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10 Feb 77

Source: Notes made by A. Goodpasture
for John Leader, IG StaffSubject: Background on Mexico Station Support Assets
(Coverage of Soviet and Cuban Embassies)

1. Unilateral coverage. From the time the Mexico Station was opened in April 1947 (by Bill Doyle) until arrival of Win Scott as COS in 1956, Charles Anderson III (still in LA/HQ) had developed a support apparatus to ~~exploit~~ exploit leads from the Soviet Embassy. This umbrella type project (LIFEAT) consisted of multi line phone taps, three photo sites, a mobile surveillance team and a mail intercept operation.

a. Phone taps were placed by an employee of ^{retired in Mexico} who was handled by David WILSTED (pseudo). The number of lines tapped was limited ^{out} by availability of a listening post nearby (since the taps were not made in the main central) and English/Spanish (Soviet, Polish, Czech, etc) transcribers. Generally these agents (mostly Mexican or Mexican American) were related (which the station at that time felt was good security in that if they talked about shop, they would talk to each other.)

b. Three photo sites were handled by Anderson with the help of Harry Mahoney (retired, living in Chicago) and TDY TSD people checking the best type of camera, film, and concealment devices. These had sub-cripts under LIFEAT (LIMITED, LILYRIC, and LICALLA). LIMITED was a fixed site bang opposite across the street from the front gate of the Soviet Embassy which had both a vehicle and foot entrance. The Soviet gate was on the NorthWest corner of their compound and LIMITED was diagonally across a double barrelled street on the Southeast corner of

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that block. LIMITED was the first base and it operated strictly on an experimental basis in the early stages. I think the Mexi Station bought this property (a/^{one storey}Spanish Colonial stone house) through LIMOUSINE (check to be sure). Later this house began to fall apart. This base was closed when the Station got word that the photo of "uniden man" was being released to the public by the Warren Commission. The photo operators were moved to another apt nearby. The property was sold (under an operational agreement with LIMOUSINE for a long term lease on the top floor of a new apartment bldg to be built on this site). LILYRIC was planned as an alternate photo base to LIMITED. It was in an upper storey (3rd floor -check) on the same side of the street as LIMITED but in the middle of the block South. It had a slanted view of the front gate of the Soviet Embassy. The agents in LIMITED and LILYRIC (both Mexican families) as far as we knew, were not acquainted with each other. LILYRIC was a rented apartment. LICALIA, the third photo site, was located in one of a row of four houses on the South side of the Soviet Embassy compound which the Mexico Station purchased in about 1958 (check date), also using LIMOUSINE as the purchaser (check). This site overlooked the back garden of the Soviet Embassy compound. The purpose of this operation was to get good identification photographs of the Soviet personnel (who at that time were largely unidentified in Mexico Station records). The three photo sites were handled by [redacted] (Mexican citizen of U.S. mother [redacted]) [redacted] collected the film ~~collection~~ from LIMITED and LILYRIC three times a week. His sister's husband, [redacted] developed and printed the film into 8x10 contact print strips. The master plan was for LICALIA film to be processed ^{but} inside TSD man from 1957 to 1959 [redacted] [redacted] - resigned) could not handle the volume and as the unprocessed film began to accumulate, the inside CO (Mahoney) became disgusted and took the film out for [redacted] brother-in-law to process (probably early 1959). Thus [redacted] became the handler for all three photo bases. A sensitive staff D monitoring operation

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Film
collection

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was run out of another one of these houses (crypt for the four houses was LIMUST/1, etc). This was handled by Glen WIDDEN (outside TSD officer) and Mahoney using HQ TDY teams for monitoring. This operation was also separate from LICALLA. The two houses in between were rented to unsuspecting tenants.

c. Mobile surveillance was developed by Anderson and later placed under Mahoney and Joseph Sancho. This team consisted of a half dozen or so agents who used three to four late model cars and a panel truck (which could be used on stake outs for photo coverage). The plan was to activate this group by radio (from LIMITED BASE) when someone of interest left the ^{Soviet} Embassy gate and stay with them until they made their meetings. These agents knew about the LIMITED BASE because they had LIMITED photos for identification purposes. This worked fairly well until about the middle of 1958 (check date) when one of the surveillance agents got too close to his target and was arrested by the Mexican transit police and turned over to the Mexican Secret Service. By the time the Station could arrange through a cleared attorney to bail him out [redacted] [redacted] the agent had identified Sancho (who was evacuated across the border at Nogales by Bob Shaw) and the inside phone number of Mahoney (who was subsequently replaced by Louis Puckett). As a result of this flap, the LIFEAT project was broken up into several others. The agents were not changed but were given new crypts. ^{Frank} Estancona and [redacted] replaced Anderson in handling the unilateral phone taps. Puckett replaced Mahoney and handled the surveillance team (LIENTRAP) and the photo bases through [redacted]

d. LIBIGHT was the crypt used for a unilateral (originally) mail intercept handled by Charlie Anderson III, [redacted]
[redacted]

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[redacted] (I think at the airport). His case officers, Alfonso Spera, were later/Puckett, Robert Feldmann, and Alan White.

