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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1995

SUBJECT: Delay in sending the first cable about
OSWALD

1. Much has been written about the delay (by the Mexico Station) in sending the first cable requesting traces on the name Lee OSWALD. It was discussed in Dave Phillips book as a case of laziness on the part of the Soviet case officer (which in my view was unjust and unnecessary and indicates that Dave didn't know what he was talking about).

2. Normally, the Spanish transcript for the 1 October conversation would have been picked up on the morning of the 2nd of October. The Russian language portion would have gone to the Russian/English transcriber on the 3rd of October. The translation would have been returned the following day (4th) at which time, the Soviet case officer would have asked for the photographic coverage. That coverage would not have been in the station before the 7th since the film was still in the camera on the 3rd of October and it was picked up probably on the 4th, processed and passed to the Station on the next work day which would have been Monday 7 October.

3. Later the film was taken out of the camera every day but at that time, the film stayed in the camera until a full roll was completed which might take three or four days.

4. A name trace could have been requested on the basis of the name alone but that wasn't the way [Win Scott] ran that Station. [He wanted the photographic coverage tied in with the telephone coverage... sometimes there was a U.S. automobile license number.] It was also part of the "numbers game" of justifying a project by the number of dispatches, cables or reports produced.

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