

Joseph H. Langost  
NOTES.

[ HSCA Interview of [Harold J. Swenson], by Alan Hardway & Charles Berk at HSCA offices on 8/21/78, 10:15 A.M.

letter ✓

period photo White hair - glasses

[ 10 Georgetown N. Greenwich, Conn. ]

[ Director of Security for Greensboro Farms (?) ]

~~Harvey?~~  
~~at ...~~  
~~Special?~~

N.Y. was a VP for [Intertel]

1/5-155 joined CIA till 8/68.

~~Harvey?~~  
~~Special?~~

1963 - two roles. special assistant to C/SAS or then C/SAS/CI.

worked with Harvey & D.F.

Central Intelligence Agency  
has no Objection to Release  
Date: AF SANITIZED  
2003

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HCR?

subsequent. Senior rep  
 for Latin affairs in  
 Western Europe -  
 trouble shooter  
 also in Mid-East.

primary concern was CIA  
 did work in liaison  
 @ friendly services.

function SAS: meaningless  
 except in context of name

CI - heading it for  
 a microcosm of agency  
 liaison @ FBI.

knew Harvey in FBI +  
 had common understand  
 @ H. re: his (S's) role.

protect against foreign  
 penetration, esp Cuba.  
 mount ops to penetrate  
 Cuba CUB.

SAS can be SA.

Epstein

got true names, psyops  
contacts + bio on CUIS  
officers - computer  
storage + retrieval.  
Travel info - also  
computerized.  
looked for disenchantment

Over?  
MCP BAY?

first in-depth knowledge  
of CUIS functions from  
[ AMNIP ]  
while still exploiting  
info got AMMUG.

5 brought him back to U.S.  
Canadians hesitant.

A/1 brought operational  
files - tremendously  
valuable in defriending.  
[ NIP + ] MUG best sources  
tried to exploit their  
info on other CUIS  
officers

[ NIP - ] late 62 or 63.

before to defectors CIA  
info merger / sketchy

unreliable — "They were goldmines!"

CVIS (G-2) changing over 62 + 63.

by '64 was O&I — in  
interim great deal  
of training and progress

[NIP — Inception  
MUG — up to date

also received info from  
all sources — other  
stations, etc.

2 Computer systems —  
separate from other  
computer indexing  
doesn't remember  
specific names —  
still in existence when  
he left —  
coordinated but report

[CIS] wouldn't have  
access 'cept through S.

Phillips

minimal contact @  
 C/IS - "pretty much independent"

Mexi reports extracted  
 & included.

~~situa~~ [S] would go to Mexi for  
 certain CI things.

became C/SA/CI can't  
 remember exact dates -  
 gradual movement after  
 2 tours overseas -  
 Harver's special assist  
 to C/OI.

~~travel @ him~~ close friendship @ Harver  
 back to FBI days but  
 compartmentized.

[S] was in Marines & spoke  
 Spanish.

27 at time of missile unofficio  
 CI. Almost simul @ [D.F.] ARRIVAL  
 Official.

MUG valuable coz desk off  
 respon. for Mexi &  
 Central Am.

had ops files @ true names, alias, local country agents - info so detailed - commo + everything.  
 [ I was able to go to various countries to work @ this info.

ass'n attempts by CVIS can't recall any. thinks it unlikely - met a number of them - recruitment + elicitation mediocre officers. in terms of professionalism most didn't have the stomach.  
 never found any indication except in encouraging revolutionary actions.

as organization? capable?  
 "iffy"  
 conceivable but doubtful  
 too busy + careless  
 + ~ that jealous.

mediocre but improving rapidly.

recruitment attempts.  
[MEXI?] 60-65?  
he did / ~ successful but partially - individual well known to [NIP-] got him to hotel room - at time Castro's sister defected. baked him out - thought meeting C's sister - guy was wavering - considered working for CIA but changed mind. - C's sister defected at time of meeting - problems - and he decided ~ to do it. can't remember name wasn't [Riz]

TALL SKINNY GUY  
Light brown complexion  
dissatisfied  
@ TREATMENT

Chief of CVIS IN EMBASSY. AT THAT TIME

position IN EMBASSY?

[RIZ]

no successful recruitment in Mexi that he recalls.

