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104-10125-10003

#### SECRIPTION OF THE

Mexico Station Coverage of Soviet and Cuban Embassies (1963)

1. Coverage:
From the time the Mexico Station was openeduntil
the arrival of Mr. Win Scott as Chief of Station in the Station had
developed a support apparatus to exploit leads from the Soviet Embassy in
Mexico City. This umbrella type project (LIPSTICK) consisted of multiline
phone taps, three photographic sites, a mobile surveillance team and a
mail intercept operation.
Telephone taps (LIFEAT) were placed by
handled by a Station case officer. The number
of lines tapped was limited only by the availability of a listening post
nearby and the availability of langauge (English, Spanish, Soviet, Polish,
Czech, etc.) transcribers. Generally, these were Mexican or Mexican-
American recruited agents.

Three photographic sites were handled by a Station case officer assisted by technicians on TDY from Headquarters who advised the Station on the best types of cameras, films, and concealment devices. These operations had sub-crypts under project LIPSTICK (namely: LIMITED, LILYRIC and LICALLA). LIMITED was a fixed site directly opposite the Soviet Embassy (across the street) which had both a vehicle and a pedestrian entrance. The gate to the Soviet Embassy was on the northwest corner of the

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Soviet compound and the LIMITED site was diagonally across a double laned street on the southeast corner of that block. (See attached diagram). LIMITED was the first photo base and operated strictly on an experimental basis in the early stages. This base, however, was closed when the Station received word that the photograph of the "unidentified man" was being released by the Warren Commission. LILYRIC was an alternate photographic base. It was located in an upper story of an apartment building on the same side of the street as the LIMITED site but in the middle of the block south. It had a planted view of the front gate of the Soviet Embassy. LICALLA, the third photographic site, was located in one of a row of four houses on the south side of the Soviet Embassy compound. This site overlooked the back garden of the Soviet Embassy compound. The purpose of this operation was to get good identification photographs of Soviet personnel. The three photographic sites were managed by a recruited agent who was a Mexican citizen, the son of an American mother and Mexican father (deceased). This agent collected the film from the LIMITED and LILYRIC sites three times a week. The film was then developed and printed into 8 x 10 contact print strips. LICALLA film was originally processed in the Station but in early  $\Gamma$ due to the resignation of a technician, this film like that of LIMITED and LILYRIC was processed on the outside by a recruited agent.

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Mobile surveillance was conducted by two American staff officers. These two officers organized a surveillance team of six recruited agents which used late model cars and a panel truck for surveillance. The team could be activated by radio from the LIMITED site whenever someone of interest left the gate of the Soviet Embassy. These agents were aware of the LIMITED site since they had been issued LIMITED photographs for identification purposes.

The Station also conducted a mail inter	cept operation,
LIBIGHT, which was handled by an American case officer.	
obtained sele	cted letters
from a subagent	· · ·
2. <u>Coverage</u> :	·
was unreliable and insecure as ch	aracterized by
the nature of the at that time. The Mexic	an Direction
of Federal Security (DFS),	was a hip-
pocket group run out of the Mexican Ministry of Government.	This Ministry
was principally occupied with political investigations and	control of
foreigners. Their agents were wiring, and corrupt.	

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The listening post had 30 lines	
connected at one time. The transcription room was staffed by	
In 1961,	
the Station chief, himself, became the project case officer. A	
Station officer assisted him in the daily supervision of the listening	
post, and in picking up the transcripts and the tapes. There was also	
an American technician inside the listening post.	
3. <u>Oswald Coverage</u> :	
In mid-1962,	
post for the telephone numbers of the Soviet, Cuban and Satellite Em-	
bassies in The Station immediately	
soon thereafter connected five Cuban lines, five	
Soviet lines, three Czech lines, two Polish lines, and one Yugoslav	
line. At the listening post, a live monitor made short summaries of	
conversations of interest which were then included in a daily resume	
for the Chief of Station. Later, when a reel was completely recorded,	
full transcripts were typed and passed to the Station; however, there	
was usually a time lag of a day or two. Reels which contained Russian	

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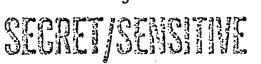
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for translation and typing. Mr. Boris Tarasoff did the Russian translations but because of the volume of Russian conversations, the translations usually ran about a week behind the date of the conversation.

As soon as the Station learned that an American identifying himself as Lee Oswald phoned the Soviet Embassy, Miss Ann Goodpasture of the Station started screening all photographs. However, here again, there was a backlog because the photographs were picked up three times a week but those picked up were usually for dates a few days before since the technician who was processing the film, did so on a night-time basis. Further, photographs were not made initially until a complete roll of film was used. Later this was changed and the operator cleared the camera at the end of each day regardless of amount of unused film remaining. The instructions were to cover the entire work day (office hours) and to photograph all Soviets, their families, all foreigners, and cars with Human error did occur but generally the agents foreign license plates. were conscientious. The Cuban Embassy coverage had more sophisticated equipment using a pulse camera which frequently developed mechanical difficulties.

Oswald came to the attention of the listening post operators from a tap of the Soviet line. It was picked up and taken to Mr. Boris



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Tarasoff for translation because the caller was trying to speak in Russian. There was some delay because Station personnel waited to compare the photographs with the typed transcript. All transcripts were made in either Spanish or English since the Chief of Station could read only these two languages and because he personally screened the transcripts for operational leads.