

January 24, 1968

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 GAYTOLA 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.

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TOURISM DEPARTMENT

FORMA DT-00

SHOULD YOU RETURN THIS APPLICATION BY MAIL,
KINDLY ADDRESS YOUR ENVELOPE TO

Card number
Serial number
Date

PLEASE PRINT.

I hereby make formal application for a TOURIST CARD to visit MEXICO and solemnly declare under oath that the information given below is correct:

NAME
SEX AGE ON LAST BIRTHDAY MARITAL STATUS
(21 - not accepted) (Single, married, widower or divorced)
OCCUPATION OR PROFESSION
PLACE OF BIRTH
NATIONALITY ADDRESS
(City and state) (Number and street) (Telephone)

PURPOSE OF TRIP MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO PROVE NATIONALITY

DURATION OF TRIP FINAL DESTINATION

WHAT OTHER POINTS IN MEXICO DO YOU PLAN TO VISIT?

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN IN MEXICO AS A TOURIST? ON BUSINESS?

APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU EXPECT TO SPEND WHILE IN MEXICO: \$

ARE YOU TRAVELING ON YOUR OWN? IF NOT, WHAT TRAVEL AGENCIES (LOCALLY AND IN MEXICO) ARE HANDLING YOUR TRIP?

I further declare that I shall not engage in any business or remunerative work during my stay in Mexico, and also take cognizance of the fact that the Mexican Immigration Laws establish penalties for anybody found guilty of making false statements regarding the purpose of their trip to Mexico.

Signature.

NOTICE: TOURIST CARD MUST BE USED WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE AND IS VALID FOR A 90-DAY STAY IN MEXICO FROM DATE OF ENTRY.

Proof of citizenship must be presented at the time Tourist Card is issued, and should remain in the possession of the passenger during the entire trip. Birth Certificates, Army or Navy Identification Card, Naturalization Certificate, Voting Certificate, or Passport. Canadian citizens by birth, or naturalized more than three years before application is made, must present a valid passport.

Valid International Smallpox Vaccination Certificate is also required.

If you travel by car the permit thereof is valid for the same term than your tourist card.

For mailing purposes please enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope.

T. G. N.—1001/45

- 1.- Full names of interested parties.
 - 2.- Home address.
 - 3.- Profession or occupation.
 - 4.- Nationality.
 - 5.- Height.
 - 6.- Constitution of body (state whether robust, fat, slender).
 - 7.- Color of skin.
 - 8.- Forehead (state whether high, small, narrow, etc.).
 - 9.- Color of eyes.
 - 10.- Type of mouth (state whether big, medium, small).
 - 11.- Color of hair.
 - 12.- Visible marks of identification on face.
 - 13.- Specimen to hunt.
 - 14.- Place of hunting.
- The following additional information is also required:
- 15.- Make, caliber, model and serial number of the firearms that each party is contemplating taking along with him.
 - 16.- Number of rounds of ammunition that each party is taking for each of his firearms.

The present fee for the issuance of "Good Conduct Certificate" for hunting licenses, which is subject to change without prior notice is \$16.00 U. S. Currency, each.

B).- Apply for and obtain a tourist card at the same time. The fee for this card is \$10.00 U. S. Currency, each. Applications are furnished upon request.

C).- Once the interested party is in possession of the "Good Conduct Certificate" and of the tourist card, the next step is to apply for and obtain a hunting permit from the Game Office (DELEGACION DE CAZA Y PESCA) at any Mexican border city such as Matamoros, Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo, in the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, which border to Brownsville, Hidalgo and Laredo in the State of Texas, respectively. This of course, must be done personally after arriving at any of the mentioned border cities. The fee for the hunting permit and which is subject to change without prior notice is \$20.00 U. S. Currency each and is issued only upon presentation of the "Good Conduct Certificate" and of the tourist card. Additional passport pictures for this purpose are required.

D).- With the above documents the interested parties must thereafter appear before the representative of the National Defense Department with offices within the Mexican Collector of Customs Office be it at Matamoros, Reynosa or at Nuevo Laredo and obtain his authorization for the introduction of the firearms into Mexico and, immediately thereafter, must have the firearms and ammunition checked and cleared by the Collector of Customs.

E).- Since the procedures outlined in subparagraphs C and D would alter completely in cases where the interested parties should contemplate entering Mexico by airplane, say directly to Mexico City or to Merida in the State of Yucatan, special arrangement should be made with the proper authorities through an authorized hunting club in Mexico or through a personal representative, in order that the hunting permit and the authorization for the introduction of the firearms and ammunition may be granted prior to the departure of the interested parties to Mexico.

F).- Present hunting regulations allow each hunter in possession of the aforementioned permits, the introduction of three firearms under 30.30 caliber and one hundred rounds of ammunition for each firearm, (among short guns only 22 caliber pistols are allowed).

SERVICIO EXTERIOR MEXICANO
CONSULADO GENERAL DE MEXICO.
NUEVA ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

DERECHOS COBRADOS: \$ 16.00 Dls..
EQUIVALENTES A: \$ 200.00 M.N.

CERTIFICADO DE ARMAS A TURISTA CINEGETICO No.

