

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	<i>Miss Elaine Page</i>		
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<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	DIRECT REPLY
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Remarks:			
<p><i>Attached is a coordinated (ADDO & C/LAD), unclassified version of Ray Rocca's review of the "Mexican Photographs" and Oswald report. It has been forwarded to Mr. Knicker. JZ</i></p>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
<i>Leader - 16 Staff</i>			<i>13 May</i>
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET

FORM NO. 237 Use previous editions 1-67

(40)

Unidentified Man

also attached here is "Secret" Rocca memo

UNCLASSIFIED INTERNAL USE ONLY CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Raymond G. Rocca
2C 43

EXTENSION

1054

NO.

DATE

2 May 1975

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. Acting Chief, CIOPS

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3. Deputy Chief, Operations Staff

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Handwritten signature: A. S. Mr. Leader

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S E C R E T

2 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, Operations Staff

SUBJECT : Review of Agency Holdings regarding
Photograph of Unidentified Individual
in Mexico City published by the
Warren Commission

REFERENCE : Letter dated 15 April 1975 by
Mr. David W. Belin, Executive Director
of the Commission on CIA Activities
within the United States, to
Mr. E. Henry Knoche (copy attached to
accompanying report)

1. This is further to, and in completion of, my interim memorandum of a few weeks ago.

2. The attachment is a detailed review in narrative, chronological order - together with appropriate commentary - of our extensive holdings on the OSWALD case that have a bearing on the matter of photographs taken by Mexico City Station on 1, 4 and 15 October 1963 of an Unidentified Individual. As a consequence of a combination of analytical error, misjudgement and under the stress of an urgent desire to contribute to the development of the investigation of the assassination, a cropped version of one of the photographs of the Unidentified Individual was introduced into the chain of evidence in the OSWALD case on 23 November 1963 by an FBI representative in Dallas. The successive vicissitudes which have now made this event a cause celebre right down to the present moment are detailed in the narrative.

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3. The attached report is not intended to be an answer to the Fensterwald/O'Toole article which Mr. Belin attaches to his memorandum. (I have prepared a paragraph-by-paragraph refutation and comment on that article, which I believe is more appropriately handled by a separate memorandum to Mr. Belin, and I will prepare this as a memorandum if that is desired.)

4. The point of the referenced memorandum is that consideration should be given now to "whether or not the entire matter can be fully disclosed at this time." This submission is designed to make it possible for you, the IG and others whom you may desire to consult to make this decision. The narrative-interpretive summary has been put together in such a way that it discloses no cyptonyms, pseudonyms or other CIA jargon. However, its contents go well beyond what has been released to the public thus far in the Warren Commission documentation. This point must be borne in mind in making a decision on Mr. Belin's question. To remove any question in anybody's mind about our good faith in this matter, the narrative is backed up by copies of actual documentation from our files. It seems to me necessary, in reply to Mr. Belin, that he or his representative review the documentation that backs up the narrative. The documentation has not been keyed into the narrative presentation, but it follows the chronological order of presentation from 9 October into the latest developments in the matter, and there is an overall index to facilitate reference to individual items. [NB: There is only one copy of this collection; this is it.]

5. As noted above, one of the photographs taken in Mexico City on 4 October 1963 was introduced into the Warren Commission public record. However, it was introduced into that record in two cropped versions. The Warren Commission and its staff were made fully aware in the course of their inquiry at Headquarters and in Mexico City of the origins of the photograph, the fact that we had additional photographs of the same individual taken at different times in Mexico City and on the basis of full knowledge of these facts reached their own conclusions regarding the irrelevance of the photograph to OSWALD and the assassination.

6. In fact, we actually hold twelve different photographs of the Unidentified Individual. Each of these ~~are~~ reproduced in the collected documentation backing up the narrative report (see Items 25 - 27). Chief, LA Division,

S E C R E T

had indicated in writing to DC/OPS Staff, that he has no objection for Mr. Belin to do whatever is desired with these photographs at this time. It should be noted that Mr. Fensterwald in 1971 - 1972 was actually shown, by Mr. Houston during a visit to the Agency, two of the twelve photographs, other than the one already published in the Warren Commission report. (It is these two that he has published in The New York Review of Books article which Mr. Belin attaches to his memorandum.)

