

PHOTOGRAPH OF UNIDENTIFIED MAN

SYNOPSIS: The original of CE 237 is a photograph taken in Mexico City on October 4, 1963, when Oswald was in the U.S..

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The affidavit dated July 22, 1964 by Richard Helms, which is part of CD 1287, has recently been made available. It reads in part "the original photograph of the figure appearing in the copies was taken in Mexico City on October 4, 1963."

It is noted that the Warren Commission said that "On November 22 the CIA had provided the FBI with a photograph of a man who, it was thought at the time, might have been associated with Oswald." (WR 364; no footnote) On the basis of an interview with Liebeler, Epstein claimed that the CIA had told Liebeler that the picture had been taken at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City on September 27 and erroneously identified as a photo of Oswald. (If Liebeler's correspondence file is available at the Archives, it should be checked.)

The Warren Report claims that Oswald returned to the United States from Mexico early in the morning of October 3, 1963 (R 736).

The rest of Helms' affidavit in CD 1287 is essentially the same as that at 11H469. The remainder of CD 1287 is presumably still withheld.

SUMMARY of my correspondence concerning CD 1287:

(This is a paraphrase; do not quote it. Copies of the letters are available upon request.)

I wrote to the CIA pursuant to the provisions of the "Freedom of Information" Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and of the statement by the CIA in the Federal Register of July 21, 1967. I requested access to (a) the memo in CD 1287; (b) the affidavit in CD 1287; (c) an uncropped version of the picture referred to; (d) a cropped version of the picture. In reply, the CIA advised that (a), (b), and (d) are in the Archives, and that the CIA had (c). (This suggests that the Commission was not given the uncropped picture at any time.) The CIA advised that (a) and (c) were withheld, and (d) published (as CE 237). The CIA further advised that (b) was published at 11H469. I noted that the latter was dated 8/7/64, while CD 1287 (which is dated 7/23/64) appears in the list of CD's with the notation " 8/6/64 Aff. ret'd to Liebeler for ret'n to Helms." (Incidentally, this indicates that Liebeler knew the photo was taken on October 4, not September 27.) I pointed this discrepancy out to the Archives, who advised that the affidavit in CD 1287 was apparently treated as a draft; that the information in it is the same in substance and effect as that in the published affidavit; and that it was withheld because it contains specific information relating to sources. After I repeated my request, the CIA told me that "we are informing the National Archives that there is no objection to putting the affidavit in CD 1287 in the public domain."

Paul L. Hoch
December 21, 1967