

PHOTO OF AN UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL

The cropped picture of Saul which Hugh McDonald saw in Life Magazine (?) a few weeks (?) after the assassination had a fascinating and only recently revealed history.

A copy of the picture of Saul was received by the FBI in Dallas from the CIA on the morning of November 22, 1963, labelled as an unidentified individual who might be Lee Harvey Oswald^{1/}. From a glance on the picture, several of the FBI agents would have known that it was not LHO, as they were very familiar with Oswald, having been in frequent touch with him for more than a year. Presumably, they would not know the identity of the man in the photo; they would only know that it was not Oswald. However, on the morning of November 22nd, it would not have been considered a matter of great import or urgency ... particularly in view of the multiple duties of the Dallas FBI on the day of a Presidential visit to their city.

However, things changed radically when Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested on the afternoon of November 22nd, and he was charged with the murder of Officer Tippitt and held on suspicion of the murder of JFK.

Then, when Oswald was formally charged with the murder of JFK in the early hours of November 23rd, the identity of the

"unidentified man" became of considerable importance to the FBI as a possible confederate or co-conspirator of Oswald. As Oswald stood on his Constitutional rights and refused to answer questions, and as he demanded a lawyer, the FBI must have felt that it could not ask him about the man in the photo. However, there was nothing to prevent them from asking Marina Oswald and Marguerite Oswald, the suspect's wife and mother, whether they recognized the man in the photo.

So, late in the afternoon of the 23rd, FBI Agent Bardwell Odum, after having cropped most of the background out of the photograph, took it out to Dallas' Executive Inn, where Marina and Marguerite were being held in protective custody. According to Agent Odum, this is exactly what transpired:

I desired to show this photograph to Marina Oswald in an attempt to identify the individual portrayed in the photograph and to determine if he was an associate of Lee Harvey Oswald.

It was raining and almost dark. I went to the door of Marina Oswald's room and knocked, identifying myself. Marguerite Oswald opened the door slightly and, upon being informed that I wished to speak to Marina Oswald, told me that Marina Oswald was completely exhausted and could not be interviewed. Marguerite Oswald did not admit me to the motel room. I told her I desired to show a photograph to Marina Oswald, and Marguerite Oswald again said that Marina was completely exhausted and could not be interviewed due to that fact. I then showed

Marguerite Oswald the photograph in question. She looked at it briefly and stated that she had never seen this individual. I then departed the Executive Inn. The conversation with Marguerite Oswald and the exhibition of the photograph took place while I was standing outside the door to the room and Marguerite Oswald was standing inside with the door slightly ajar.

The next day, after Jack Ruby shot and killed Oswald, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald started to yell like a stuck pig: 'Yesterday, the FBI showed me a picture of Jack Ruby.' The clear implication was that they knew in advance that he was going to kill her son, Lee.

Although there is only a slight resemblance in fact between the "unidentified man" in the photo and Jack Ruby, Marguerite Oswald thought they were one and the same man. Her shouting was rextremely embarrassing to an already deeply abashed FBI. In all probability, had she not yelled her head off, the photograph would never have seen the light of day, because the whole U.S. Government was very nervous about it.

What is the history of this photograph which was mistaken by the CIA as possibly being a likeness of Lee Harvey Oswald, and which was also mistaken by Marguerite Oswald as being Jack Ruby? When and where was it taken, and why did it have the Establishment so up-tight?

The origin of the photo was withheld from the Warren Commission by the CIA until near the completion of its work.

Finally, on July 22, 1964, Richard Helms, CIA's Deputy Director, signed an affidavit that the photograph was taken in Mexico City on October 4, 1963.^{3/} The date is ironic because, according to both the CIA and the Warren Commission, Lee Harvey Oswald was back in Texas by this time. It does indicate, however, that the U.S. Government didn't know when LHO was in Mexico ... otherwise they could not have confused the man in the photo with LHO. In fact, there is every reason to believe that they lost track of Oswald when he left New Orleans on Sept. 25th enroute to Mexico, and they didn't relocate him until sometime after he arrived back in Texas on Oct. 3rd. His Mexican entry and exit papers were in the name of Oswald Harvey Lee.

However, when LHO went to the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City seeking visas to Cuba and the USSR, he had to use his passport and his correct name. It was thus that the American authorities first knew that Oswald had gone to Mexico City.

