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DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System
Identification Form

Date: 4/14/201

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10314-10011
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 100-12632-NR

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : MX
TO : HQ
TITLE :

DATE : 05/12/1964
PAGES : 4
SUBJECTS :
CHARLES SMALL
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Confidential
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 02/18/1998
OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE
COMMENTS : AT

5/12/64

(JFK) 3/7/96

AIRTEL

CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/GCL
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X (1) (6)

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IN THIS DOCUMENT JBH/24/93
(9803 add/mde 6/14/93 JFK)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-82555)

FROM: LEGAT, MEXICO CITY (105-3702) (P)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

APPROVED
DATE

ReBucab 4/30/64.

Mexico City Office file on CHARLES SMALL (Bufile 100-12632) reflects that he has the status of "immigrado" (permanent immigrant) in Mexico and that he departed Mexico City for New York on 9/14/63, returning approximately 9/29/63. Through informant MEX-46 arrangements have been made to review SMALL's file at Gobernacion to confirm his immigration status and determine whether or not that file contains any record of his September travel. [B]

On 5/4/64, Miss ANNE GOODPASTURE, CIA, Mexico City, advised that Mexico City airline records reflect that CHARLES SMOLIKOFF and son, DENNIS, departed from Mexico City for New York City on Eastern Airline Flight #300, 9/14/63. He returned to Mexico City from New York City on Eastern Airline Flight #301, 9/29/63, accompanied by his wife, BERTHE SMOLIKOFF (Bufile 100-421747), and son, DENNIS. BERTHE

- 6 - Bureau
(1 - Liaison Section)
(2 - Dallas, 100-10461)
3 - Mexico City
(1 - MC 100-1535, C. SMALL)
(1 - MC 134-10A)

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Classified by 2040
Exempt from automatic
Date of Declassification Indefinite

7-13-77 BA

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SMOLIKOFF had preceded her husband in traveling to New York, going by Eastern Airlines Flight #300 on 9/9/63, accompanied by son, ABBOTT (Bufile 100-441277). Checks of airline travel relating to SMALL for the period from 9/29-10/3/64 are not being made since information received from CIA, Mexico, "not to be disseminated outside the Bureau," as recorded in the report of SA NATHAN L. FERRIS dated 11/29/63, entitled "CHARLES N. SMOLIKOFF, aka, SM - C," indicated that SMOLIKOFF remained in Mexico City following his arrival on 9/29/63 and claimed to be ill.

In regard to Bureau request for opinion of this office concerning the best manner for interviewing SMALL in case the Commission requests his interview, the following is submitted:

It is suggested that such an interview should not be requested from the Mexican authorities because of the difficulties previously cited of exercising control of Mexican officials.

If such interview proves necessary, it should be handled by an American official, preferably some official of the Embassy who is operational abroad and would be able to testify or give a deposition if needed, as is customarily done when official interviews are required abroad in Bureau cases. It is believed that this could be best arranged by request by the Bureau to the State Department in the customary manner. The Department of State would then issue instructions to the Embassy, which would select the proper official to handle the interview, and this office could cooperate closely with him.

It is suggested also that an Agent of this office sit in with the Embassy official during the interview to insure that the Bureau's interests are protected and pertinent points covered. It is believed that SMOLIKOFF, as an American citizen, would respond to a request from the Embassy to appear at the Embassy for an interview.

(S)(u)
For the protection of MEX-18 and MEX-19, it is suggested that the predication for the interview be that several American Communists who have visited Mexico, when returning to the United States, have stated that SMOLIKOFF had been of assistance to them in many ways and that the January, 1964, National Guardian tour was entertained by him; X

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consequently, it was desired to determine whether or not OSWALD had contacted him or visited his store. In the event SMOLIKOFF claims that he was not in Mexico City when OSWALD was in this area, it is felt that the interviewer could point out to him that the airline records show that he left for New York on 9/14/63 and returned on American Airlines 9/29/64 and that the airline manifests do not show any other travel by him in the period prior to 10/3/63. It is felt this approach would direct attention away from effective informants of this office. (S)(u)

With respect to the type of assistance given by SMOLIKOFF to visiting American Communists, this matter again was discussed with MEX-18 and MEX-19 on 5/5/64. The informants advised that, according to ELIZABETH CATLETT MORA (Bufile 100-395934), SMOLIKOFF assists visitors who contact his store in finding hotel accommodations, suggesting places of tourist interest to visit, and advising them where they can purchase items in which they are interested. SMALL helps them make appointments with other American Communist Group in Mexico (ACGM) associates they desire to meet whose addresses they do not have, cashes checks for them and performs similar services. (S)(u)

According to MORA, SMOLIKOFF assists visiting Communists as described above if he is impressed by them; if he does not like them, he merely gives them one of his business cards, tells them to call him if he can help them, and dismisses them. (S)(u)

The above description of the assistance rendered by SMOLIKOFF coincides with the information previously received from CIA, Mexico, classified "SECRET and not to be disseminated outside of the Bureau." (S)(u)

Inasmuch as the type of assistance given visiting Communists by SMOLIKOFF may become an issue during any official interview with him by American Embassy personnel, MEX-18 and MEX-19 have been instructed to cease further efforts to obtain more specific information in this regard in order not to jeopardize their status. (S)(u)

With respect to Bureau instructions that a letter-head memorandum be submitted recording the number of informants contacted who could not furnish information that OSWALD had (S)(u)

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visited SMALL's business establishment, it is pointed out that the survey of informants concerning OSWALD was completed and reported by airtel dated 4/30/64. Other than MEX-18 and MEX-19, the informants who would be in position to have some knowledge with respect to SMALL, his activities and contacts, are MEX-48 and MEX-61, who have been away from Mexico and unavailable for contact. As soon as they can be consulted, the letterhead memorandum requested by the Bureau will be submitted. *4/68*

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