[Belgium] QJ/WIN - ZRRIFLE - means nothing to him



8

MUG -

first indication that  
"DGI" even existed.

MUG - was aware of people  
in all C.A. + Mexi. DGI  
activities.

bona fides firmly established  
he was completely dissatisfied

files - none that dealt  
w/ LHO or JFK assassin.

11/22/63 - immediately caused  
search of files w/ no  
response.

MUG - was reliable + held  
confidence of CIA.

[ I got him coz he was most  
knowledgeable of CUIS -  
went to Can. sebb to  
✓ out bonafides.

once brought A/1 back  
various people delegated

to babysit & etc.  
 Hidalgo, [Flores,] [Vivian Berry,]  
 Joe Piccolo.

H was a case officer —  
 "did whatever I told him  
 to." great Spanish — Cuban  
 dialect — enthusiastic  
 ungratifying — great  
 babysitter — lots of  
 physical defects

no recall of op use in  
 Mexi — but he did have  
 a host of info — not  
 close enough to people in  
 Mexi as [NIP] was.

[Miguel Roche]

[NIP] very effective —  
 [star basketball player]

no recollection of  
 penetrations at Cubamb  
 but did have observa-  
 tion posts.

sez Bishop sketch could be a  
 lot of people.

should have known of penetrations but doesn't mean he would have penetrations should have had a CT check

AS  
4/27

COBHN  
9/10/05

no knowledge of Cuban penetration of us.

[ Will Kirby - Retired  
Piccolo

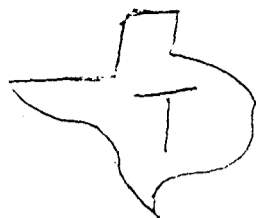
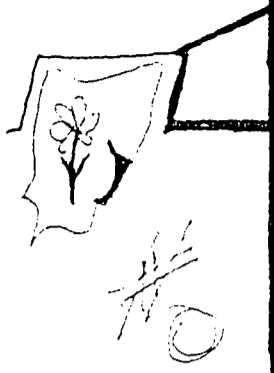
[ Austin Horn ] - deceased  
could have had knowledge but would have called to his attention.

doesn't think Whitten ] had to do @ Mex.

~~but~~ adding 2 and 2.  
may have after gotten more than 4"

jealous & ambitious

gung & overestimate value  
2 completely objective  
but very bright.  
tendency to subjective coloring.

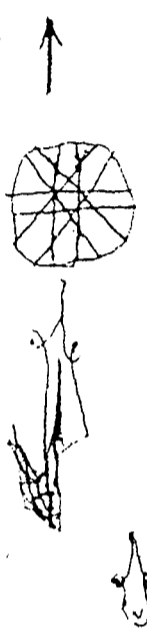


aware of W. respon.  
- can not recall.  
did not assist.

Phillips &  
prep. of.

### Documents

CIA # 3709 shown.



[5] wrote cable - initial  
assessment.  
"speaks for itself"

3710

para. E.

commercial attache - doesn't  
recall who it was now.  
others - mentioned? can't  
at time.

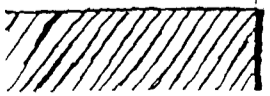
man he talked to was,  
he thinks, the commercial  
attache.

3711

para. H

he is Kangosh (p4)

Canadian debriefing approx  
10 days.



tried to give HQ idea of how valuable he was so get State to pressure to give him to us.

notes in head - did not tape the debriefings  
must have been [RCMA] <sup>21</sup>

[5. I was circumspect coz suspected [Canadians] of taping.

most debriefings in U.S. - taped but took notes - wrote up detailed report for indexing + distribution Meetings for interest desks<sup>WH</sup> - asked for questions

reports would have been kept in SAS/CI + dissem. to interest desks on need to know basis.

has never heard of debriefing report #40.

"SI" - obvious thing was special intelligence/DO

but honestly doesn't know what it would stand for.

DD required a special clearance staff I sources very sensitive. ... did ~ want to compromise by taking actions that would reveal that we had broken code. ]  
 includes USA traffic. 24 ]

Cannot remember anything done on LHO case.

if report 40 originated outside of DD would ~ have included their material

retention would have meant they were working on it.

