

## Mexico City

By way of introduction--

We know--or think we know--that:

Lee Harvey Oswald--or an Oswald imposter--visited Mexico City from 27 Sept. 1963 to 2 October 1963.

While in Mexico City, Oswald--or an Oswald imposter--visited the Cuban and Soviet consulates occasions (Fri., Sept. 27, Sat., Sept. 28, and Tuesday, Oct. 1) in an attempt to return to USSR with help of a Cuban visa.

He also phoned the Soviet Embassy, and several calls were made on his behalf between the Cuban and Soviet consulates.

CIA maintained heavy--although not round-the-clock photo surveillance of both embassies. But, after the assassination, could not produce any photo of Oswald entering or leaving either embassy. (A photo it had earlier identified as being of Oswald was of the wrong man).

And although CIA recorded as many as 8 conversations of, or having to do with, Oswald, it maintains that the original tapes were destroyed soon after they were recorded, making it impossible to identify Oswald's voice and confirm by transcript alone that it was indeed Oswald who was there.

While in Mexico City, Oswald may have kept entirely to himself or--according to reports--may have made a variety of social contacts, including a now-infamous twist party and a relationship with Silvia Duran, whom he had met at the Cuban consulate.

A Nicaraguan by the name of Gilberto Alvarado also claimed that, while at the Cuban embassy, he saw Oswald receive money from a Cuban after assuring this Cuban and a black man that he was "man enough" to do a particular job--a killing. Alvarado later recanted under questioning from Mexican authorities, but then said the Mexicans had coerced him....

Although CIA's release of its JFK assassination records to NARA has illuminated some aspects of the Mexico City part of the Oswald story, CIA's continued redaction of other portions of its records leaves shadows in precisely those areas where researchers have the most questions:

1. Surveillance-related issues, including crypts, and
2. Personnel-related and records-tracking issues. (In other words, who at Mexico City station and headquarters knew what about Oswald, and when did they know it?)

Currently, CIA redactions for its Mexico City records can be summarized pretty much as follows:

1. Location (CIA acknowledges existence of a Mexico City station after 1 September 1963, through Win Scott's tenure as COS in 1969, but not before or after this window. This means that CIA has taken a significant number of redactions in its Mexico City portion of the JFK assassination records solely because the records in question fall on the wrong side of this window.
2. Surveillance methods (including crypts)
3. Numbers and crypts that reveal internal operating procedures for handling and directing records.
4. Names of Agency officers and employees
5. Pseudonyms of Agency officers and employees
6. Crypts of Agency agents, assets and sources
7. General description of sources
8. Crypts of US government entities (or other countries, such as Cuba)

Before we look at some examples of records in these categories, however, I'd like to alert you to fact that....