2. [redacted] coverage was unreliable and insecure as characterized by the nature

of the Mexican services at that time. The Mexican DFS (Direction of Federal

Security) with which we dealt was a hip pocket group run out of the Ministry

Of Government. This Ministry spent a major part of its time on control of

foreigners and political investigations. Their agents were vicious, venal,

corrupt extortionists. [redacted] established contact with one of them [redacted]

[redacted] (later LIFIRE group) in about 1950 or 51. He gave them some

training (a group of about five surveillance types) [redacted]

[redacted] where the files

were poorly organized and often inaccurate. Now and then, however, some useful

information was developed but it could not be depended upon. [redacted] was

replaced by [redacted] Mahoney, Thomas

Hazlitt, and Robert Feldmann (one after the other)

During 1958, Win Scott met socially some of the chronies of [redacted]

[redacted] During this period, the U.S. Ambassador Robert C. Hill (reflecting the policy of then Sec State J.F. Dulles) was energetic in organizing groups to "fight communism". One of these seeds grew into a proposal [redacted]

[redacted] This project (LIENVOY) went through about four distressing years of a shakedown.

[redacted] (LIELEGANT) was inexperienced, old, and greedy. His

son (LIENVOY-2) was a masterpiece of deceit and corruption. LIELEGANT also

manipulated control over the principal agent of LIBIGHT [redacted] The

first case officer was Alfonso Spera inside with [redacted] (retired) outside

and John [redacted] (TSD training officer for surveillance and head of the listening

post where thirty telephone lines would connect as well as a transcription room

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staffed by [redacted] Initially the station tried to meet every demand made by [redacted] Both [redacted] and John had language difficulties and personal problems associated with being outside the station [redacted]

[redacted] equipment at enormous costs, and neglecting their part of the bargain in the production of [redacted] Spera was replaced by Jack Brady who found himself in the same pincer movement of having Scott approve a request by LIELEGANT that Brady had turned down by the son, LIENVOY-2. Finally when the cost became exorbitant and there was little to show for it, the project was revamped. [redacted] and John returned to the U.S. and were replaced by a TSD officer, ~~Charles Flick~~, who was put inside the listening post to maintain the equipment. / Scott took over the project as case officer meeting with LIELEGANT. He designated Ann Goodpasture to meet dailing with Flick for routine supervision of the listening post, picking up transcripts and tapes. Goodpasture had no dealing [redacted] except when Scott was ill or out of town. Generally, all decisions were made by Scott. This was about late 1961.

3. My memory is a little vague about the origins of the Cuban Embassy but I think the staff first developed from a pro-Castro group celebrating on New Years eve 1959. As I recall, it was a makeshift arrangement of volunteers through most of 1960 and 61 with Tom Hazlitt producing voluminous reports on their activities and recruiting agents right and left among Cuban nationals in Mexico City.

4. Personnel assignments. Of interest to us now is who was in Mexico during the period prior to Oswald's visit and the subsequent investigation by the Warren Commission. To determine who was there and what they were doing I have grouped persons together chronologically with areas of their assignment covering from 1950 to 1969 so that ^{as the} ~~if other~~ names pop up, one can tell what period they were in Mexico and ^{what} their assignments ^{were} at the time.

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8/56-6/69 COS Winston M. Scott (deceased)

DCOS 7/56 - 7/58 Alfonso Rodriguez (retired)
 10/58 - 12/62 [redacted] (retired)
 6/63 - 9/65 Alan White (retired) -
 10/65 - 1969 Stanley Watson (retired in Mexico)

COVERT ACTION

Prior to 1954 Howard Hunt (retired)
 12/54 - 7/58 Williard Hill (resigned)
 12/56 - 9/61 Stannard Short (retired)
 Chief
 9/61 - 3/64 David Phillips C/(retired) -
 8/62 - 9/64 [redacted] Asst. -
 2/64 - 6/65 James Flannery C/(retired) -
 9/64 - 11/66 Harold Dalghren Asst
 10/65 - 1967 Stanley Watson C/(retired)
 66 - 68 [redacted]
 68 - 71 [redacted]

