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for John Leader, IG Staff

Subject: Background on Mexico Station Support Assets
(Coverage of Soviet and Cuban Ambassadors)

1. Unilateral coverage. Despite that the Mexico Station was opened in
April 1947 (by Bill Doyle) until arrival of Win Scott as COS in 1955, Charles
Anderson III (still in LA/HQ) had developed a support apparatus to
exploit leads from the Soviet Embassy. This umbrella type project (LIFET)
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 the telephone company
who was handled by David NISTED (pseudonym). The number of lines
tapped was limited by availability of a listening post nearby
(since the taps were not made in the main station and English/
Spanish (Soviet, Polish, Czech, etc.) transcribers. Generally
these agents (mostly American or Mexican American) were related
(which the station 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 out the type of camera, film, and concealment
devices. These had automated under LIFET (LIMITED, LILYRIC,
and LICALLA). Mahoney 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 Mexico Station bought this property (a/Spanish Colonial story) in through LIMOUSINE (check to be sure). Later this house was torn down apart. This base was closed when the Station got word that the photo of "agent 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 blding to be built on this site). LILYRIC was planned as an alternate photo base to LIMITED. It was in an upper story (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 facilities) as far as we knew, were not acquainted with each other.

LILYRIC was a rented apartment. LICALLA, 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 June 1959 (check date), also using LIMOUSINE as the purchaser agent. 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 Ramon Alvarez (Mexican citizen of U.S. mother who taught elementary level at the American School). Ramon collected the photo negatives from LIMITED and LILYRIC three times a week. His sister, husband, Carlos (Mexican doctor) developed and printed the film and the negative print strips. The master plan was for LICALLA film to be processed inside. "TSD man from 1957 to 1959 (Harper Holt - resigned) could not handle the volume and as the unprocessed film began to accumulate, the inside CO (M'haney) became disgusted and took the film out for Ramon's brother-in-law to process (probably early 1959). Thus Ramon became the handler for all three photo bases. A sensitive staff D monitoring operation
was run out of another one of these houses (crypt for the four houses was \textit{LISOTY}, etc). This was handled by Glen \textsc{Hiden} (outside \textsc{TSD} officer) and Mahoney using \textsc{HQ} TDY teams for monitoring. This operation was also separate from \textsc{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 Riccardi). This team consisted of a half dozen or so agents divided into three to four late model cars and a panel truck (which could be used on stakes-out for photo covers). The plan was to activate this group by radio (from \textsc{LIMITED BASE}) Soviet when someone of interest left the/embassy gate and stay with them until they made their meetings. These agents knew about the \textsc{LIMITED BASE} because they had \textsc{LIMITED} photos for identification purposes.

This worked fairly well until about the middle of 1953 (check date) when one of the surveillance agents got too close to the target and was arrested by the Mexican transit police and turned over to the Mexican Secret Service. From that time, the Station could arrange through a cleared attorney to bail him out (Judd Austin of the \textsc{Goodrich}, Little and Riquier firm), 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 Fackett). As a result of this flack, the \textsc{LISOTY} project was broken up into several others. The crypts were not changed but were given new crypts. Frank Anderson and Betsy Haggard replaced Anderson in handling the unilateral phone team. Fackett replaced Mahoney and handled the surveillance team (\textsc{LISOTY}) and the photo bases through Remon.

d. \textsc{LISIGHT} was the crypt used for a unilateral (originally) mail intercept handled by Charlie Anderson III. The agent (Mexican) had a semi-official status and arranged to obtain selected letters from
Initially the station tried to meet every demand made by the Mexicans. Both Smith and John had language difficulties and personal problems associated with being outside the station so that the Mexicans were virtually uncontrollable, spending money as they pleased, squirrelling away equipment at enormous costs, and selling their part of the bargain in the production of transcripts at prices much lower than we wanted. Spera was replaced by Jack Brady who found himself in the same pincher movement of having Scott approve a request by LIELEGANT that Brady had turned down by the son, LIEVOY-2.