FILIACION: El suscrito, Cónsul General de México en
NACIONALIDAD: Nueva Orleans, Louisiana, Estados Unidos
ESTATURA: de Norteamérica,
COMPLEXION: C E R T I F I C A :
COLOR: Que el portador _____
OJOS: de profesión _____
PELO: cuyo retrato y filiación constan al margen,
FRENTE: se ha presentado en esta Oficina solicitando
BOCA: permiso para internarse a Territorio Nacio-
BARBA: nal por la Aduana de
MENTON:
SENAS PARTICU
LARES:

con el propósito de dedicarse a la cacería
en la República Mexicana, llevando consigo
las siguientes armas e implementos:

<u>SISTEMA</u>	<u>MARCA</u>	<u>CALIBRE</u>	<u>METRICULA</u>	<u>CARTUCHOS</u>
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El solicitante es conocido como persona de
buena conducta y ha ofrecido no hacer mal
uso de las armas y acatar las disposiciones
de caza; por lo tanto, el suscrito opina que
pueda concederle el permiso correspondien-
te.

Nueva Orleans, La.

Firma del solicitante.

January 22, 1968

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: MARK LANE and MORT SAHL

RE: MRS. FENELLA FARRINGTON
1514 Jefferson Avenue

* * * * *

At your request I visited MRS FARRINGTON this afternoon at 1:45 p.m. With me was Mort Sahl. I explained to MRS. FARRINGTON that since she is a friend of Bryan Wagner and since Wagner is a friend of yours, that you had asked me to contact her informally for information regarding her observations in the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans during 1963. She was grateful for your kindness in not calling her before the Grand Jury and for permitting an informal statement instead.

She said that during September or October 1963 she visited the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans during the morning with her cousin MRS. LILLIAN STANTON MERLH. The purpose of her visit was to secure the release of her automobile which she and her husband had abandoned in Mexico when her husband suddenly became ill there. She was instructed to leave the papers which she had secured with the Consulate that morning and to return at 1:00 p.m. that afternoon. She returned at 1:00 p.m. and was instructed to wait. While waiting she observed a young man enter the Consulate together with a woman dressed in black with her head tied in a scarf. MRS. FARRINGTON was alone during her afternoon visit. The man, who was substantially taller than she is - she is 5'8-3/4" or 5'9" - was quite thin. The man asked the woman at the Consulate, "What is the weather like in Mexico City?" and the woman replied, "It's very hot. Just like it is here today." MRS. FARRINGTON said it was in the upper 80's or perhaps even 90 degrees in New Orleans. MRS. FARRINGTON then interrupted the conversation to state that, "No, it's not so hot in Mexico City. In fact it's like eternal spring there." The man then asked the woman at the Consulate, "What do you have to do to take firearms or a gun into Mexico?" The woman at the Consulate asked the man why he wanted a gun and MRS. FARRINGTON interrupted again, "The hunting's wonderful." MRS. FARRINGTON said that the man appeared worried and not relaxed as were other tourists seeking visas. She also said that he appeared to resent her interruptions and appeared ungrateful for the information.

On Tuesday, November 26, 1963, MRS. FARRINGTON was in Washington, D. C. , for a matter not related to the assassination. At that time two FBI agents visited her home in New Orleans to question her about the Consulate episode. Since she was not home they went upstairs, according to her maid, and questioned her 83-year old aunt who knew nothing about the incident. At the same time an FBI agent called MRS. FARRINGTON in Washington, D.C., at the home of her brother-in-law AUSTIN L. ROBERTS. He gave his name and telephone number and MR. ROBERTS called the FBI and verified the fact that the man who presented himself as an FBI agent was in fact an agent. The FBI agent told MRS. FARRINGTON that the man in the Consulate was OSWALD and that as soon as he mentioned firearms his picture was taken by a hidden camera and that since she was in the same picture she was quickly traced. The agent told MRS. FARRINGTON that when she was in Mexico City she did see LEE HARVEY OSWALD there. MRS. FARRINGTON however said that she did not meet OSWALD in Mexico City. The agent insisted in a number of "questions" that MRS. FARRINGTON did meet OSWALD in Mexico City. However, since she did not meet him and she continued to insist that she had not met him there. FBI agents also questioned MRS. MERILH, MRS. FARRINGTON's cousin. They showed her photographs of JACK RUBY and said that RUBY had been in the Mexican Consulate during the morning while MRS. MERILH was present. However, she stated that she did not recognize photographs of RUBY as depicting anyone whom she had seen that morning.

I showed 17 photographs to MRS. FARRINGTON and she selected just 2, one of KERRY THORNLEY and two of LEE OSWALD as possibly showing the person whom she had seen in 1963 at the Consulate. She said THORNLEY's face on the photo appeared more full than the face of the man she had seen. MRS. FARRINGTON said she would check through her records and would advise me in a day or two as to the exact date she was at the Mexican Consulate.

She also told me that during April, 1965, GENERAL WALKER called her about the incident. She said she believes that WALKER may have secured information about her knowledge of the incident from MRS. TRUEMAN WOODWARD. MRS. FARRINGTON said that her relative who was the Adjutant General of the United States Army (and who would write to each man who was separated from the service reminding him that this is a Republic and not a Democracy) evidently had some relationship with GENERAL WALKER.

MEMORANDUM

January 24, 1968

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: MARK LANE

RE: MRS. FENELLA FARRINGTON

This is to furnish the information referred to in my memorandum to you dated January 22, 1968.

Today Mrs. FARRINGTON told me that to her best recollection the date that she visited the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans was September 18, 1963.

She said she had spoken to her cousin, MRS. MERILH, (who resides at 1314 Jackson Avenue, Unlisted telephone JA 2-5286), who believes September 18 to be the date. Neither of the two women are certain of the date.

I spoke with Mrs. MERILH by telephone today and she seems a bit reluctant to be interviewed. I will try again later in the week. As it appears that the one other source of information about the date may be the Mexican Consulate, I will attempt to contact them today.