

January 24, 1997

Mr. John Pereira
Director
Historical Review Group
Center for the Study of Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Re: Request for Additional Information and Records No. CIA-19
(Surveillance Operations in Mexico City)

Dear John:

As you are aware, there has been a great deal of interest surrounding the reported trip of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald to Mexico City in September and October of 1963. Information that has now been publicly released reveals that CIA had in place several surveillance operations targeting Cuban and Soviet facilities or personnel in Mexico City. For more than one year, the Review Board staff has attempted to ascertain to what extent CIA's records related to this surveillance are complete.

It is our goal to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that we have identified and reviewed all documentation and operational reports relating to *all telephone, electronic, and photographic surveillance the CIA had targeting the Soviet and Cuban establishments in Mexico City from September 1963 through December 1963* (hereinafter "Surveillance Operations"). Although we are aware that the HSCA requested records on the Surveillance Operations, the records in the Sequestered Collection now appear to us to be somewhat incomplete and somewhat inconsistent. We would like to assemble as complete a collection as possible of all types of reporting vehicles used by the Mexico City Station and Headquarters regarding the Surveillance Operations. We are also trying to reconcile possible gaps in operational activity and operational reporting, and in order to do so would like to review all logs pertaining to these operations and all original negatives from the photo surveillance operations.¹ Therefore, we wish to pose a series of questions and request for records.

¹For example, to our knowledge, photographic take from LICALLA and LILYRIC were never made available to any of the investigative commissions in the past. We have also seen monthly operational reports for the LIENVOY operation for July, August, September, and November 1963, but cannot account for October 1963

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Request No. 1. It is the Review Board's understanding that the following operations targeted, in part, Cuban and Soviet facilities and personnel at the time of Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to Mexico City: LIPSTICK; LIEMPTY; LILYRIC; LICALLA; LIMITED; LIENTRAP; LIONION; LIERODE; LIFEAT; and LIENVOY. Did CIA have any other surveillance operations that targeted Cuban or Soviet facilities or personnel in Mexico City during September and October of 1963? If so, please identify the operations.

Request No. 2: The Review Board has identified the following types of documentation that appear to have been regularly prepared in the course of conducting operations similar to those identified in the preceding paragraph.

- Project Files
- Monthly Operational Reports
- Annual Reports
- Requests for Project Renewal
- Reviews of Project Renewal
- Authorizations of Project Renewal/Project Action Reports
- Quarterly Project Progress Reports
- Project Charts

- Photo technician monthly reports
- Resuma
- Equipment Studies
- Reports on testing of newly installed cameras as part of LIONION

- Basehouse Agent Logs
- Technical Services Division (TSD) Logs
- Negatives from photographic production
- Transmittal Manifests²

Communications (cable, dispatch, backchannel).

²According to the Lopez report, in a 6/19/64 cable, MEXI 9440, Mexico City Station alerted Headquarters that "they were sending up the negatives from the pulse camera coverage of the Cuban Embassy," and that "All available negatives and five packages of undeveloped film were sent to Headquarters by transmittal manifest #252572. (See pp.20-21)

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In addition to the documentation identified above, were there any other forms of documentation prepared with respect to the Surveillance Operations?

Request No. 3: Did CIA conduct any form of microphone or electronic surveillance (other than telephone line intercepts) of Cuban or Soviet facilities or officials in Mexico City during September through December 1963? If so, please identify, with specificity, the operations.

Request No. 4: Please provide all original records and copies of records for the Surveillance Operations as follows:

*For the period July 1963 through December 1963:*³

Project Files
Monthly Operational Reports
Annual Reports
Requests for Project Renewal
Reviews of Project Renewal
Authorizations of Project Renewal/Project Action Reports
Quarterly Project Progress Reports
Project Charts

For the period 1 September 1963 through December 1963

Photo technician monthly reports
Resuma
Back Channel Communications
Equipment Studies
Reports on testing of newly installed cameras as part of LIONION

For the period 26 September - 3 October 1963

Basehouse Agent Logs
Technical Services Division (TSD) Logs
Negatives from photographic production
Transmittal Manifests⁴

³In order to clarify that time periods requested, let me provide the following illustrations. For example, if hypothetical Operation "X" against a Soviet establishment in Mexico City was in effect in October, 1963, we are requesting records for Operation "X" from July through December of 1963. However, if a hypothetical surveillance Operation "Y" was in effect from January through August (but not September through December), we are not requesting any records related to Operation "Y."

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⁴According to the Lopez report, in a 6/19/64 cable, MEXI 9440, Mexico City Station alerted Headquarters that "they were sending up the negatives from the pulse camera coverage of the Cuban Embassy," and that "All available negatives and five packages of undeveloped film were sent to Headquarters by transmittal manifest #252572. (See pp.20-21)

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In addition, we request reports in the project and related files that make reference to activities during September and October 1963. In requesting these files, we are asking the CIA to conduct new and comprehensive searches of Agency files which go beyond what is contained in the Sequestered Collection. This request should be interpreted in its broadest sense and extended to include any other surveillance operations that were targeted against the Soviet and Cuban installations during the time of Oswald's visit. For example, if there were additional TSD operations, wiretapping, microphone surveillance (bugs), or technical surveillance other than those listed above, we request any files and/or logs that exist on such.

In the event that any file has been destroyed, we request that all information pertaining to such destruction be provided. We anticipate that the results of these searches and a written explanation of missing material will be included in the Agency's Final Compliance Statement.

In requesting access to these materials, we are not designating them "assassination records" as of yet. Nor are we, at this time, requesting that copies be given to the Review Board.

We would appreciate your response by March 7, 1997. If this does not provide you with sufficient time, please let us know, in writing, by what date you believe you will be able to respond to this request.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel and Associate Director
for Research and Analysis