

Mr. John Masland
5530 Eastbourne Drive
Springfield, VA 22151

10/21/92

Dear John,

My mind is too much on what I'm writing to be able to focus with any sharpness of that Hosty business. I had forgotten about Bookout. My present recollection is that LHO was not "hostile" to him. If he was it was through association with Hosty.

That Hosty did not learn about Oswald in Mexico until 10/25/63 indicates to me not inefficiency but that the info was not evaluated as very important.

Probably the way New Orleans got it is HQ records indicated Oswald was a New Orleans case. But if I remember Hosty's testimony correctly, there was a delay in the case routed to him from HQ reaching him. They also could have given him a copy for the DL Oswald file.

The Washington field office intercepted Oswald's letter to the Soviet embassy.

The disagreement over whether Hosty asked Oswald about Mexico City could be genuine, from unclear recollection, but Hosty was also a cool liar. He was praised for this by HQ, this meaning his lying, not ^{about} what we are discussing, and then disciplined. Somewhere I have a xerox of his ^{WC} testimony I annotated.

Revill is talking to people. I know a couple of Baltimore policemen who have become friends with him, gave him a barbecue a year or so ago when he was up to visit a daughter not too far from you. I think he would talk and would be honest.

If I ever determined where he got the Elsbeth Street address I now do not recall.

It may have been in connection with my work on the Oswald-note flap that I went over Hosty's testimony again and made some notes. I think I told you but if I did not I have a complete file of duplicates on that and the IG's so-called investigation.

I think I have several file folders of additional Hosty material but I'm not now sure.

Sorry I can't be of more help.

Best,

Harold Weisberg

5530 Eastbourne Drive
Springfield, VA 22151
18 October 1992 5:12pm

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thanks for yours of 10/24/92...didn't realize the postal service was *that* good...

Regarding the Hosty issue and Mexico City - I think I may be more confused than before...

After re-reading Hosty's testimony it appears that what Bookhout revealed at 7H311 is very interesting, but perhaps not in the fashion I initially believed.

At 4H447 Hosty relates to Stern:

Mr. Stern. What next happened in your effort to locate him? [This was the period during which Hosty was attempting to locate LHO for the NO office]

Mr. Hosty. I then received a communication on the 25th of October from the New Orleans office advising me that another agency had determined that Lee Oswald was in contact with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in the early part of October 1963.

Mr. Stern. Did they tell you anything else?

Mr. Hosty. No. Just very briefly that there had been a contact.

Mr. Stern. Did this increase your effort to find him?

Mr. Hosty. Very much so, yes. I became curious then. Shortly thereafter, on the 29th of October, I received another communication from the New Orleans office advising that they had a change of address for Lee and Marina Oswald to 2515 West Fifth Street, Irving Tex.

That seemed to answer the question regarding Bookhout's comments about the first interview of LHO on 22 November 63 and how Hosty knew about Mexico City. Turning to 4H459, Stern continues his questioning of Hosty:

Mr. Stern. And at what time did you know of Oswald's trip to Mexico City and his apparent appearance there at the Russian Embassy?

Mr. Hosty. The 25th of October.

Mr. Stern. Had you received any --

Mr. McCloy. Let's get these years right.

Mr. Hosty. The 25th of October 1963.

Mr. Stern. Had you received any information about any other contacts with Russian officials by Lee Harvey Oswald?

Mr. Hosty. Not at that time.

Mr. Stern. What other information did you have at anytime about that?

Mr. Hosty. On November 22, after the assassination of President Kennedy, I was advised that our Washington field office of the FBI had determined that he, Lee Oswald, had been in contact with the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Stern. After the assassination?

Mr. Hosty. Right. sir.

One can almost see Stern asking the question *After the assassination?...like...Are you kidding me?*

Continuing to 4H468...

Mr. McCloy. I didn't hear you repeating your testimony that he denied ever having been in Mexico City.