Finally, when the cost became exhorbitant and there was little to show for it, the project was revamped. Smith 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 Brady was reassigned to other duties pending a transfer. the equipment. Scott took over the project as case officer, initially with LIELEGANT. He designated Ann Goodpasture to meet daily with them for routine supervision of the listening post, picking up transcripts and tapes. Goodpasture had no dealings with the Mexicans 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 Year's 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. Personal assignments of interest to me 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 as the covering from 1950 to 1969 so that XXXXXX names pop up, one can tell what period they were in Mexico and their assignments at the time.
COS Winston H. Scott (deceased)

DCOS 7/56 - 7/58 Alfonso Rodriguez (retired)
10/53 - 12/62 (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 - 7/55 William Hill (resigned)
12/55 - 9/61 Stannard Short (retired)

Chief

9/61 - 3/64 David Phillips (retired)
8/62 - 9/64

2/64 - 6/65 James Flannery (retired)
9/64 - 11/66 Harold Dalghrate (retired)
10/65 - 1969 Stanley Watson (retired in Mexico)

66 - 68

68 - 71 Joseph Smith (retired in Mexico)

CUBA OPERATIONS

56 - 4/62 Thomas Hazelitt Chief
2/60 - 4/62 Jack Stewart (retired Costa Rica)
4/63 - 1/65 Bob Shaw Chief
9/63 - 7/65 Ray Svider
10/63 - 5/65 Lorna Mackay (retired)
8/63 - 6/65 David Phillips (retired)
9/65 - 10/65 Joseph Piccoli
10/65 - 12/67 Peggy Maggard

SOVIET TARGET

6/57 - 10/59 Louise Lyon (retired)
9/59 - 8/65 Herbert Kanell Chief
9/59 - 8/65 Barbara Manell
5/64 - 7/65 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 Norris Gordon (resigned)
6/58 - 6/63 George Nisko
6/63 - 70 Boris Terasoff (retired in Mexico)
SUPPORT ASSETS

Unilateral phone taps

1964 - 1961 Charles Anderson III Chief 49-71 Outside CO
1966 - 1968 Peggy Magruder Asst
1965 - 1962 Frank S. Espejo Chief
1960 - 10/64 Thomas Keenan
1964 - 12/67 Michael Farmer

Unilateral photo Cubans

1/59 - 4/64 Robert Zambarnardi (resigned Mexico)
1/59 - 6/62 Richard Spatar TSD (retired)

Unilateral photo Soviets

1/60 - 4/59 Harry T. Mahoney (retired Chicago)
1/57 - 8/64 A. Goodpasture (alternate CO - and internal routing)
1/58 - 6/63 Louis D. Puckett (retired)
1/63 - 10/64 Thomas Keenan
1965 - 66 William Bright

Cuban - special reporting

56 - 68 Cuban Agent
Robert H. Almen (resigned in Mexico)

Deisol phone taps

1959 - 1969 Winston Scott (deceased)
1959 - 1960 Alfonso Spero (retired)
1959 - 1960 Turner Smith (outside, now retired)
1959 - 1960 John (Training rept resigned)
1960 - 1961 John Brady (retired)
1962 - 1968 A. Goodpasture
1961 - 1971 Charles Flick (outside CO - Brey Kent, retired)

Deisol - surveillance

Prior 1954 Robert Kelberg (retired)
1/60 - 4/59 Harry Mahoney (retired)
1/59 - 1961 Thomas Hazlitt
2/62 - 9/67 Robert Feldmann

SD Outside unit

1/58 - 12/63 Glen Hadden (retired)
1/59 - 4/64 Joseph N. Resigno (ps) Unit blown and closed down
About mid 1962 (check date) LIFJIOX outside Maxi rept asked for the telephone numbers of the Soviet, Cuban, and Satellite Embassies. With this forewarning, LIFAT (until this no longer) was disconnected. However, as I recall, the Mexicans connected 3 Cuban lines, 5 Soviet lines, 3 Czech, 2 Polish, and 1 Yugoslav line. The Washington 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 Herbert Manell to take to Boris. Herbert Manell and his wife Barbara 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 the doctor 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 cleared the camera each day whether there was any film or a full roll of film exposed. Instructions were to cover office hours, photograph each
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. Rob Zambonardi and Sathar
(I think) handled this film. It was developed and delivered. 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 ever 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.