

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Report of: HARRY H. WHIDBEE
Date: 6/11/64

Office: Los Angeles, California

Field Office File #: 105-15823

Bureau File #: 105-82555

Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

Synopsis: EULALIO RODRIGUEZ-CHAVEZ, a Mexican citizen, located and interviewed at Los Angeles. RODRIGUEZ positively identified a photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD as passenger on Transportes del Norte bus which traveled from Mexico City, Mexico, to Laredo, Texas, 10/2/63 and then by Greyhound bus from Laredo, Texas, during early morning hours of 10/3/63. RODRIGUEZ recalled OSWALD was one of two men passengers taken off this bus for further questioning regarding his documents by examining immigration officers at Mexican Immigration check station, located a few miles from the Mexican-United States border. RODRIGUEZ had no personal contacts or conversations with OSWALD.

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Date 6/11/64

EULALIO RODRIGUEZ CHAVEZ, a Mexican citizen, 62 years of age, presently unemployed and residing at 3418½ East Michigan Avenue, Los Angeles, California, advised the following in the Spanish language:

He recalled having made three trips to the United States by bus from Mexico City, Mexico, during the year of 1963. He refreshed his recollection from some personal letters and some documents, and determined that on October 2, 1963, he departed aboard a Transportes del Norte bus at Mexico City about 8:00 a.m. en route to Houston, Texas, via Monterrey, State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and Laredo and San Antonio, Texas. He had made reservations at the Transportes del Norte bus station located on Calle (street) Insurgentes in Mexico City about two days previous to his departure and remembered that he then received his bus ticket and was assigned a seat number. He could not recall the exact number of the latter. He departed from Mexico City en route to Houston, Texas, to engage in a dump truck business.

Previously, he had traveled to Dallas, Texas, because of the death of a friend, and subsequent to the above trip to Houston, Texas, he again traveled to Houston with his wife and daughter from Mexico City in the latter part of November, 1963.

He recalled that on the bus trip from Mexico City to Laredo, Texas, on October 2, 1963, he was assigned either seat number five or eight aboard the bus and he was certain that he sat about three rows back of the bus driver in an aisle seat. He was very certain about the latter because he does not like to ride in a bus sitting by a window. He kept the same seat on the bus during the trip from Mexico City to Laredo, Texas. He recalled that when he boarded the bus at Mexico City on the morning of October 2, 1963, he was late in arriving and had difficulty obtaining assistance in getting his large suitcase placed in the trunk carrier of the bus. He remembered that when he boarded the bus, most of the other passengers already were seated.

He remembered clearly that he sat next to a young woman who sat on his left next to the window and he could not recall

On 6/11/64 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 105-15823

by SA HARRY H. WHIDBEE and SA FREDERICK E. RODERICK:dmr Date dictated 6/11/64

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whether a man or a woman sat next to him across the aisle. He spoke to the young woman, who was seated in the bus when he boarded, and he described her as being of Mexican descent, about eighteen or nineteen years of age, thin build, good looking, and spoke Spanish fluently. The young woman advised him that she had been vacationing in Mexico City, that she was married and was returning to her residence in Houston, Texas. He did not learn the young woman's name but she was supposed to have been met at the Greyhound bus station in Houston, Texas, by her husband.

After being processed by United States Immigration, Public Health, and Customs at Laredo, Texas, he boarded a Greyhound bus and proceeded to San Antonio, Texas, where he boarded another bus for Houston, Texas.

He recalled that the bus stopped at Monterrey and all passengers alighted, but he did not recall if it was the same or a different bus which they boarded when they departed from Monterrey. He remembered that there were several rest stops while en route to Laredo, Texas, from Mexico City, which allowed the passengers to drink a soda or eat a sandwich but these stops were short.

The bus was full and he did not have any conversation with anyone else except the young woman who sat next to him. He could not recall specifically if any additional passengers boarded the bus at Monterrey but he was certain that he kept his same seat all the way from Mexico City to Laredo, Texas. He remembered that the arrival at Monterrey was at about 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. and that it was then dark.

A few miles before reaching the border at Nuevo Laredo, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, the bus stopped and the lights in the bus were turned on to allow a Mexican Immigration official to examine the travel documents of all the passengers aboard the bus. He remembered that at this Mexican Immigration check station there were two men taken from the bus for questioning, apparently about their travel documents. He saw these two men who left the bus and considered that they were not Mexicans because there was some sort of problem with regard to their travel documents. He remembered that one of these men had sat across the aisle from him either to the rear or just ahead, and that the other man was sitting to the rear of him on his side of the bus.

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He could recall that only one Mexican Immigration official boarded the bus, but when the men were taken off the bus they were taken to talk with another Mexican Immigration official whom he assumed was higher in rank with the Mexican Immigration Service and whom he stated probably was "a Sergeant".

The two men were allowed to return to the bus and the stop at this check station delayed the bus about fifteen to twenty minutes. He believed that this stop was made at about 1:00 or 1:30 a.m. on the morning of October 3, 1963.

He described one of the men who was taken off the bus and who sat someplace across the aisle as "a foreigner to Mexico", about fifty some odd years old, black hair, graying, heavy set, and fair complexion. He could not recall the type of clothing this man wore.

He described the second man who sat behind him as "a foreigner to Mexico", a young man, shorter than the above described man, fair complexion, wore a jacket "coffee-colored tan" which was a gabardine type, and he tried to speak some Spanish to the Mexican Immigration official when approached at the check station for his travel documents but he was unable to communicate his Spanish properly. This man did not get off at the rest stops with the other passengers and once he was observed eating a banana which he had taken from a paper bag he carried. This individual was observed once talking with a middle aged woman, a passenger whose description he could not recall, and their conversation and the language used could not be recalled as well as exactly when this took place aboard the bus.