CIA 3670 shown

5 ] "one I obviously prepared but I don't remember it" probably was a debriefing report.

D.D. wouldn't have retained may have tried [to break a code]

WH/PO/A - doesn't know what that would have been.

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Sturgis - no recollection of MUG mention

reviewed JMWAZE personnel for penetrations by CUIS or as contacts into Cuba.

assumes Hunt knew Sturgis from Bay of Pigs.

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3691 shown.

[ 5 ] thinks probably did write. para 1 -

cannot recall what kinda contacts but would have been what MUG told him.

Louisa - no recollection. name came up coz MUG told him that.

follow-up?

[ 5 ] had no connections @ WC but would have sent memo to CIs



talks about questioning tech.  
to avoid letting interviewee  
know what point was  
significant + spurious name  
+ Mongolian ponies as  
example.

No knowing deception on  
MUG's part.

had there been more detail  
would have been in memo

no knowledge of LC/CIA  
relationship

3695 shown

no recollection  
accurate quote.  
normal O.P.

doesn't remember seeing  
or talking.

how reconcile? op+ w.c.?

??

Angleton ran some ops  
out of vest pocket



[ 5. ] wanted opportunity to exploit MUG info / contacts + milk him dry. <sup>from MUG</sup> terrorist transit example Foreign minister's meeting + visits to chiefs of state.

no knowledge that MUG ever talked to W.C.

3699 shown.

[ 5 ] wrote it. don't recall specifics but would be way handled.

L.C. - still no recall of particulars — she would have been of interest + in machine run - contacts etc [ 5. ] would have written a memo for 201.

no recall of crypt for machine runs.

contacted? possible but no specific memory

CALDERON  
RODRIGUEZ  
VEGA.



female assets - Cuban - Mexi  
no particular recall.

3703 shown.

5 did write  
second hand info.  
never determine Americans J.D.  
did - know L.C. as CIA agent  
visa section accurate.  
doesn't think R. ever  
spoke to A/I but doesn't  
know.

polygraph - recollection  
is that he was clean all the  
way

3682 shown.



L.C. -

if he had dealt @ WC he would  
have given him earlier memo.

doesn't know Rocca that well

CIA 1950-54 shown.



three pieces of info signi-  
 fy he had been in Mexi-  
 would have explored  
 in greater detail. but  
 this part of problem  
 in that everything  
 compartmentized.

thinks W.S. would have  
 done more - would have  
 tried to interrogate the  
 3 people - polygraph -  
 enticement.

!?!  
 at time would have been  
 sig. enough to have called  
 for a more stringent inves-  
 but at that time Mexi  
 not strong on CI

suggests exploring @ Phillips

doesn't recall seeing any of  
 the transcripts - racks it up to  
 overzealous compartmentation.

- [ I would have thought that Scott would have jumped on this.

knows of no instance of recruitment  
no clearance.

3675

~~R~~

- [ Nico Garcia] is guy pitched  
@ [NIP] help (earlier)

doesn't remember much about  
Riez.

Viciana + crypt remembers  
rings no bells.

3717

doesn't remember seeing  
T.P. remembers name vaguely  
as dedicated comrade  
no knowledge of attempted  
recruitment or of membership  
in DGT.

3715.

would have done jointly  
 @ Bureau - talked to Papich  
 excellent cooperation.

D.E.S. - was known Domestic  
 Operations Division

OO innocuous & open - later  
 became D.C.D.

DDD engaged in clandestine  
 exploitation in U.S. - not  
 good rapport & cooperation  
 @ FBI.

Info on sister should be  
 available from DDD or JMWAVE

never heard of black tape

AMROD - ] no bells.

3714 - paragraph 2. - still no  
 bells.

3666

Senate didn't have copy.  
FBI called him.

(A) AMLASH insecure.  
opposed ass'n on practical  
grounds.

[ LESPINOZA?  
ACCOMPANIED? ]

group was untrustworthy  
& leaky.

risks unacceptably high.

C knew  
group plotting ass'n in 62  
& good possibility that  
AMLASH was turned.

doesn't know how much  
C knew - suspects C suspected  
agency complicity. "high  
probability" coz nature of  
group & leaks.

never knew as fact that  
any in group were C agents.

