

Me. 18. 1975 -

# Bare photos of fake 'Oswald'

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Review of Books has made public two photographs of a man who allegedly identified himself as Lee Harvey Oswald in contacting the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in 1963.

The Warren Commission, investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, reported that Lee Harvey Oswald visited both the Cuban and Soviet embassies in Mexico City in late September or early October, 1963.

But the man in the photographs released Monday by the New York Review of Books is not Lee Harvey Oswald.

In an article in the New York Review, George O'Toole and Bernard Fensterwald, who obtained release of the photographs through a suit under the Freedom of Information Act, cite Warren Commission documents reporting that a man who identified himself as Lee Oswald contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City.

THE MAN, according to the Warren Commission documents, was described as about 35 years old, with an athletic build, about 6 feet tall and with a receding hairline. Oswald was 24 years old and of slight build.

One picture of the man subsequently was released. Fensterwald and O'Toole quote former CIA Director Richard Helms as saying the picture was taken in Mexico City on Oct. 4, 1963.

The two additional photographs, according to Fensterwald and O'Toole, also were taken by hidden CIA surveillance cameras that photographed persons entering or leaving Communist embassies.



This photo, released by the New York Review of Books, is said to show a man who identified himself as Lee Harvey Oswald in contacting the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in 1963. (AP)

Fensterwald and O'Toole concluded that "if someone were trying to impersonate Oswald eight weeks before the assassination, the Warren Commission's theory of a lone assassin, unconnected with any conspiracy, is seriously undermined and the case should be reopened."

## Winegrowers occupy church

MONTPELLIER, France (AP) — Thousands of southern French winegrowers, protesting imports of cheap Italian wine, fought with riot police Monday and occupied the Roman Catholic cathedral of St. Peter.

Most of a crowd of 5,000 winegrowers from the Montpellier region staged a sit-in in the cathedral. They said they would continue the occupation until the French government stops the imports.

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O'Toole/Fensterwald NYReview promo for O'Toole's book HW 3/26/75

Not until tonight did I see the AP story as printed in an unidentified Chicago paper March 19. I have not yet seen the NYReview piece.

The head is faithful to the story: Bare photos of fake 'Oswald."

The story says this is a fake Oswald: "a man who identified himself as Lee Oswald [when he] contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City."

The story also says O'Toole was part of the FPI suit.

What the story and I presume the article on which it is based do not say is that the faking was by the CIA, which originally represented this as a picture of Oswald and as I recall later said it was an error.

I recall no statement in any record saying that this man represented himself as Oswald.

Nor can I imagine a man so unlike in every way, obviously looking nothing like Oswald save that both are not women or dogs, even dreaming of pretending he was Oswald.

So we have what can only be help for the CIA, regardless of what the original NYReview article says.

The major national attention was to a fake that exculpates the CIA. Did it ever need this more?

And what else does O'Toole's book and all those appearances I've caught do?

Precisely this.

If the reporters had compared these pictures with those published by the Commission they'd have concluded that what is cropped out of the Commission versions has and can have no relationship to either the identification of the man or his alleged claim to be Oswald.

What might have been of other interest - other than the CIA's misrepresentation - is that the CIA claimed national-security need to crop out what it later gave up without trial, what from examination had nothing to do with any reasonable allegation of national security.

This, naturally, is not in the story.

It is almost impossible to imagine a weaker claim that this "impersonation of Oswald eight weeks before the assassination" is reason "why the case should be reopened."

The effect of this miserable nonsense is to persuade those who might have some influence on a possible reopening that there is no basis for it.

Even with Bud's record this is terrible bad stuff. Despite this incredible record of only stupidity, irrationality and incredible claims it is not impossible to attribute Bud's participation in this awful stuff to his longing for importance on the subject and his hunger to get all this kind of publicity.

With what O'Toole has been doing this generosity can't be extended to him.

This is a story that is good CIA public relations. It is also bad public relations for any criticism of the official fiction on that assassination (and all others by not unreasonable extension.)

It and O'Toole's book and all the attention to it came at the moment of CIA's greatest need.

Attention: Policoff says that the full page NYTimes ad was duplicated in the LA Times and that billboards in both cities are plastered with book promos.

I see no convincing explanation of other than intent for this exculpation of the CIA, this p.r. for it, and if I don't assume the most sinister with regard to Bud, I certainly do not have basis for saying it is impossible.