He recalled that after departure from the Mexican Immigration check station, the bus proceeded to Nuevo Laredo where again a Mexican Immigration official boarded the bus to hurriedly check the travel documents of the passengers. Then the bus traveled on the bridge across the Rio Grande River to Laredo, Texas, where all passengers alighted from the bus and were processed first by the United States Immigration Service, then by the United States Department of Public Health for a small pox vaccination, and then their luggage was examined by United States Customs. Following this, RODRIGUEZ CHAVEZ boarded a Greyhound bus at about 2:00 or 2:30 a.m. on October 3, 1963, for San Antonio, Texas. Here he boarded another Greyhound bus for Houston, Texas, where he arrived at about 6:00 or 7:00 a.m. on the same day.

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At this point he could not recall anything specific about any of the other passengers with regard to their identities, their descriptions and their purpose for travel because he did not engage in conversation with any of them except the young woman who sat next to him and who traveled to Houston, Texas.

A photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD taken on August 9, 1963, at New Orleans, Louisiana, which consists of a side and front view and a full length front view of him standing, was exhibited for identification and RODRIGUEZ CHAVEZ immediately recognized OSWALD as the second man described above, who sat to his rear, who tried to speak to the Mexican Immigration official in Spanish, and who was taken off the bus at the Mexican Immigration check station before arrival at the Mexican-United States border. He was positive about this because he explained that this photograph was that of the man who kept an overhead reading light on, in the bus, after about 10:00 p.m. on October 2, 1963, which disturbed RODRIGUEZ CHAVEZ from sleeping on the bus. He remembered that the man in the photograph shown him was reading either a book, a magazine, or a newspaper and this bothered him because the man was so inconsiderate to leave the light on when he, as well as others, were trying to sleep. He remembered that the man was reading because RODRIGUEZ CHAVEZ turned to look at him.

He could not be certain as to the exact seat the man in the photograph sat but he was certain that the man sat to his rear and to his left.

He was asked if he knew the man in the photograph shown him and he stated that he did not. He was told that the photograph was that of LEE HARVEY OSWALD and he stated that OSWALD was a "desgraciado" (disgraceful person). He then expressed a deep emotional feeling for President JOHN F. KENNEDY, losing his composure and crying at length. After composing himself, he advised the following additional information:

He remembered that OSWALD not only did not turn off the reading light when others were trying to sleep, but he was "a loner" because he did not get off the bus with the other passengers at various rest stops en route and always appeared to be "alone", not associating with other passengers.

He recalled having seen OSWALD last when the passengers alighted from the Greyhound bus at San Antonio, Texas, and he did not recall that OSWALD boarded the Greyhound bus with him en route from San Antonio, Texas, to Houston, Texas.

He did see the young woman who sat next to him on the bus, at the Greyhound bus station in Houston, Texas, when her husband failed to appear and she stated that she was taking a taxi to her residence in Houston.

He could not recall having seen OSWALD at the bus station in Mexico City or having been aware of his presence on the bus at the time it departed from Mexico City. The bus was crowded and during the first hour or two of the trip, he got accustomed to his seat and conversed with the unknown young woman sitting next to him. He said he was not aware of OSWALD until possibly the second rest stop when he observed that OSWALD did not get off the bus with the others but remained in his seat.

He was asked to furnish any other specific knowledge he might have regarding OSWALD. He said that he did not recall observing any activities of OSWALD at the time the bus stopped at Monterrey, Mexico. He definitely recalled that OSWALD was on the bus when it crossed the border into the United States and stopped for processing. He said, however, that he was most concerned with his own papers and the United States Customs check of his belongings, and he was not alert to the activities of the other passengers. He did not remember observing OSWALD being processed by the United States authorities. He did recall seeing OSWALD board the same Greyhound bus with him at Laredo, Texas, when the bus proceeded to San Antonio, Texas. He could not recall where OSWALD sat on this bus. He stated that during the entire trip he had no personal contact or conversation with OSWALD.

He was asked specifically whether he could recall any information regarding other passengers on the busses. He stated that except for the young woman who sat next to him, who was returning to her residence in Houston, Texas, he remembered only one other who was a student. The citizenship and origin of this student were unknown to him, but he did remember that this young man had a "long string of tickets" and he was traveling from Mexico City to San Antonio, Texas, en route to Chicago, Illinois, and then some other "far away place." He did not sit next to or across from any male passenger whom he could recall, and he

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could not remember where the student sat on the busses. He could not recall a description of the student.

He was asked specifically if he had realized, prior to this interview, that OSWALD, who allegedly assassinated President JOHN F. KENNEDY, was identical with the passenger whom he had seen on the bus during the trip. He stated that he had not. He advised that he cannot read or speak English; that he does not own a television set; and had not seen OSWALD on television or in magazines. He said that he saw OSWALD's photograph once in a newspaper. He admitted that he had not recognized the photograph in the newspaper of OSWALD as that of the passenger on the bus. He said that apparently it was not a good likeness. On the other hand, when shown the photograph of OSWALD reflecting three poses, he immediately recognized the photograph as identical with the passenger on the bus because he stated the photograph was "so lifelike".

He could not think of any other information regarding the activities of OSWALD while a passenger on the busses between Mexico City and San Antonio, Texas. He stated that he had never met OSWALD previously and had no contacts with or knowledge of OSWALD after the trip on October 2 - 3, 1963.