

January 24, 1968

*under LHO - Mark F. Lane, 1/22+4/68 also -
with the comments*

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: MARK LANE,

RE: INTERVIEW AT MEXICAN CONSULATE IN NEW ORLEANS

Today I went to the Mexican Consulate together with Gary Sanders and we interviewed RUBEN GAXIOLA the Consul General and TERESA JARUREGUI who is employed as a clerk. According to MRS. FARRINGTON the "OSWALD" visit took place at the Mexican Consulate located in the Whitney Bank Building. During 1963 the Consulate was in fact located at the Whitney Bank at St. Charles and Gravier. Toward the middle of 1965, according to the Consul General, the office was moved to the Trade Mart where it is presently located. The Consul General during 1963 was REYES SPINDOLA. During 1963 in order to secure a tourist visa the applicant was required to submit proof of citizenship and pay a \$3.00 charge. Proof of citizenship is considered to be a birth certificate, army discharge, or even a notarized statement alleging that you are in fact a citizen. No picture is required.

In order to secure a permit to bring a rifle into the country for hunting, one must pay \$16.00, submit a photograph and submit a letter from the local police department stating that you have no record. The hunting season in Mexico is from October 15th to March 31st. The tourist visa was valid for a period of six months. According to MISS JARUREGUI, "OSWALD" entered the office during September and she is quite certain that it was before lunch. He approached MRS. GUADALUPE ORTEGA and stated that he wished to secure a tourist's visa. MRS. ORTEGA asked him for proof of citizenship and a record of smallpox vaccination. The man offered his birth certificate as proof of citizenship. This was accepted by MRS. ORTEGA who then handed the application to MISS JARUREGUI. MISS JARUREGUI told the applicant to sign a form which he did and the tourist card was issued. MRS. ORTEGA is presently in Mexico City employed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to MISS JARUREGUI, MRS. ORTEGA was quite sure that the man who made the application was LEE HARVEY OSWALD based upon pictures that she saw of OSWALD after the assassination. One or two weeks after the assassination, FBI agents visited the Mexican Consulate. They requested permission to take the original tourist application with them but such permission was denied. According to those presently employed at the Consulate, even the Consul General does not have permission to make such documents available and that an official ruling would have been required from the Mexican government. Personnel at the office believe that the original application never left the office, but that a copy of it was made by FBI agents. This is significant, of course, in that handwriting analysis of a photocopy is much less valuable than an analysis of the original document. Some experts even claim that an analysis of a photocopy is invalid.

During August of 1965 all documents more than one year old were burned by the Mexican Consulate prior to the removal of the office from the Whitney Bank to the Trade Mart. Evidently the original application has been burned. The attached documents are:

- (a) Present application issued by the Mexican government to applicants for tourist visas;
- (b) an information sheet made available to those interested in securing a hunting permit; and,
- (c) the application filled out by those who wish to secure a hunting permit.