

January 26, 1998

Mr. J. Barry Harrelson
Historical Review Program
Office of Information Management
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Re: Request for Additional Information and Records No. CIA-XX
(Surveillance Operations in Mexico City- Bugs and Microphones)

Dear Barry:

The Review Board staff has reviewed all the project files contained in the CIA Microfilm Collection in an attempt to determine whether documentation of all known surveillance operations aimed at the Cuban and Soviet installations in Mexico City during the time of Lee Harvey Oswald's visit through the assassination of President Kennedy has been adequately accounted for. Because we are primarily concerned with identifying additional records relating to Oswald's visits to the Soviet and Cuban Embassies, this particular request focuses only on the September - December 1963 timeframe.

There have been various references to the use of bugs and hidden microphones in some of the documents the Board has reviewed, therefore we request that the CIA provide dates when such operations were in place in order to verify that all possible surveillance of Oswald has been documented. Another goal of this effort was to determine whether there were any gaps or anomalies in operational reporting during the critical September to December period.

The review of the project files indicated that the HSCA investigators had access to all of this material most of which was summarized in *The Lopez Report*. However, a review of the project files revealed additional evidence of other surveillance activities targeting the Cuban and Soviet Embassies, including plans for installing wall bugs and hidden microphones, as well as evidence of more than one base house covering the Cuban Embassy.¹ This is particularly interesting since, according to CIA's own record and interpretation of events, Oswald was inside the offices of both the Cuban and Soviet Consulates during his sojourn in Mexico City. Although the records do not confirm that additional operations involving the use of bugs or microphone surveillance coincided with the Oswald visit, the ARRB staff would like verify for the record whether or not such additional

¹See HMMW 12454 and HMMA 20307 which were previously referenced in our letter of April 11, 1997, p. 11.

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surveillance was active during the critical September-December 1963 time frame. We have seen specific references to bugging operations but it has not been verified when such operations commenced or whether they coincided with Oswald's visit to Mexico City.

Based on the files made available to the HSCA, it is our current understanding that the field of electronic surveillance which could have possibly collected intelligence on Oswald's activities in Mexico City consisted of the following projects:

PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEILLANCE

Soviet Compound

LIEMPTY - overall, multi-purpose project

Photo Basehouses:

LIMITED: Primary base covering front gate

LILYRIC: Secondary base also covering front gate

LILYRIC: Covered back courtyard of Soviet compound

Cuban Compound

LIONION

Photo Basehouse:

LIERODE : Covered main entrance to Embassy, with coverage extended to Consulate entrance commencing late September 1963 by means of additional camera.

TELEPHONIC SURVEILLANCE

Covering both Soviet and Cuban lines:

LIENVOY: Taps on embassy lines

LIFEAT: Taps on residence lines

The Review Board requests that the CIA provide verification that the above list represents all electronic surveillance targeting the Soviet and Cuban compounds in Mexico City during the period in question, including any additional operations target the diplomatic residences and internal offices. Review Board staff have discussed this subject with HRG staff most knowledgeable on the technical aspects of this subject. HRG staff have provided oral confirmation that there were no bugs, wiretaps, nor hidden microphones in either the Cuban or Soviet Embassies during the period of the Oswald visit. In order to satisfy this request, we ask that CIA conduct an additional search for

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records on this subject, limiting the search to the timeframe of September to December 1963, and that a response in writing documenting the results of this search be provided to the ARRB by XXXX, 1998.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director