[ Madrid Security problem meeting places known as far back as '63

"did not think security, general was very good."

HUNT?

probability that C knew of agency backing AMLASH very high in light of all factors.

9/

people at SAS certainly knew AMLASH was an ass'n plot.

??

7

CI, EO, JMWAVE certainly aware. despite compartmentation at least on basis of gossip.

discussed @ D.F. - knew how he felt - @ Helms - he went through channels. It was up to [D.F.] to bring it up @ Helms.

didn't know of Hunt's trip to Spain.

23

CI/SIC - no bells.

[ Show - I would probably  
have been CI person  
in MEXI  
\* Phillips should be  
most knowledgeable  
about these things due  
to delegation from Scott  
end 2:40 p.m.



A/1

Piccolo - good intel instincts  
[ U wears Barri (Petrovsky) ] admmsst, good  
at research -  
w/ A/1 had [ U wears ]  
sit in + then look  
for collateral info to  
substantiate + refute  
A/1 knowledge -

A/1 provided accurate + reliable -  
didn't build hypothesis - gave  
hard information -  
above-average intel - good  
memory - very shrewd -

assumed in Florida -  
last contact in 1965 -

under direction - did operations for CIA  
[ H.S ] took A/1 to El Salvador -  
to try + arrange meetings w/  
CVIS people

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Mr G Cuban observation post -  
significant photos would have  
gone to Mexican desk -  
wouldn't have sent photos of unid  
American photos to HQ unless knew significance  
of photos

[ H.S ] assumes CIA + FBI had agreement to identify US'ed American who had contact w/ Bloc Country embassies

never heard of [ TUMBLEWEED ]

knew WIN SCOTT quite well

→ { never saw LHO photos in front of Cuban Embassy - doesn't know where found

doesn't know

[ <sup>03</sup> Dan Neeson ]  
does know [ Charlotte Bustos ] quite well - never heard that she had found photos of LHO - good memory - very astute, meticulous  
{ wouldn't have made mistake  
{ in descrip in documents -


[ H.S. ] resp. for determining if Anti-Castro groups had been penetrated by CVIS - including in ~~the~~ Miami -

doesn't specifically recall DRIT  
does remember ALPHA-66

Manolo Rajegroup - any penetration  
recalls that was run loosely - could  
have been better screened

Dave Phillips - P Pops - not well rounded  
as far as CI work - too trusting -  
inexperienced

---

3670 - doesn't recall 

3713 - A/I never said anything about  
Sturgis -

---

no one went w/ H.S. [when went  
to see [Espinoza] but FBI/  
agent went - head of Cuban Operat  
Frank LNU -

never heard of [Espinoza] before that -  
did read report  
after spoke w/ him

never " [Mike McClary] ]

Had little to do w/ Angleton  
doesn't know what operations he ran

J. A & W in Scott knew each other well

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doesn't know of Dave Phillips ever  
infiltrates propaganda - post JFK assass.  
never heard of CI/515

20/3659 Ruiz - refresh recollection

- ✓ 21/3670 -
- ① ~~why was it~~  
Did you write
  - ② Was it coded [did you]  
[break it]
  - ③ what is the reference
- 

✓ Oswald Report No. 40  
What is SI

{ Black Tape 201 -

{ What is [AMROD-] see 3714 # 3  
what about Proenza  
#

22/3666 - 1) who was [Espinoza] <sup>connection to Howard</sup>  
when was memo written & what were his allegations  
2) # 2 a D who was "Totu"

See 3667 3 A (2) - what does this mean

3668 - top # - you considered it an assas plot -  
by U.S gov + CIA

re-read

see 110  
3669  
# CL [20501FTM]

# [ Swenson ] Interview

1. Release Letter
2. Mandate + Purpose
3. name, address, age, occupation
4. CIA position in 1963
5. other CIA positions until retirement anytime in Mex -
6. what is WH/SAS/CI - its function - your function

a) Is WH/SA/CI same as WH/SAS/CI



any successful recruitments

7.

How much was known <sup>in 1963-1964</sup> about CUIS by CIA - how was info gained

a) ~~any knowledge of pol. assas. carried out by CUIS~~

b) what was DBI - how was it organized Any DBI - CIA agents

8.

