

1 - Mr. Stokes

4/1/64

*Small's Store -
Small - a CPK*

*Return to
Section 7*

my copy

Airtel

To: Legat, Mexico City (105-3702)
From: Director, FBI (105-82555) — 2889

REC-1

**LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R - CUBA**

Re Legat letter dated 3/23/64 and LHM same date dealing in part with revelations concerning Charles Small.

Enclosed for Legat is one copy of re 3/23 LHM on which appear penciled notations concerning corrections which were necessary at Bureau in order to make LHM suitable for dissemination. Also enclosed is copy of LHM as amended by Bureau. For information of Dallas there is enclosed a copy of reLegatlet and amended copy of LHM.

Bureau does not desire to disseminate amended copy of reLHM at this time due to the inconsistency in Small's reported comment that he was in U. S. at time Oswald was in Mexico and his speculation that he must have known Oswald at some time and his speculation that he might have met Oswald in Mexico. In addition, Bureau believes it desirable to furnish Commission with a further characterization of Small as to extent of his association with CP of Mexico and/or the American Communist Group in Mexico. It is also desired that some statement be made as to his citizenship.

Legat recontact T-1 identified in relet and other logical sources in effort to resolve above inconsistency. Endeavor to determine number of employees in Small's store who could have seen or dealt with Oswald should he have visited the store. As Small expressed expectation of being questioned by Mexican police, it could appear that such action could be taken without compromising our informant. Consider this and sucab your recommendation as to advisability of furnishing basic background re this situation to

APR - 2 1964

Enclosures - 2

1 - Dallas (100-10461) (Enclosures - 2)

JCS:klw
(6)

Foreign Liaison Unit (route through for review)

APR 8 1964

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

MC 105-3702-600A

ENCLOSURE COPY AND COPY OF ENCL. FILED IN

WGS JS

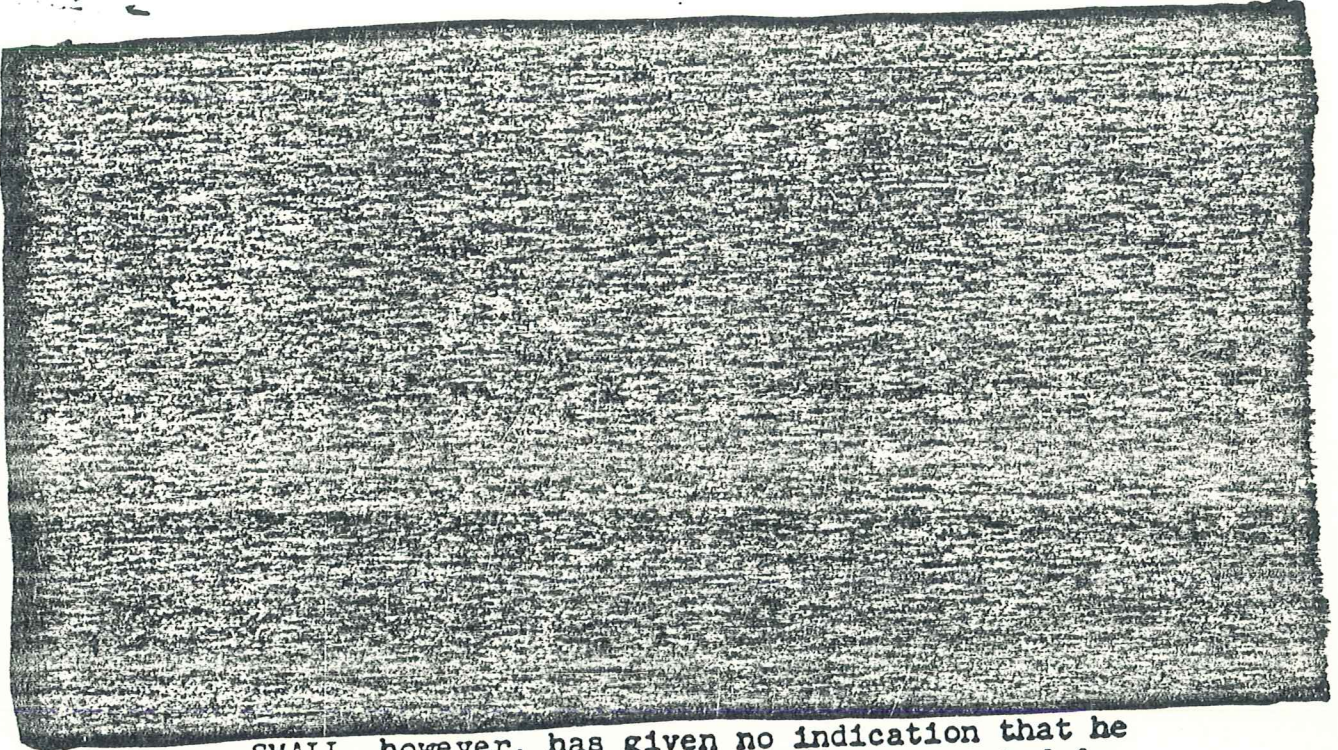
- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- DeLoach
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

Airtel to Mexico City
Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-82555

Mexican police with request that Small and his employees at store be questioned. Bureau desires that the allegations concerning Oswald's possible visit to Small's store and re Small's concern that he met Oswald be completely run out. It is also desired that further efforts be made to determine exact significance of Small's remark to the effect that everyone reports in at his store. Endeavor to resolve inconsistency noted herein immediately and, thereafter, rewrite LHM in line with foregoing instructions and amendments noted in enclosed copy of reLHM. Do not hold rewriting of LHM pending completion of interview of Small and his employees by Mexican authorities in event you consider such action feasible. Report results of such action or such additional coverage you may be able to effect in subsequent LHM.

NOTE:

Small, who is merely described in incoming LHM as an associate of the American Communist Group in Mexico, according to informant, said that he considered Oswald must have been in his store in Mexico City because "everyone reports in there and he would have done so, too." Small said he fortunately was in U. S. when Oswald was reportedly in Mexico; however, he expected to be arrested by Mexicans for questioning and he was carrying a "red book" to prove he was in U. S. at the time. Informant also reported that Small said he was worried in the belief he must have known Oswald at some time and that Oswald must have visited his store when in Mexico. The LHM states Small was "only speculative" about possibility that he met Oswald in Mexico. This is inconsistent and needs clarification and should be completely run out.



SMALL, however, has given no indication that he recognized OSWALD from the newspaper pictures printed in Mexico City or recognized his name as being one of the visitors at his store. The informants have reported that following the assassination of President KENNEDY and the public identification of OSWALD's leftist connections with the FPCC and his former residence in the Soviet Union, the American communists in Mexico were extremely fearful, expecting police harrassment of all leftists. They considered SMALL's concern over the possibility that OSWALD might have visited his store to be part of the general concern of all American communists here after reading that OSWALD had been in Mexico. No information has since been developed to the contrary. u

In light of the above, the Mexico City Office does not believe that an interview of SMALL should be undertaken by either Mexican or American officials. u