

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Michael Goldsmith

MEMORANDUM FROM: Mark A. Allen

SUBJECT: Mexico City Memorandum #6 : Questions Raised by CIA  
Surveillance of the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico  
City- September 27 to October 2, 1963

DATE: April 3, 1978

During my December visit to the Committee's offices you encouraged me to submit any material which I felt might aid in the staff's investigation. After giving the matter some thought, I concluded that the best way of conveying to the Committee the benefit of my research in the Mexico City area was to prepare a list of questions which were left unanswered by study of available CIA and Warren Commission documents. A compilation of these questions are attached.

I hope to submit some detailed notes on this material following my final examinations in mid-May. Until then, I hope you will find these questions useful in your work.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have concerning this material.

cc: Mr. Dan Hardway

QUESTIONS RAISED BY CIA SURVEILLANCE OF THE CUBAN AND RUSSIAN  
EMBASSIES IN MEXICO CITY-SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 2 1963

I Photographic Surveillance of the Cuban and Russian Embassies

1. Did the CIA obtain any photographs of Oswald in Mexico City?
2. If not, given that Oswald is known to have personally visited the Cuban Embassy twice on Friday, September 27 and once on Saturday, September 28, as well as visiting the Soviet Embassy at least once on September 27 and again on September 28, why was no photograph obtained?
3. Did the CIA photograph everyone going in and out of the Embassies as claimed in Jack Anderson's column "Odd CIA Activity in Dallas" (Washington Post, 5/6/77)? If not, on what basis were photographs taken? Wouldn't the CIA be particularly interested in an American contacting these embassies? On what days and during what hours did the cameras operate?
4. Did the CIA photo surveillance of these two embassies function on weekends? If not, why not in view of the fact that the Agency's telephone intercept operations functioned on the weekend? (See CD 1084d, pgs. 4,5).
5. Aside from the individual depicted in CE 237, did the CIA obtain photographs of any other unidentified individuals visiting the Soviet and Cuban Embassies during Oswald's stay in Mexico City?
6. Oswald is known to have visited the office of the Soviet Military Attache on October 1. (See Coleman-Slawson draft memo of 4/1/64) where is the Attache's office in relation to the Embassy? Did the Agency's photosurveillance cover that area?
7. Both Oswald and the man depicted in CE 237 contacted the Soviet Embassy on October 1, Does the CIA know the time of day of both of these contacts? Does the CIA know the time of Oswald's visit to the office of the Soviet Military Attache?

II CIA Intercepted Conversations

1. Did the CIA intercept any conversations in Mexico City involving Oswald himself?
2. Did the CIA intercept any conversations relating to Oswald's contacts with either the Soviet or Cuban Embassies?
3. Are tape recordings of conversations mentioned in #1 and #2 above still in existence? If not, when and why were they destroyed?
4. Were transcripts prepared of conversations mentioned in #1 and #2 above? If so, are these transcripts still in existence? Were these transcripts turned over to the Warren Commission? If not, did members of the Commission or members of their staff examine them?

What other records were kept concerning the intercepted conversations mentioned in #1 and #2 above?

6. What was the nature of Oswald's 10/1 contact with the Soviet Embassy? Specifically was it a personal contact or a telephone call?

7. Did Oswald use his name when he contacted the Russian Embassy from the Cuban Embassy on September 28? Was Oswald's name mentioned in any other CIA intercepted conversations which concerned his contacts with the Cuban and Russian Embassies?

8. A Washington Post article of 11/26/76 claimed that in a CIA intercepted telephone call to the Soviet Embassy, Oswald offered to make a deal with the Russians. What information does the CIA have concerning this purported incident?

9. CD 1084d, pages 4,5 states "(o)n September 27 an unidentified man was in touch with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City and made inquiries concerning visas for Odessa." Did this contact relate to Oswald? If so, what was the nature of this contact?

10. Shortly after the assassination FBI agents in Dallas listened to a tape recording of a man's voice presumably provided by the CIA. Under what circumstances was this tape recording obtained by the CIA and why was it thought relevant to the Oswald investigation? Did the individual in the tape recording identify himself as Lee Oswald or in any way indicate that he was? Is it the CIA's considered opinion that the recording was of Oswald or of some other individual? If not of Oswald does the CIA have any ideas as to whom the individual on the tape might be? Specifically, could it be the man depicted in CE 237? Does this tape recording presently exist? If not when and why was it destroyed? Was the Warren Commission informed about this tape recording? If so, was it included in a report to the commission? If so, which report?

11. According to a Washington Post article of 11/26/76, Oswald's 10/1 contact with the Soviet Embassy created considerable interest in the CIA Mexico City station. Since the individual in the 10/1 contact said he had contacted the Soviet Embassy the previous Saturday (9/28), why didn't the CIA check its telephone intercepts of that day? (If it had, it would have discovered Oswald's 9/28 call from the Cuban to the Russian Embassy).

12. How were the telephone intercept operation and the photo surveillance set up in relation to each other? Specifically could the individual monitoring the calls contact the person operating the photosurveillance?

