

At the time of the assassination, Special Agent Clark D. Anderson served as the Legal Attaché of the American Embassy in Mexico City. Special Agent Joseph Garcia served as the Assistant Legal Attaché. The Legal Attaché's office functioned much like a FBI field office, with Special Agent Anderson performing the functions of a Special Agent in Charge. Including the Legat and the Assistant Legat, there were approximately 17 agents that operated under the control of the Mexico City Legat's office. Most were stationed in the embassy in Mexico City, but the Legat's office controlled three small Resident Agencies in Mexico -- in Mazatlan, Guadalajara, and Monterrey. Another agent traveled from the Mexico City Legat's office to five Central American countries in an effort to develop contacts with individuals in those areas.

Although it seems that most people in the Embassy (and many Mexicans) knew that the Legal Attaché's office was, in fact, an FBI post, the Mexico City Legat Administrative File at the FBI indicates that the Bureau did not officially disclose their presence in the country.

The Legat's primary work in Mexico City involved locating fugitives who had crossed the border and recovering stolen property that was in Mexico. In addition, the Legat's office engaged in foreign counterintelligence work in Mexico City -- which included investigations of American citizens in Mexico who the FBI believed to be engaged in subversive activities. The Mexico City administrative file indicates that FBI HQ considered the Legat's espionage work to be quite important because it was aware of a large Soviet diplomatic establishment in Mexico. However, the file also demonstrates an FBI awareness that espionage should not be its primary mission in Mexico City.

Consistent with the manner in which he ran the Bureau, Director Hoover kept a close watch over day to day decision making in the Mexico City Legat's office. The administrative file contains a good bit of "Hoover blue ink" in which the Director made his characteristic comments on a range of activities in the Legat's office, from whether agents could drive Bureau cars for personal use to the advisability of agents revealing information about American activities in Mexico to acquaintances at dinner parties.

The SCIF contains copies of select pages from the Mexico City Legat administrative file. One memorandum (dated 4/30/92) is particularly interesting, but cannot be summarized in this context, as it contains sensitive information.