You might ask how his going to the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City would tip off the American authorities as to his whereabouts. Here is the way the FBI describes their first awareness of LHO's Mexican trip:

A CIA Release dated October 10, 1963, which was sent to the FBI, Department of State and Department of the Navy classified "Secret" which reported that an American male who identified himself as Lee Oswald had contacted the Soviet Embassy, Mexico City, on October 1, 1963. The CIA Release indicated Oswald may be identical to Lee Henry Oswald, born October 18, 1939, in New Orleans, Louisiana.^{4/}

It is now known whether the FBI discovered this through an agent or a "bug" in the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City or Washington, D.C., or through interception of a telegram between the two embassies. But, soon after LHO's visit to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City, the CIA knew about it and sent word to the FBI.^{5/} The latter were not confused about Lee Henry Oswald; they knew it was "their boy." What they didn't know, however, was the purpose of his visit to Mexico City and whether he was still there. This is borne out by another item in the FBI official index of "items" in its files relating to LHO:

61. A cablegram to this Bureau from our Legal Attache in Mexico dated October 13, 1963, which furnished information from CIA classified "Secret - Not To Be Further Disseminated," reporting that Lee Oswald had contacted Soviet Vice Consul Valeriy V. Kostikov of the Soviet Embassy, Mexico City, Mexico, on September 28, 1963. Our Legal Attache indicated he was following this matter with CIA and was attempting to establish Oswald's entry into Mexico and his current whereabouts.^{6/}

Thus, an intensive but futile search got under way in Mexico - of which the taking and dispatch of the photo of Saul was just a single piece.

There is every reason to believe that Saul's picture had been taken outside the Cuban Embassy by a hidden U.S. camera. An attempt was being made, according to the CIA, "to locate photographs of other persons known to frequent the Cuban Embassy," and "at the same time, an effort was being made to establish the dates on which Lee Harvey Oswald had entered and left Mexico."^{7/} The following effort was necessarily futile ... Oswald having left on October 3rd; but, by checking every airline flight from Mexico City from mid October to the day of the assassination, the CIA turned up the following interesting trivia:

The following individuals departed Mexico City by air during early November 1963 and might be identical with Lee Harvey Oswald:

- (1) Lee MARTIN departing on Mexicana Flight 806, to Chicago on 1 November 1963.
- (2) Wilford OSWAYT, departing on Mexicana Flight 800, to Chicago on 12 November 1963.
- (3) William OSWALD, departing on Braniff Flight 50, to San Antonio on 8 November 1963. ^{8/}

With the FBI and CIA thus thrashing around wildly for information on the "unidentified man" and LHO before the assassination, you can bet that after the assassination they really turned on the steam. Here is the CIA version of what they did re Saul and LHO's visit to Mexico:

On 22 and 23 November, immediately following the assassination of President Kennedy, three cabled reports were received from [deletion] in Mexico City relative to photographs of an unidentified man who visited the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in that city during October and November 1963, and data on departures by air for the United States of three persons who, it was believed, might be identical with Lee Harvey OSWALD. On 23 November, a CIA liaison officer, acting on instruction, cabled three reports based on these cables to Mr. Robert Bouck, Protective Research Staff, the Secret Service, Executive Office Building. Paraphrases of the three unnumbered reports thus delivered to the Secret Service are attached to this memorandum.^{9/}

Thus, by the morning of the 23rd, even the Secret Service, who is in charge of protecting the President, finally knew of the existence of Saul and his possible connection with LHO. Among the items sent to the Secret Service was the following intriguing one: "CIA Headquarters was informed... on 23 November that several photographs of a person known to frequent the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City, and who might be identical with Lee Harvey Oswald, had been forwarded to Washington by the hand of a United States official returning to this country."^{10/} Is this Saul or someone else? Why, this time, is it the Soviet Embassy and not the Cuban Embassy where Saul's original photograph was taken? Are there several photographs or several copies of one photograph? Did the "returning official" return on November 23rd or earlier?

Apparently, neither the picture or pictures of Saul nor the other items listed above were ever volunteered to the Warren

Commission by the CIA. However, on February 11, 1964, at the request of the Commission, the FBI sent a copy of the Saul pictures, having trimmed it even further at the request of the CIA.^{11/} The very next day, the Chief Counsel of the Warren Commission, J. Lee Rankin, wrote to CIA's Helms, requesting that all of the information on Saul's picture, which had been given to the Secret Service the day after the assassination, be supplied to the Warren Commission.^{12/} Weeks later, and with a number of crucial deletions, the CIA finally supplied the documents to the Commission. They would not, however, supply a copy of the uncropped photo; they generously offered to let a Commission representative look at the photo (or photos) at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Va.^{13/} It is not known whether any one from the Commission ever got around to going to see the complete picture(s) of the "unidentified man" at CIA Headquarters.