7. It seems to me that whoever makes a decision on whether the entire matter can be fully disclosed at this time should bear in mind that a subsidiary decision must also be made, i.e., whether to crop or otherwise fuzz up the background of the photographs or, alternatively, to publish the entire run of the photographs for the first time without taking out the background. Obviously, none of these questions apply to the passage of this material to Mr. Belin and the Rockefeller Commission itself. I think they should see the entire documentation as it stands. Perhaps after that, the question of what could be discussed and the question of "how?" and "how much?" could be taken up with Mr. Belin himself. My personal recommendation is that the more we can say about this matter in a fully open and final manner, the better off we will be as an Agency. But it is my understanding that there are still sensitive aspects deriving from the fact that the operation which produced the photographs was jointly run with Mexican liaison and as a consequence publication at this time would create additional problems at that level in Mexico. Also, it should be noted that the Ambassador, according to Win Scott's memorandum to J.C. King on 22 November 1963 (see Item 8 in the backup documentation), allegedly played a direct role in the decision to put the photographs into the hands of the FBI in Dallas laterally from the Field. As far as I know, there has not been anything published about this aspect at any time in the past nor have we had any discussions with the State Department about that aspect of the matter.


Raymond G. Rocca

Attachments:
as stated

SUBJECT : Review of Agency Holdings Regarding Photograph of Unidentified Individual in the Warren Commission Report

REFERENCE: Memorandum from David W. Belin to E. Henry Knoche, dated 15 April 1975

1. In accordance with reference request, we have examined and summarized the record concerning a cropped photograph that was considered by the Warren Commission in the course of its investigation. The photograph (together with others of the same individual) originated from an intelligence operation conducted in October 1963. The photograph is of an individual who to this day remains unidentified. Intelligence did not provide a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald during his brief stay in Mexico City that month.

2. Under the extraordinary press of effort to develop information on the assassin and the assassination, copies of the photograph were made available by CIA's Mexico representative on the afternoon of 22 November to the local FBI representative. Later that day, assertedly on the decision of the Ambassador, copies were conveyed by an FBI representative on a special U. S. Naval Attache flight to the Dallas office of the FBI for possible use in the ongoing investigation. One photograph, cropped by the FBI, was shown to Mrs. Marguerite OSWALD (Lee Harvey OSWALD's mother) in Dallas on the evening of 23 November 1963 by an FBI agent.

3. The Warren Commission's report describes the sequence of events that ultimately resulted in Mrs. Marguerite OSWALD's

allegation that she had been shown a cropped photo of Jack RUBY the day before he murdered her son. A further complication compounding this erroneous conclusion was the fact that, when she had been shown a copy of the same photograph in her appearance before the Commission, it had been cropped by the FBI in Washington in a slightly different manner.

4. Although in no way related to Lee Harvey OSWALD or his stay in Mexico City from the morning of 27 September 1963 to the morning of 2 October 1963, at least one set of photographs of the unidentified man originated during OSWALD's stay there. It is important, therefore, to an understanding of the acquisition and handling of the photographs by the CIA's Mexico representative to review what he ascertained and did with the information developed about OSWALD in Mexico City, together with CIA Headquarters action on that information.

5. From all credible evidence known to this time (none, incidentally, added since the exhaustive work of the Warren Commission), Lee Harvey OSWALD spent four (4) full days and two (2) partial days -- about 116 hours in all -- in Mexico City from about 10:00 a.m. 27 September 1963 to about 8:30 a.m. 2 October 1963. His place of residence was a small commercial traveler hotel, not frequented by "gringos" -- the Hotel Comercio -- where he was registered under alias. Exhaustive and detailed interviews and interrogation by the Mexican authorities and the FBI after the assassination established that, in the recollection of all hotel personnel, he left and returned late each day of his stay.

6. Allowing for the fact of late arrival and early departure, and assuming that he slept one-third of the time of his stay (38 or 39 hours), there remain some 78 hours of activity to be accounted for. Overall, CIA's information can account only for very brief periods during 28, 29 September and 1 October.

7. It should be noted that OSWALD was in no sense "under investigation." None of the facts of his defection and stay in the USSR and return to the U. S., 1959-1962, were known to CIA's Mexico representative before 10 October 1963. On that date, the bare bones of Oswald's biography were forwarded by Headquarters in response to a cabled report of 8 October which had forwarded, on a routine basis, what appeared to be a contact by an American for a visa to Cuba in transit to the USSR. This was indicated and deduced from information acquired on 1 October, which was the first and only occasion on that visit in which OSWALD was recorded as identifying himself (partially) by true name.

