

September 27, 1963, visit to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, and forwarded both to its Dallas field office. Coincidentally, the file arrived in Dallas on November 22, the day of the assassination. The following day FBI agent Bardwell Odum showed the photograph to Oswald's mother, who later alleged that it was a picture of Jack Ruby. To show that Mrs. Oswald was mistaken, the photograph was introduced into the record as "Odum Exhibit 1." Later Liebelser found that three different witnesses' descriptions of an unidentified associate of Oswald's seemed to resemble the man in the photograph.

Liebelser therefore asked the FBI to identify the man. The FBI replied that it was a CIA photograph, taken outside the country, and that they had no further information about it. Liebelser next wrote to the CIA, asking who the person in the photograph was and why it was sent to the FBI less than a week before the assassination. Weeks later the CIA still had not replied, and Liebelser consulted the CIA liaison with the Commission, R. G. Rocca, who told him that the matter was still being investigated. Later a CIA agent called Liebelser and said that the CIA had thought at the time the photograph was sent to the FBI that the person in the photograph was Lee Harvey Oswald. He explained that it was routinely taken on September 27 by a secret camera located across the street from the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, and that the person was identified by a confidential source in the Embassy as Lee Harvey Oswald. And so the photograph was included with the report on Oswald. When Liebelser pointed out that the person did not resemble Oswald at all, the CIA agent said that he would investigate further and call back. Despite persistent inquiries, Liebelser heard nothing more about the man in the photograph, and he was not even able to get hold of the agent who had called him. Liebelser added

that the CIA was so secretive that it was virtually useless to the Commission.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Liebelser Interview.

From "A Primer of Assassination Theories," Esquire, Dec. 1966 p. 208

( Under part of Odum DE 1 )

Who is this man? A C.I.A. report on Lee Harvey Oswald arrived at the F.B.I. field office in Dallas the day of the assassination. It revealed that Oswald had visited the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City on September 27, 1963, and included a photograph taken by a secret C.I.A. camera of the man identified as Oswald leaving the Embassy. After the assassination, a problem developed: the man in the C.I.A. photograph was not Oswald! Oswald's mother added to the confusion by claiming that the man in the photograph was Jack Ruby. (Obviously, it isn't.) Commission Lawyers, attempting to find out if the man in the photograph was associated with Oswald or impersonating him, were never able to identify the mystery man. All the C.I.A. would say was that it was a "mix-up."

The staff had only very limited assistance from the Central Intelligence Agency. Wesley Liebelser was one of the few staff lawyers who had direct contact with CIA agents; his experience illustrates the general problem "outsiders" (as the lawyers were considered to be) encountered in dealing with a highly secret intelligence organization. Liebelser, in attempting to identify a heavy-set man in a CIA photograph, found that the photograph itself had a curious history. On November 18, 1963, the FBI received it, together with a report on Oswald's