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GA  
CIA

*Oswald post-1963*  
*3*

S.A. Stern/aw/3-27-64  
cc: Mr. Rankin  
Mr. Stern  
Files ✓

XAAZ-36392  
March 27, 1964

C

MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Rankin  
FROM : S. A. Stern  
SUBJECT: CIA File on Oswald

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Today, Friday, March 27, 1964, I met at CIA headquarters with Mr. Rocca to review the CIA file on Lee Harvey Oswald. The file contains those materials furnished to us previously by CIA. In addition, it contains the following materials:

a. Cable reports from the CIA station in Mexico of November 22 and 23, 1963 relating to photographs of a person who had visited the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City during October and November 1963; and reports on these cables furnished on November 23 by CIA to the Secret Service. These messages are accurately paraphrased in the attachments to the CIA memorandum of March 24, 1964 (Commission Document #674).

b. Cable of October 10 from CIA Mexico City station to CIA headquarters reporting on Oswald contact at Soviet Embassy, and October 10, 1963 message from CIA headquarters to Mexico City station of background information on Oswald. These messages are accurately reported in the CIA memorandum of January 31, 1964.

I did not review any materials later than November 23, 1963.

Mr. Rocca also showed me the "printout" of the references to Oswald documents in the CIA electronic data storage system. There was no item listed which we have not been given either in full text or paraphrased.

When I evidenced an interest in the CIA electronic data processing system, Mr. Rocca said that he would arrange a detailed explanation at a future visit.

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10 FEB 1964

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin**

**SUBJECT: Information Developed by CIA on the  
Activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in  
Mexico City, September 23 to  
October 3, 1963**

1. This refers to your letter of January 19, 1964, relating to information forwarded by [redacted] regarding the activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico, during the period September 23 to October 3, 1963.

2. The second paragraph of your letter raises a question with regard to reports on current aspects of investigation in Mexico, or concerning Mexican leads in the OSWALD case. Specifically, that paragraph seems to refer to speculative information provided the White House by Jose L. LASAGA which originated with Salvador DIAZ VERNON. CIA has nothing to add to the detailed investigation of this matter conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We assume that the Commission is already in possession, or will be in the near future, of the details of the outcome of that investigation.

3. CIA is cooperating very closely with the FBI in the development of another Mexican lead, as is probably already known to the Commission. If in the course of this cooperation, CIA develops original, substantive material, it is our intention

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to report the details to the Commission concurrently with what-  
ever is made available to the Commission by the FBI.

4. The following replies are keyed to the numeration of  
your letter of February 10:

1. We are not in a position to supply copies of  
teleggrams sent between the Soviet Embassy in  
Washington and Mexico City.

2. Translations of the two police interrogation  
reports of Silvia DURAN are being forwarded to the  
Commission under separate cover.

3. From the evidence on hand, we deduce that  
OSWALD visited the Consulate in Mexico City on  
the afternoon of 27 September 1963 and again some time  
on 28 September 1963. There is no evidence that he  
visited it more than once on the days mentioned,  
but we cannot exclude those possibilities. The wording  
in paragraph seven of our report, on pages four and  
five, is based on the statements of Silvia DURAN and  
means that OSWALD was at the Consulate at least once  
after his initial visit, and that this later visit was on  
the afternoon of a day on which the Cuban Consul tele-  
phoned the Soviet Consulate about OSWALD's visa  
problem. This may well have been 28 September, but  
we cannot be certain of this conclusion.

4. We do not know whether Cuban Consulate  
archives contained information on OSWALD sub-  
dating his September-October 1963 visit. From the  
statements of Silvia DURAN, one could conclude that  
she had never heard of OSWALD until he visited the  
Consulate in late September 1963. The file on OSWALD  
which Silvia DURAN mentions is the one she opened on  
him at that time and which she looked up again when  
OSWALD's name was published as the probable assassin  
of President Kennedy.

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5. We do not think it would be unusual for OSWALD to tell OSWALD he could not have a Soviet visa. Such frank statements are quite common in consular practice, as far as we know.

6. We believe that Silvia DURAN's statement that OSWALD knew no one in Cuba meant literally that, and this would mean that no one there could sponsor him, vouch for him, or insure that he would not become a public charge. On the other hand, the remark of the Soviet official would seem to imply that the Soviets had no previous record of OSWALD, at least in Mexico. It indeed the Soviet official was telling the truth.

7. We believe that OSWALD both telephoned to the Soviet Embassy or Consulate, and was interviewed by officials there.

8. We cannot be sure what OSWALD meant by his allusions to ~~the~~ ~~fact~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~moving~~ ~~from~~ ~~Orleans~~ ~~to~~ ~~Texas~~, and he may have acquired ~~the~~ ~~fact~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~moving~~ ~~from~~ ~~Orleans~~ ~~to~~ ~~Texas~~ in the process which he gave first to the Cuban Consulate, then misheard or forgot, and finally recovered from Cuban Consulate files so he could pass it to the Soviet Consulate. It could also be that he was talking about his Mexico City hotel address which he might have momentarily forgotten while at the Soviet Consulate.

9. The Cuban Consulate and Cuban Embassy in Mexico City are separate offices located in separate buildings that stand on adjacent lots separated by a Cuban official parking lot. The Cuban Consulate is on a corner at Marques and Zamora Streets and the Embassy is at 160 Marques Street. The Soviet Embassy and Consulate are both located in a large mansion with connected outbuildings.

REPRODUCTION that the references in OSWALD's ~~report~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~fact~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~had~~ ~~since~~ ~~been~~ ~~replaced~~

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must refer to Cuban Consul Eusebio AZCUE, who left Mexico for Cuba on permanent transfer on 18 November 1963, four days before the assassination. AZCUE had been in Mexico for eighteen years and it was known to us as early as September 1963 that AZCUE was to be replaced. His replacement did arrive in September. AZCUE was scheduled to leave in October but did not leave until 18 November.

We do not know who might have told OSWALD that AZCUE or any other Cuban had been or was to be replaced, but we speculate that Silvia DURAN or some Soviet official might have mentioned it if OSWALD complained about AZCUE's ~~replacement~~.

11. We have no additional information on OSWALD's activities in Mexico City. This part of the investigation was handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation through its own facilities. All of our sources have been queried for further information but none has been developed. Neither pro- nor anti-CASTRO persons or groups have produced what we regard as hard information.

12. We can only guess why Silvia DURAN described OSWALD as a blonde. Perhaps his complexion seemed light to her, compared with that of most Latin Americans. When she was arrested, she had not seen OSWALD for about two months, but apparently she had noted him as a blonde in her Consular records.

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CCI/R&A/RGRocca:dc/18 February 1964 (Para 4 based on draft prepared by C/WH/3.)

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Please transmit the attached envelope to Fletcher M. KNIGHT only.

Willard C. CURTIS

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