CUBA OPERATIONS

56 - 4/62 Thomas Hazlitt Chief
 2/60 - 4/62 [redacted] (retired) Costa Rica
 4/63 - 4/65 Bob Shaw Chief -
 9/63 - 7/65 [redacted] -
 10/63 - 5/65 Lorna Mackay (retired) -
 8/63 - 6/65 David Phillips Chief (retired) -
 9/65 - 10/68 Joseph Piccolo
 10/65 - 12/67 [redacted]

SOVIET TARGET

6/57 - 10/59 Louise Lyon (retired) 6/62 - 1/67 Prentice Marheine (ps)
 9/59 - 8/65 [redacted] Chief (retired ?)
 9/59 - 8/65 [redacted] Outside CO
 5/64 - 7/66 William Bright
 4/65 - 11/67 Cynthia Hausmann
 6/65 - 7/67 Alice Pittinger
 7/65 - 4/69 Paul Dillon Chief

SOVIET TRANSCRIBERS

6/56 - 8/58 Morris Gordon (resigned)
 6/58 - 6/63 George Misko -
 6/63 - 70 Boris Tarasoff (retired in Mexico) -

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SUPPORT ASSETS

Unilateral phono taps

1949 - 1961 Charles Anderson III Chief 49-71 ? Outside CO
 4/55 - 4/60 [redacted] Asst David WILSTED (ps)
 4/56 - 1/62 Frank Estancona Chief retired in Mexico
 2/60 - 10/64 Thomas Keenan
 9/64 - 12/67 Michael Farmer

Unilateral photo Cubans

6/59 - 4/64 Robert Zambernardi (resigned Mexico)
 7/59 - 6/62 [redacted] TSD (retired)

Unilateral photo Soviets

3/54 - 4/59 Harry T. Mahoney 56 - 68 Outside Agent
 (retired Chicago) [redacted] (resigned in Mexico)
 5/57 - 8/64 A. Goodpasture (alternate CO -
 and internal routing)
 6/58 - 6/63 Louis D. Puckett (retired)
 6/63 - 10/64 Thomas Keenan Robert H. Feldmann
 65 - 66 William Bright 8(?) 63 - 6/68
 ↓
 Cuba - opl reporting
 Travel - LA

[redacted] phone taps

1959 - 1969 Winston Scott (deceased)
 1959 - 1960 Alfonso Spera (retired)
 1959 - 1960 [redacted] (outside, now retired)
 1959 - 1960 John (Training rept resigned)
 1960 - 1961 John Brady (retired)
 1962 - 1968 A. Goodpasture -
 1961 - 1971 Charles Flick (outside TSD Staff Agent - retired) -

[redacted] - surveillance

Prior 1954 [redacted] (retired)
 3/54 - 4/59 Harry Mahoney (retired)
 4/59 - 1961 Thomas Hazlitt
 12/62 - 9/67 Robert Feldmann

TSD Outside unit

4/58 - 12/63 Glen Widden (retired) -
 6/59 - 4/64 Joseph M. Resigno (ps) Unit blown and closed down

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About mid 1962 (check date) LIENVOY [redacted] asked
 for the telephone numbers of the Soviet, Cuban, and Satellite Embassies.
 With this forewarning, LIFEAT (unilateral coverage) was disconnected. However,
 as I recall, [redacted] connected 5 Cuban lines, 5 Soviet lines, 3 Czech,
 2 Polish, and 1 Yugoslav line. The basehouse listening post had a live
 monitor who made short summaries of interesting conversations for a daily
 resume which was received each day around 8 a.m. (passed by Flick to Goodpasture
 to get to Scott before 9 a.m.) Later (when the reel was completely recorded)
 full transcripts were typed and passed to the station in the same way, however,
 there was usually a time lag of a day or so. Those transcripts which had
 Russian or another language besides Spanish or English went out of the listening
 post the day after the transcript (of other conversations on the reel) was
 typed. These reels were taken to another location where they were translated
 and typed. In the case of the Russian translations, Boris Tarasoff usually ran
 about a week behind the date of the conversation because of the volume of
 Russian conversations among the members of the Soviet Embassy. During this
 period (fall of 1963) the reels were probably being brought into the station
 and carried to Boris by one of the people from the Soviet Section or they may
 have been carried to him by Flick but I think I brought the reel in and gave
 it to [redacted] to take to Boris. [redacted]
 handled all of the processing of Soviet transcripts. My job involved screening
 the photographs as soon as we learned that the man calling himself Oswald was
 probably an American. However, here again there was a backlog because the
 photos were picked up three times a week but the ones picked up were usually
 for dates a few days previously because [redacted] processed the film on a
 night time basis. Photographs were made usually until one roll was used but
 later we got it changed to one day coverage on each roll - in other words the
 operators ^{then} cleared the camera each day whether there was ~~any film~~ a full
 roll of film exposed. Instructions were to cover office hours, photograph each

