

MUDD: For the past two days, the Havana government has been presenting what it says is evidence that the CIA conspired with the Mafia in placing the blame for the assassination of President Kennedy on Cuba. The Cubans claim that Lee Harvey Oswald was set up by the CIA to give the U.S. a pretext for attacking Cuba. They've been making the allegations at a Havana youth festival, the first forum that Cuba says is suitable for presenting the evidence. Ed Rabel reports from Havana.

ED RABEL: * Testifying before a tribunal, accusing the CIA, Eusebio Azcue, former counsel for Cuba in Mexico in 1963, said that a man claiming to be Oswald appeared at his consulate two months before the Kennedy murder applying for a visa to Cuba. But Azcue said the applicant was not the same man as the world knows as Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin. Azcue indicated that photographs submitted with the visa application, and those of Oswald taken after the murder in Dallas, appeared to be of the same individual. But that the person who submitted the visa photographs was not Oswald. Cuban officials suggest that the man who applied for the visa was really a CIA agent who was part of the plot to link Oswald with Cuba. The Cubans published a photo today, which they said was taken of the man posing as Oswald as he left the consulate back in 1963. The photo, they said, was taken by other CIA agents stationed in an espionage center located near the consulate. The Cubans suggest that the CIA has the photo in its files and should be forced to release it. The photograph is apparently a copy of the one the CIA released to the Warren Commission, but later withdrew. No Cuban official has explained why the consul did not question the applicant for the visa about why the photograph he submitted did not even remotely resemble him. Answers seem to be required for the following questions raised by the Cuban allegations: if in fact Oswald did go to the consulate, does the CIA have a photo of him there? Does the CIA have an audio tape-recording of Oswald at the consulate? Or of the man who allegedly posed as Oswald?

*Eusebio Azcue (former Cuban consul) supered in 7:00 show only.

[RABEL]: The Cubans say their consulate was being monitored electronically and that such tape probably exists. Who was the heavy-set man in the photo submitted by the CIA to the Warren Commission? And why did they withdraw the photo as the Cubans allege? And finally, if, as the Cubans allege, someone did pose as Oswald at the Cuban consulate before Kennedy's death in 1963, does that act imply a CIA conspiracy to kill the President?

—Ed Rabel, CBS News, Havana.

MARVIN KALB [Washington]: A CIA spokesman tonight answered some of those questions. He flatly denied that the mystery man, who was supposed to have identified himself as Lee Harvey Oswald, was an agent for the CIA - part of an alleged plot to link Oswald with Cuba. According to spokesman Hubert Hetu, "That is all rubbish."

Hetu also said that the CIA gave the Warren Commission 11 pictures of the mystery man, but withheld one picture of the man for security reasons. The man himself has never been identified. And even though former CIA Director William Colby says that the CIA probably has "voice recordings" of this mystery man, Hetu maintains that to the best of his knowledge such recordings simply do not exist. CIA officials say the tribunal in Havana appears to be part of a well-orchestrated worldwide communist campaign against the CIA touched off in part, perhaps, by Russian and Cuban unhappiness about the Administration's human rights program. These officials seem somewhat embarrassed by the CIA role in the investigation of the Kennedy assassination. As one official put it, "The Cubans are hitting us where we are most vulnerable. But why they are doing it now, we really don't know."

—Marvin Kalb, CBS News, Washington.