8. At no time during his stay in Mexico City did the CIA acquire a photo of OSWALD. A careful review of all coverage was conducted on 22 and 23 November 1963 after the assassination, including materials back to August 1963. This confirmed that there was no CIA photo coverage of OSWALD at any time during his Mexico trip or stay in Mexico City. Moreover, although it had made a cabled request on 15 October, the CIA's Mexico representative had no photo of OSWALD in his records, nor did he receive one from Headquarters -- which did not have one either -- before 22 November 1963.

9. It must be stressed that what information there was had not been (and normally is not) processed in "real time." The means of acquisition and the volume of the information preclude anything but the spot reporting of items judged to be of more than ordinary interest and, therefore, noted in summary logs. Photo coverage tended to become available in quantity lots which requires scanning and selection on a rapid and accelerated basis in four or five day "peaks." One of the "triggers" that normally operates to focus and accelerate more speedy review and reporting of this kind of raw intelligence is the identification of a person's name. This was precisely what occurred on 1 October. It was this information reported to Headquarters in its first reference on OSWALD on 8 October 1963.

10. The CIA's Mexico representative did one more thing in his 8 October report on Lee OSWALD based on the 1 October information: he coupled the data with descriptive information acquired from a sensitive source -- a photograph of a male individual, apparently an American, who was observed entering an Embassy on 1 October. This detail was reported on the 8th as a matter of coincident fact. CIA's Mexico representative did not assert or suggest that the data led to any deduction that the photo was in fact OSWALD or, indeed, was in any way related to OSWALD.

11. One additional element of background must be stipulated now as the final precondition to understanding the relevance (or irrelevance) of the photo of the unknown individual placed in the chain of evidence on 23 November in Dallas by the FBI agent: what was the totality of CIA Mexico's coverage of OSWALD's activity

as of the afternoon of the 23rd when all available coverage had been checked?

12. The totality of this coverage on or reasonably inferable to be OSWALD was read by, discussed with, and examined by Warren Commission staffers in Headquarters and in Mexico City during a stay from 8-13 April 1964. All were made available promptly to the FBI.

13. At about mid-day on 1 October, the camera registered the entry into an Embassy of a white-shirted individual. In the opinion of CIA's Mexico representative, among all the persons photographed that day, he appeared to be the only non-Latin and possibly American who entered. On the chance that there could be an association between the identification data derived from coverage and the descriptive data derived from the photograph, the two elements were reported as separate facts in the cable to Headquarters on 8 October.

14. This action was not unusual and really amounted to an analytic "quantum leap," in terms of the primitive status of the OSWALD identification. Many examples of a similar kind of thing can be found in the day-to-day record of Mexico City Headquarters correspondence and reporting.

15. On 22 November 1963 CIA's Mexico representative cabled Headquarters at 2229Z time after learning of the arrest of Lee H. OSWALD, age 24, possibly in connection with the assassination, and referenced its earlier messages of 8-9 and 15 October and Headquarters' reply of 10 October. This cable requested by

priority pouch a photo of OSWALD so that a check could be made of "all recent coverage for OSWALD. Forwarding soonest copies of only visitor on 1 October who could be identical with OSWALD."

16. This obviously was for comparison at the CIA Mexico City office which had estimated the age of the unidentified male whose photograph it had selected as having the "apparent age of 35."

17. A dispatch was prepared in accordance with the indication given in the cable of 22 November. The dispatch noted that photo coverage of the unidentified individual had turned up on 4 and 15 October. The text of the 22 November 1963 pouched dispatch read:

"1. Attached are copies of the only photographs obtained. . . on 1 October 1963 which appeared to be an American. This same man visited [an] Embassy on 4 October 1963.

"2. Copies of these photographs were shown to the U. S. Ambassador on 22 November 1963 and a copy of each of the two photographs was given to Chief FBI, Mexico, on that date. . . .

"P. S. Photographs dated 15 October 1963 were inserted after typing of dispatch. These were taken as [the] person entered [an] Embassy."

18. The "Unidentified Individual" remains to this day unidentified. There is still no credible evidence, as far as

CIA is aware, that the individual in the photograph had any connection with Lee Harvey OSWALD or the assassination of President Kennedy.