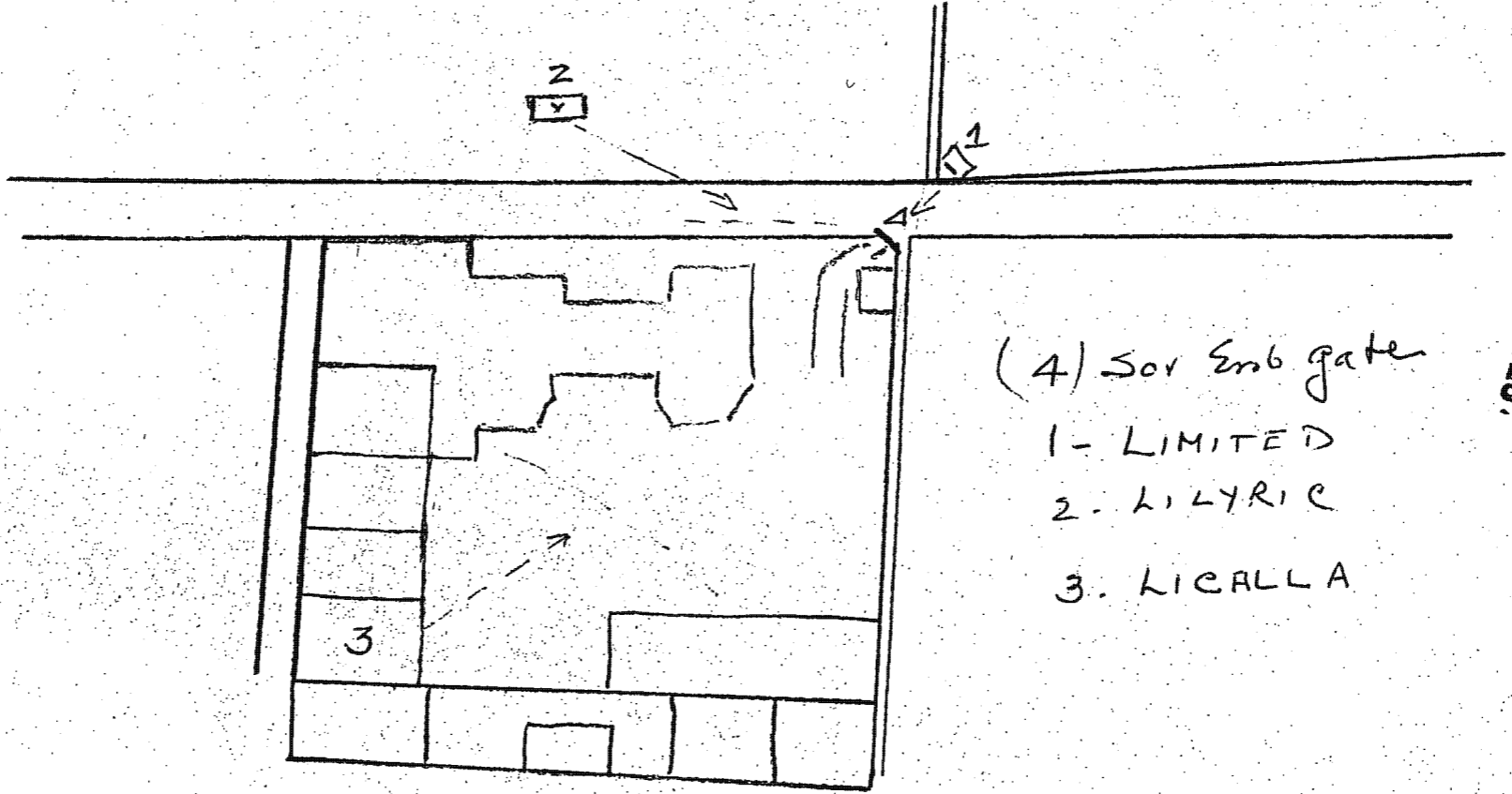
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new Soviet and family, all foreigners and foreign license plates. Human error did occur but generally the agents were conscientious. The Cuban embassy coverage had more sophisticated equipment (a pulse camera) but it frequently developed mechanical difficulties. (Bob Zambarardi and [redacted] (I think) handled this film - pick up and delivery. (Lorna MacKay screened the film inside the station.

I am certain that the Oswald call came to our attention from the Soviet line. It was picked up and taken to Boris for a translation because the caller was trying to speak Russian. Any delay was caused by waiting to compare the photographs with the typed transcript. There were no copies of transcripts every made in languages other than Spanish or English because Win Scott could read only those two languages and he personally screened the transcripts for operational leads he wanted pursued.

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- (4) Sov Emb gate
- 1- LIMITED
- 2- LYRIC
- 3- LICALLA

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Photo Bases -

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