

thing we recorded, you couldn't find enough warehouses to store them. So once something is transcribed, we don't need the tape, and it's reused. Keeping the tape might be more of an indication that there was a special interest in this fellow. However, since there isn't a tape, no one is sure that we recorded the right person. Just like we made an error in photographing the wrong man, there's a good chance that we might have recorded the same man we photographed, thinking the entire time we had surveillance on Oswald. We've really created our own problems on this one."⁸⁶

Since there was no photo of Oswald entering the embassies, or a tape recording proving he was there, conspiracy buffs use the description in the CIA teletype of October 10, 1963, and the photo released of the wrong man to claim that Oswald was impersonated. Their argument is bolstered by Cuban consul Azcue, who testified before the House Select Committee that the man he argued with for fifteen minutes at the Cuban embassy does not look like the photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald.⁸⁷ He described the man at the embassy as ten years older, with dark blond hair, and thinner.⁸⁸ Finally, the Select Committee investigator on Mexico City, Edwin Lopez, wrote a 265-page report concluding that it was likely that an Oswald imposter visited the Cuban and Soviet embassies. However, Lopez's report was sealed by the Select Committee, fueling the debate over the issue.⁸⁹

But the evidence is overwhelming that the real Oswald visited both embassies. Except Azcue, the other employees at the Cuban

⁸⁶No transcript of any sound tape has ever been released. The CIA is its own worst enemy on many of these issues. Because it is so protective of sources and its means of obtaining information, even years after the event, its lack of full disclosure is often interpreted as evidence of conspiracy. But the CIA's failure to be forthright is an inherent part of the intelligence trade, and is not unique to its handling of the Oswald case.

⁸⁸Azcue admits to being one of the few people who believe Jim Garrison's theory of an imposter Oswald, and cannot say how much this belief colors his memory of the man he encountered at the embassy. The descriptions he gave to the House Select Committee were based on his recall of an event fifteen years earlier. But when told by the committee that the visa-application signatures had been verified as belonging to Oswald, Azcue wavered. "Under such circumstances I would have to accept that I was being influenced or seeing visions."

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