And thus matters stood until 1971 when a few of the many documents in the National Archives were declassified and released after a five-year review required by law. Among these were a few pages from Commission Document 566, an FBI report of February 24, 1964. These pages, which appear to be innocent enough, describe in part the efforts of the FBI

to debrief Pedro Gutierrez Valencia, a Mexican investigator who said that he thought he saw and heard Oswald and an "unidentified man" conversing in the courtyard of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, on or about October 1, 1963. Buried in the trivia is the following revealing material:

On February 20, 1964, PEDRO GUTIERREZ VALENCIA, a Mexico City department store credit investigator who resides at Calle Florida #9, Colonia Napoles, Mexico, D.F., advised as follows:

He examined three photographs of an unidentified possible white male American suspect, which depicted this individual in the following poses:

1. Attired in a white shirt and tan trousers, holding what appears to be a courier-type pouch under his left arm and examining a wallet-type folder which it appears may contain one or two documents resembling passports.
2. Attired in the same dress described above and holding the wallet-type folder in his left hand and inserting this folder into the courier-type pouch held in his right hand.
3. Attired in a dark shirt with white collar buttons and apparently walking along with the thumb of his left hand hooked into the top of his left-hand trouser pocket.

GUTIERREZ stated on February 20, 1964, that he has never to his knowledge, seen the individual depicted in these three photographs and that this individual is definitely not identical with either the American or the Cuban he claims to have seen on October 1, 1963, exiting the premises of the Cuban Embassy at Mexico, D.F. GUTIERREZ has previously stated that he believes the American observed by him with the Cuban on October 1, 1963, as mentioned above, was LEE HARVEY OSWALD and

he based his identification on newspaper photographs of OSWALD observed by him in Mexico City newspapers almost two months after the occurrence described above.^{14/}

Photograph #3 turns out to be none other than the picture of Saul, taken in Mexico on October 4th, sent to the FBI in Dallas, shown to Marguerite Oswald, and eventually given to the Commission in cropped form. But what of poses #1 and #2? As the attire is entirely different, it should be safe to assume that they were taken on a different occasion. Were they taken in Mexico City? Were they, like #3, CIA photographs? Or were they some of the FBI's own? Why were they never given to the Warren Commission?

Several attempts have been made to clear up this mystery. However, as this book goes to press, the CIA still disclaims that it knew who the "unidentified man" was in 1963-64, that it knows who he is today, that it has any interest in him, or that it has more than the one photograph of him.^{15/} It continues to decline to declassify the uncropped photograph of him "for security reasons."

Not so, for Hugh McDonald!!!

When he first saw the photograph of the "unidentified man" published in _____ magazine in its issue of _____, ____ 1962, he instantly recognized the man as a professional assassin who had been hired by the U.S. Government in conjunction with the CIA-run Bay of Pigs operation. [Note: In our view, it is crucial to fill in the blanks here.] He felt that the man in the photograph would be instantly recognized by a number of people in our intelligence community and that his identity and any possible connection with Oswald and/or the assassination would be dealt with by the Warren Commission in a straight forward manner. To his amazement, when the Commission issued its Report and 26 volumes of supporting testimony and evidence late in 1964, there was nothing on Saul except a recitation of the confusion by Marguerite Oswald of Saul and Jack Ruby. Saul was neither identified or questioned by the Commission or its staff. Yet, for the six weeks prior to the assassination, our security agencies were frantically searching Mexico for Oswald and this professional assassin who was thought to be a friend or confederate.

Aghast, Huch McDonald set about the long, lonely and dangerous task of running Saul to earth and finding out

whether he did (as suspected by the CIA and FBI) have a hand
in the killing of JFK.

FOOTNOTES

- 1/ Affidavit of Richard Helms; Commission Document 1287.
- 2/ Affidavit of July 10, 1964, printed at page 468 of Volume II of the testimony and evidence accompanying the Report of the Warren Commission.
- 3/ Commission Document 1287.
- 4/ Commission Document 834.
- 5/ Ibid; see also Commission Document 1114.
- 6/ Commission Document 834.
- 7/ Commission Document 674, Attachment A.
- 8/ Id, Attachment B.
- 9/ Id, Page 1.
- 10/ Id, Attachment C.
- 11/ Volume II of Commission Evidence, at page 469.
- 12/ Commission Document 674, Page 1
- 13/ Id, Page 2
- 14/ Commission Document 560, Pages 3-4.
- 15/ Correspondence between Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., and Mr. Lawrence Houston, Gen. Counsel, CIA, between Feb. 11-___, 1972, and reproduced at pages _____.