a.m., since it was getting light when he went in search of the taxicab. He could not be more precise concerning the time. He believed that OSWALD gave him a small tip of one or two pesos (\$.08 or \$.16 U.S.) for his assistance in calling a taxi. RODRIGUEZ commented that while he had little

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difficulty obtaining a taxi at the early hour, it becomes very difficult to secure taxi transportation between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. because of the heavy traffic at that time.

RODRIGUEZ related that to the best of his recollection OSWALD always arrived at the hotel late at night, "midnight or thereafter," but he never noticed any indication that OSWALD had been drinking. He never observed OSWALD in the company of any person and did not recall him ever using the only telephone at the hotel, which is located at the reception desk.

With the exception of the morning of his departure from the hotel, RODRIGUEZ believed that OSWALD never left the hotel in the mornings prior to the former's completion of his work shift and leaving, which would have been between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. *one time*

On April 22, 1964, inquiry was made of GUILLERMO GARCIA LUNA with respect to the reliability of his watchman, PEDRO RODRIGUEZ LEDESMA, and he stated RODRIGUEZ is "humble but very serious, deeply religious, a family man, and highly reliable." He commented that he did not believe RODRIGUEZ would fabricate or misrepresent information in any way.

OTHER INQUIRIES IN THE AREA OF
THE HOTEL DEL COMERCIO, TAXI
STANDS, AND BUS TERMINALS

On March 4 and again on April 10, 1964, DOLORES RAMIREZ DE BARREIRO advised that she is the owner, manager, and sometimes cook at the small restaurant on Calle Bernardino de Sahagun (no number) immediately adjacent to the Hotel del Comercio. She explained that there is no commercial connection between the hotel and her restaurant, but because of its proximity many hotel guests eat some meals at the restaurant.

Upon viewing photographs of OSWALD, Mrs. BARREIRO affirmed that she remembered him as a young American who had eaten several meals at the restaurant in the late afternoon over a period of approximately one week. She said he appeared

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at the restaurant after the noon rush hour or some time after 2:00 p.m., always alone, and ordered his food by pointing on the menu, apparently with some consideration of costs. He always ate the soup of the day, rice, and either meat or eggs, but always rejected dessert and coffee. She thought this unusual, as the dessert and coffee ordinarily are included in the price of the daily lunch, but he did not appear to understand this and always waved the waitress away if she tried to serve those items. She recalled that he also rejected any efforts to sell him soft drinks, which she described as an important income item in her business. She estimated that OSWALD spent from five to six pesos (\$.40 to \$.48 U.S.) for his meals. She had assumed he was a guest at the hotel but never observed him contact or talk to anyone while at the restaurant.

The information recorded hereinafter was furnished by a second confidential source, who has provided reliable information in the past, on March 24, 1964.

In the area of the Hotel del Comercio at Calle Bernardino de Sahagun No. 19, it was observed that this street is only one block long and has very little business or other activity. A photograph of subject was displayed to GUILLERMO CAMARGO, the owner and operator of a parking lot located directly in front of the Hotel del Comercio, and to RAMON RICO, who operates a cigarette and candy stand at the entrance to the parking lot, without any identification by those individuals.

On that same street, a photograph of OSWALD was displayed to the automobile watchman, JESUS TRIGO, who was unable to recognize OSWALD. A restaurant without a name is located at the corner of Bernardino de Sahagun Street and San Cosme, and the cashier of that establishment was unable to recognize a photograph of OSWALD.

A careful check was made in the area of the Transportes Frontera bus line, as well as the A.D.O. (Autobuses del Oriente - Autobuses of the East) bus line, which is next door, in an effort to locate any individual who might have furnished transportation to Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, to OSWALD between October 1 and 2, 1963.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

~~C. O. N. F. I. D. E. N. T. I. A. L.~~

The Chief of the Municipal Police at Monclova, Commander BONIFACIO CONTRERAS SAMBRANO, advised that no one had been located who had ever heard of RESENDIZ.

REPUTATION OF HOTEL DEL COMERCIO

On April 22, 1964, inquiry was made of GUILLERMO GARCIA LUNA as to his opinion of how OSWALD had selected and appeared at his hotel, and he stated that even though the hotel is three blocks and "around three corners" from the Red Arrow bus terminal, he considers his hotel to have the best general aspect and appearance of any of several in the area; furthermore, it is known by personnel in other hotels that GARCIA LUNA can understand and speak a little English. He also mentioned that his hotel is filled to approximately ninety per cent of capacity at all times because he makes every effort to provide superior accommodations to commercial travelers at competitive prices.

On April 17, 1964, a third confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past and is in a position to be informed with respect to the activities in Mexico of Cubans and individuals of other nationalities who are sympathetic to the Castro revolutionary regime in Cuba, advised that the Hotel del Comercio is not known to him as being frequented by pro-Castro Cubans.

On April 23, 1964, the first confidential source, who is well-acquainted with hotel operations in Mexico City, reported that he knows nothing unfavorable with respect to the character and reputation of GUILLERMO GARCIA LUNA of the Hotel del Comercio and considers the latter to be a reputable establishment, usually frequented by commercial travelers and individuals of modest means.

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F. 1970
Dec 1970

~~C. O. N. F. I. D. E. N. T. I. A. L.~~

James -

1. Book order to
Bl Star

2. for Paul Cover

Awards, honor,
and speaking engagements

for last 3 years

Value:

lets used name when he
registered
Pete of room at Hotel - were
very cheap.

Alan lets was on a tight budget

Key Date:

The way Chris was
pin hole \$41 in