13. C.D. 1084(d) first describes a September 28 phone call from the Cuban embassy to the Russian Embassy, where an American is put on the line. The document continues, "On October 1, 1963, the same per-

son (emphasis mine) speaking broken Russian, was in contact with a representative of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City...". According to published reports: 1) The intercepted conversations were destroyed in early October 1963 (W.P., 11/26/76) and 2) The CIA did not learn of Oswald's contacts with the Cuban embassy until after the assassination. (W.R. 777). If the CIA did not relate the September 28th telephone call from the Cuban Embassy to Oswald until after the assassination and if the tape recordings were destroyed several weeks before November 22, how can the CIA tell if this is actually the same person in both conversations?

### III Man Depicted in CE 237

1. Does the CIA know the identity of the man depicted in CE 237?
2. In a 2/12/64 letter from Rankin to McCone the Warren Commission requested that the CIA inform them of the identity of the individual depicted in CE 237, if it were known. What efforts did the CIA make to identify this man?
3. In his book, Appointment in Dallas, Hugh McDonald claims to have seen the man depicted in CE 237 at CIA headquarters in Langley in the office of Herman Kimsey. Did the CIA investigate McDonald's claim? What information does the CIA have concerning this alleged incident?
4. Was the Warren Commission informed that the man depicted in CE 237 had contacted the Soviet Embassy on October 1, the same day as Oswald? If not, why not?
5. As the man depicted in CE 237 was photographed outside the Cuban Embassy on October 15, was Sylvia Duran shown a picture of this individual? Were any of the CIA's confidential sources who confirmed Duran's testimony (See WR 305) shown a picture of the individual in an attempt to identify him?
6. Did the CIA Mexico City Station distribute any photographs of the man depicted in CE237 prior to the assassination? If so, which photos, with whom, and when?
7. CIA item #12 states, "Forwarding soonest copies of (deleted) visitor to SOVEMB 28 Oct (emphasis mine) who could be identical to Oswald." Is the date October 28th correct, or was September 28th intended? Are these photos of the man depicted in CE 237, or of another individual? On November 22, what was the most recent photo the CIA had obtained of the man depicted in CE 237?

### IV Other Sources

1. What was the source of information that Oswald visited the office of the Soviet Military Attache on October 1? Did Oswald use his name in this contact?
2. CD 1216 contains remarks attributed to Soviet Consul Antonovich Yatskov. Who or what was the source for this information?
3. Did any of the CIA's confidential sources (WR 305) personally witness Oswald's contacts with the Soviet or Cuban Embassies?

### Pre-Assassination Communications

1. Why did the October 9 telegram from Mexico to Headquarters as well as the October 10 telegram to other federal agencies contain an erroneous physical description of Oswald? Was the description in these telegrams based on a photograph of the man depicted in CE 237? If not, what was the source of this description?
2. In the October 10 telegram, why was Oswald's name mistakenly given as Lee "Henry" Oswald?
3. Why did it take a week for the CIA Mexico station to inform headquarters of Oswald's October 1 contact?
4. On October 23 CIA Headquarters asked the Navy to provide them with two photos of Oswald "as soon as possible" (SEE CD 631). What prompted this request? Why did the CIA make this request when it already had two wire service photos of Oswald from his defection to Russia? At the time of the assassination the navy had not yet responded to this request. Is such a delay unusual in the CIA's experience?

### VI Miscellaneous

1. According to a 11/13/76 Washington Post article, J. Edgar Hoover was informed that Fidel Castro had made statements to the effect that Oswald had talked of killing President Kennedy during one of his visits to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. (The ultimate source of this article is apparently heavily deleted CD 1359) Does the CIA have any independent corroboration of this report?
2. CE 2568 indicates that the Cuban Embassy was normally closed on Saturdays. Yet Oswald visited there on Saturday, September 28. (See CD 1084d, pg. 5) What is the significance of this?
3. Why did the CIA notify Ambassador Mann about Oswald's visit?
4. Why did the CIA first maintain, shortly after the assassination, that it had no CIA originated material on Oswald in its files? ( see C.D. 49, p.22).
5. CIA item # ???--149 purports to explain why the agency did no further investigation of Oswald after the October 10 telegram was sent. It states "Since our agency is not supposed to investigate U.S. citizens abroad without special request, we did nothing further on this case." Is this an established CIA policy? Does it apply if the individual is engaged in activities which could endanger national security?

### VII Post Assassination

1. To what individuals or government entities were photographs of the man depicted in CE 237 provided? Which specific photos were provided to which individuals or government entities and how many

were supplied on each occasion?

2. When did the CIA inform the Warren Commission concerning the circumstances surrounding the obtaining of the photo shown to Marguerite Oswald on November 23? What explanation was given and in what form? (oral, documentary, ect.) Were the Warren Commission staff members told of the origin of CE237 at their 3/12/64 meeting with the CIA? If not, why not? Why did it take the CIA so long to respond to this request? (2/12/64 Rankin-McCone letter).

3. What explanation did the Warren Commission receive concerning the erroneous description of Oswald in the 10/10 telegram to other federal agencies? What explanation did they receive for the telegram's use of Lee "Henry" Oswald?

4. What records were kept of the Warren Commission's visit to Mexico City?