Mr. Hosty. Oh, yes; he was being questioned about his activities outside of the United States, where he had been outside of the United States. He told Captain Fritz that he had only been to Mexico to visit at Tijuana on the border, and then he did admit having been in Russia.

Mr. McCloy. He only admitted to having been at Tijuana in Mexico?

Mr. Hosty. Right.

Mr. McCloy. Not to Mexico City.

Mr. Hosty. Not to Mexico City; that is right.

Representative Ford. There was no recording made of this interrogation?

Mr. Hosty. No sir; it was notes I took. Agent Bookhout and I took notes, and we dictated from the notes the next day.

Mr. Stern. Did you ask him any questions?

Mr. Hosty. No; like I say, he was acting in such a hostile condition towards us that we did not. This was Captain Fritz's interview anyway. We were just sitting in as observers.

Mr. Stern. Did you tell Captain Fritz at this time any of the information you had about Oswald, about his trip to Mexico, for example?

Mr. Hosty. No.

Mr. Stern. About his being in touch with the Russian authorities seeking a visa?

Mr. Hosty. No.

Mr. Stern. About his previous residence in the Soviet Union?

Mr. Hosty. Oswald himself told Captain Fritz of this. I didn't have to. Oswald came right out and told him.

Mr. Stern. About the affair in New Orleans and his arrest there?

Mr. Hosty. No.

Mr. Stern. Did you subsequently tell Captain Fritz?

Mr. Hosty. No, I didn't tell Captain Fritz; no.

Mr. Stern. Was any of this information provided to the Dallas police as far as you know?

Mr. Hosty. I provided it to Lieutenant Revill earlier, as I pointed out. He would have been the person I would have furnished this information to as the head of the intelligence section. He would be the logical and correct person to give this information to.

Mr. Stern. Was that the extent of your advice to the Dallas police?

Mr. Hosty. Right.A:

As you wrote in *Whitewash*...So much for aiding the investigation of the assassination of the President...Hosty goes on to say at 7H470 that he played *I've Got a Secret* with Forrest Sorrels regarding Mexico and the Soviet Embassy in Washington...never telling him directly but telling

him to go through Secret Service Central in Washington but at the same time not telling Fritz anything. And we still don't know who asked the question about Mexico City to which Bookhout refers or even if the question was asked...confusion on the part of Bookhout???...Hosty states that he didn't ask any questions...

This seems to be a real tarbaby...Bookhout says Hosty asked LHO about Mexico City...Hosty says no, but that he knew about it since October...Hosty says he told Revill but the WC never asked Revill about it, even after getting him to Washington on 13 May 64 following the interesting discussion amongst Redlich, Rankin, and Warren at 4H474 at the end of Hosty's testimony. If Hosty told Revill, that had to have been before he saw Sorrels...yet Hosty says he told Sorrels nothing because it was classified...I can't imagine Hosty telling Revill something he wouldn't tell Sorrels...but I suppose anything is possible...yet the testimony doesn't really support it. Accordingly, I think this is at best an excellent example of the lack of investigative follow-up on the part of the WC and at worst, a kind of obstruction on the part of Hosty...


Regarding Revill's testimony at 5H33...it seems to me that Rankin conducted what one would describe, in intelligence terms, as a *hostile interrogation* at points in the questioning...

Regarding Revill's 11/22/63 memo...it would seem that had Hosty told Revill about Mexico City, Revill would have included that in the memo...as that is, I believe, the type of comment that would stand out in memory...also, as you have pointed out, LHO's address on Elsbeth should have been unknown to Revill...have you ever determined where Revill got the address?...Hosty obviously had it on 11/22/63 but Revill is vague on how he had such knowledge.

The more I examine this material the more unbelievable it becomes, not because of speculation, but rather because of what is available...the mind staggers at what the undisclosed material would reveal...

Warmest regards to Mrs. Weisberg.

Sincerely,



John W. Masland