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CIA

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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 #374).

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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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

**SUBJECT: Information Developed by CIA on the
Activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in
Mexico City, September 28 to
October 3, 1963**

1. This refers to your letter of February 10, 1964 relating to information forwarded by this Agency regarding the activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico City during the period September 28 to October 3, 1963.

2. The 3rd paragraph of your letter raises a question with regard to the 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 the report that 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 telegrams sent between the Soviet Embassies 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 all the evidence on hand, we deduce that OSWALD visited the Cuban 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 often than once on the days mentioned, but we cannot exclude these 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 telephoned 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 auto-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 proponent of the assassination of President Kennedy.

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5. We do not think it would be unusual for Silvia DURAN to tell OSWALD he could not have a Cuban transit visa unless he first got 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, if indeed the Soviet official was telling the truth.

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

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8. We cannot be sure what OSWALD meant by his allusion to his address. He went to Mexico while he was moving his family from New Orleans to Texas, and he may have acquired a new Texas forwarding address in the process which he gave first to the Cuban Consulate, then mislaid 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 Marquez and Zamora Streets and the Embassy is at 160 Marquez Street. The Soviet Embassy and Consulate are both located in a large mansion with connected outbuildings.

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10. We surmise that the references in OSWALD's 9 November letter to a man who had since been replaced

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must refer to Cuban Consul Eusebio AZCUE, who left Mexico for Cuba on permanent transfer on 15 November 1963, four days before the assassination. AZCUE had been in Mexico for eighteen years and it was known 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 13 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 altercation with him.

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.

Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

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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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*att sent DDP by c/wHD
30 Oct '63*

Attachment:
Envelope

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