

I. OUTLINE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE CIA AND MEXICO CITY

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ADDDENDUM TO FOOTNOTE #614 OF "LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE CIA
AND MEXICO CITY.

Some controversy has arisen in regard to the question of whether the tapes existed at the time of the assassination due to a memorandum from J. Edgar Hoover to the head of the Secret Service which said:

The Central Intelligence Agency advised that on October 1, 1963, an extremely sensitive source had reported that an individual identified himself as Lee Oswald, who contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring as to any messages. Special Agents of this Bureau, who have conversed with Oswald in Dallas, Texas, have observed photographs of the individual referred to above and have listened to a recording of his voice. These Special Agents are of the opinion that the above-referred-to individual was not Lee Harvey Oswald.

(Memorandum from Hoover to James J. Rowley, 11/23/63, pp. 4-5.) The HSCA has determined that this statement was probably based on another FBI memorandum which said:

Inasmuch as the Dallas Agents who listened to the tape of the conversation allegedly of Oswald from the Cuban Embassy to the Russian Embassy in Mexico and examined the photographs of the visitor to the Embassy in Mexico and were of the opinion that neither the tape nor the photograph pertained to Oswald, I requested Shanklin to immediately send a photograph of Oswald to our Legal Attache.

(Memorandum from Belmont to Tolson, 11/23/63, p.1. Mr. Belmont was reporting the results of a conversation with the Special Agent in Charge in Dallas, Gordon Shanklin, that occurred at 11:50 A.M.)

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Later that same day SAC Shanklin informed the Director that the tape of Oswald's voice had been erased: "It should be noted that the actual tape from which this transcript was made has been erased." (Teletype from SAC Dallas to Director, # 232220, 7:30 P.M. CST, 11/23/63. Emphasis in the original.)

The confusion about whether or not there was a tape apparently continued for several days after the SAC in Dallas informed the Director that such a tape did not exist. On 11/25/63 the FBI Legat in Mexico City sent a Cablegram to the director which said:

There appears to be some confusion in that no tapes were taken to Dallas but only typewritten transcripts supplied by CIA, the tapes not being available because they had been erased.

(Cablegram # 182 & 183, p 2.)

The FBI was asked to explain the paragraph from the Hoover memorandum quoted above. It responded:

The paragraph appearing on pages 4 and 5 of the letterhead memorandum, which is quoted in your (FBI) request of March 17, 1978, contains some incorrect information regarding a tape recording of the voice of an individual who identified himself as Lee Oswald..

Retrievable information contained in files of the FBI indicates that this Bureau received information derived from transcripts of tape recordings furnished by another government agency which conducts intelligence type inves-

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tigations. The transcripts indicated that on September 28, 1963, and October 1, 1963, the voice of an individual identifying himself as Lee Oswald was recorded by the other government agency conducting intelligence type investigations. Additionally, this government agency provided the FBI with photographs of an individual who appeared to be an American; these photographs being taken by said agency on October 1, 1963.

It is noted that the FBI never received the actual tape recordings from which the transcripts were derived, as the tapes were erased by the other government agency providing the transcripts

As a result, no FBI employee ever listened to a tape recording purporting to contain Lee Harvey Oswald's voice as no tape was ever provided to this Bureau.

(JFK Classified Document # 131.) No FBI agent interviewed by the Committee recalled listening to any tape recording purporting to contain a conversation involving Oswald.

I. INTRODUCTION;

A. Issues Addressed

The House Select Committee on Assassinations' investigation into Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City has been directed at answering the following questions:

- 1) Did Lee Harvey Oswald visit the Soviet and Cuban Consulates or Embassies in Mexico City?
- 2) In addition to the visits which may have been made to the Embassies, what were Lee Harvey Oswald's activities while he was in Mexico City?
- 3) Was Lee Harvey Oswald alone in Mexico City? If not, who were his associates and what were their activities?
- 4) Did the Central Intelligence Agency maintain any surveillance operation(s) aimed at the Cuban and Soviet diplomatic missions in Mexico City? If so, what kind?
- 5) What information, if any, about Oswald's stay in Mexico was known by the CIA Mexico City Station prior to the assassination and what was the source of that information?