~~AMMUS-1~~ Familiarity w/ crypt AMMUS-1

a) who was he

b) when did he defect

c) w/ what into

d) how significant

e) where is he now

f) who handled him + in what order

why did you handle him

g) what was your responsibility

vis a vis AMMUS-1 - for how long

h) what was his operational use

- h) 1) - was he used to attempt penetration of DSI
- 2) did he succeed - against whom
- 3) did CIA have penetration agents at Mxlysta at time LHO visited - who - what were crypts + names
- i) where is A/I now

9. ~~██████~~ Did WH/SAS have a "domestic exploitation section" - what purpose

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DOCS <sup>10</sup> ①

[ OTTA 1602 ]  
3709

Is this accurate

Did you ever meet/see/see  
concerning A/I

② 3710 # E - Accurate  
a) who was comm'l at the  
b) any other DSI

③ 3711 # E - what does did A/I bring out - did any pertain to LHO

④ 3711 # H - indicates LANGOSCH - was that you

b) how long did you debrief [A/I in OTTA

c) where + w/ whom

d) how did you record info - how was it seen to CIA HQ

3712

⑤ see 3713 # S - did A/I know F. Sturgis

a) Did Sturgis work for you

b) 3713 - # 7 - who was [Amnrip/1- ]  
what kind of info did he provide  
did [Amnrip] know sturgis - was  
[Amnrip]sturgis

- 5 May memo 11
- ① 3691 - Did you write this
  - ② How many times did LHO visit embassy
  - ③ Did you see the Mx Cy photo surveillance <sup>photos</sup> of LHO - when
  - ④ Who was Luisa Calderon - what is her significance
  - ⑤ Did A/1 ever indicate that LHO had actual contact w/ DGI
  - ⑥ Do you believe in light of memo that LHO had contact w/ DGI in Mx Cy

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
who asked  
you into  
ask about  
her

11 May 64

3695 - ~~did you~~ Did you ever see this memo -

- 12
- ① Is this memo accurate
  - 3696 ② to <sup>bottom of 3695</sup> top of page - how was overall exploitation of A/1 + responsibilities to WC satisfied
  - ③

7 May 64

- 13
- 3699 ① Did you write this
  - ② why <sup>A/1</sup> the interest in Luisa Calderon
  - ③ was she CIA agent
  - 3700 ④ was access obtained to referenced people

⑤ Do you know what we was told about A/I and knowledge of LHO

5 May 67

14

3703

① any special reason for not giving report in Q+A form

② was this verbatim from a tape recording - what would happen to tape recordings

3704

③ top - Did Vega see LHO

④ Is it accurate vis a vis granting of visas - see p 3707

⑤ Rogelio Rodriguez - what were his DSI responsibilities <sup>(sabotage or assets?)</sup>

⑥ 3705 - was it ever determined if Luisa was contacted by referenced American - who is the American

⑦ Silvia Dwan - was she DSI - was she CIA - <sup>Did CIA contact her</sup>

⑧ 3706 - Did Rocca speak to A/I

⑨ LCFIUTTER - ~~Was~~ Was A/I asked about LHO - what was the response

19 June 67

15

3682

① Have you ever seen this

3684 - ever see this - is it accurate

② Do you know why Willens didn't

3687

③ why was so little info on Luisa given <sup>see memo of 7 & 8 May</sup>



Did anyone at CIA ever indicate to you that Luisa had significance

④ Why not told about ~~rumor~~ of CIA Assoc

16/3679  
① Did you write this  
② What does ZR by the names mean  
how was it filed  
③

17/3675 Ruiz  
① Did you know he was Veciana's cousin -  
② Was he DGI -  
③ Discover any connectors ever asked to investigate

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CALDERON - remember to ask 7/1950-1954 if saw conversation

18/3717  
~~3717~~  
✓  
① ever seen it  
② who is Carlos Blanco  
③ Teresa Proenza - who is she - ~~was~~ was she CIA agent  
Did you know Dave Phillips  
Did he run Dirty Tricks on her  
3719 ④ Did you get a report on her -

19/3715 - Did you know [H/A - ]  
① what about sister  
② what is dom. expl. of  
③ what sister contacted