

Mr Fred Newcomb  
4640 Noble Avenue  
Sherman Oaks 91403

6 June 1970

Dear Fred:

CE 2788 is not the passport photo of June 1963, as may be seen on examination of CE 781 in XVII page 666, which is clearly a different pose.

CE 2788 appears to be the photograph presented to the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City (to Silvia Duran) in application for a visa. See CE 2121, page 39 (XXIV p 589).

The Warren Commission told the FBI that it "had evidence" that Oswald had himself photographed on Friday or Saturday 9/27 or 9/28/63, at which time he was in Mexico City, "for use on a visa application." The nature of this "evidence" is not disclosed. The FBI proceeded in June 1964 to canvass photo studios in Mexico City, with negative results. See CE 2449 in XXV page 589.

As a result of the negative FBI canvass and notwithstanding its so-called "evidence" that Oswald had himself photographed on one of two specific dates while in Mexico City, the WC decided that the passport photos that Oswald presented to the Cuban Embassy on the afternoon of Friday 9/27/63 may have been obtained in the USA (see Warren Report page 734 last paragraph). Presumably, then, the photo or photos would have been taken in New Orleans preparatory to the Mexican trip, but for reasons unknown the FBI did not conduct a canvass of photo studios there, where one would think it would be far easier to do so than in Mexico City.

Another angle on CEs 133A and 133B might be worth considering: can the hour be determined from the angle and direction of shadows in the background? If so, it would be interesting to get an hour-by-hour record from the US weather bureau for the alleged date on which 133A was supposedly taken, to see if the bright sunlight in the pictures is consistent with actual weather at the same hour as indicated by the shadows. My papers are packed away but as I recall I did query the US weather Bureau and received the inconclusive reply that the weather on that day was partly cloudy, but there was no hour-by-hour log if my memory is correct.

Re CE 2788 alias FBI item 451: if you have the Federal Register which inventories the FBI exhibits, you will note the description is "nine photographs, a Mexican airmail stamp..." etc., and that the items were "collected under circumstances indicating they were in the possession of or attributable to...Oswald or his wife..." CE 2003 p 285 (XXIV p 345) indicates that ~~the~~ library card together with 6 photos of Oswald one of Marina and 2 scenic photos as well as a Mexican airmail stamp were seized in a search at 1026 North Beckley by Socre, Potts, Turner and Senkel.

You will recall that Fritz sent detectives to search at the Beckley Street address (which, as pointed out in Accessories, he learned from an unknown source before Oswald himself supplied the address) on Friday afternoon, with an alleged search warrant issued by JP David Johnston. The property list in CE 2003, however, specifies "Search Warrant dated 11/23/63". Moore could not account for the discrepancy (see 7H 214). This is a point which I seem to have overlooked up until this moment but it now appears that the search of Oswald's room in Dallas on 11/22/63 as well as the search in Irving on the same day were both illegal because of the lack of a warrant and that the property seized could not have been admissible as evidence if Oswald had lived and gone to trial. The lack of a warrant for Irving on 11/22/63 is admitted but that search might have been technically legal on the basis of consent by Marina and Ruth Paine; however, no consent could have been given for the 11/22/63 search of the room on Beckley.

Another point that just occurred to me for the first time—I could kick myself for not having realized this earlier—is that the list of property seized in Irving on 11/23/63 (CE 2003 page 264 ff) specifies items in great detail (e.g., "two metal clips...one bottle opener...") and describes a few photos ("photographs portraying scenes in Russia ...news clipping showing photograph of Iranian native Mrs. John A. Hall...") but NOT photographs and/or negatives of Oswald holding a rifle and two newspapers, or anything that could even correspond with such items. Holy mackerel! Don't you think we have something here? I had already found it very strange that in Curry's book the photo showing all the items seized on 11/23/63 at Irving did not show Cks 133A and 133B, which I would have thought would have been conspicuously displayed. (Incidentally, I discovered recently apropos of studying some CDs from the Archives that there is no specific record in any of the property lists of the "historic diary" — CE 24 — and that Fritz apparently never knew of it or viewed it until July 1964, at a screening of a film provided by the FBI of all the items of evidence it had received from the Dallas police. I don't quite know what to make of that. Any ideas?)

It begins to appear that there are even at this late date still treasures to be found in the 26 volumes. Let me know what develops in your further work on CE 2708 and/or CEs 133 A and B.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Seagher  
302 West 12 St NYC 10014