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FILE INDEX

FOLDER: Tarasoff Interviews

Transcript -- Interviews of Boris and Ann Tarasoff, former contract employees of the CIA at Mexico City Station. Taken by Jonathan Blackmer and Ken Brooten on November 29-30, 1976. Regarding intercepts of Oswald's phone calls to the Soviet Embassy from the Cuban Embassy. (2 copies)

Attached memoranda of this investigative field trip which included contacts with Ambassador John Jova and [redacted] [redacted] Thomas Polgar, regarding possible information on the assassination coming from the Cuban government.

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

TARASOFF BRIEFING BOOK

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Goal #2: To determine the nature and circumstances of the monitoring of Lee Harvey Oswald by CIA surveillance in Mexico City in 1963 and the nature of the Tarasoffs' involvement in that monitoring.

Goal #3: To determine if the Tarasoffs ever did voice comparisons in an attempt to identify Lee Harvey Oswald's voice or the voices of the people with whom he spoke.

Exhibits:

EXHIBITS ARE CURRENTLY CLASSIFIED AND WILL, HOPEFULLY, BE PROVIDED AT  
A LATER DATE.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND.

The Tarasoffs do not remember identifying the voices of any of the people with whom Oswald spoke prior to the assassination. They do not remember ever being asked to do so after the assassination. They do not remember ever being questioned before being contacted by HSCA investigators.

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Tarasoffs claim to remember translating and transcribing at least 2 conversations involving Oswald. They remember that the first one was fairly short and routine. Oswald did not identify himself in this first conversation. The second one was much longer and Oswald did identify himself in this conversation. The Tarasoffs remember Oswald discussing his financial situation in this call. They deny making any editorial or marginal comments in the transcription of this call.

The Tarasoffs remember nothing unusual about the first call or the circumstances around its delivery or transcription. The second call was delivered to them and they were asked to transcribe the Oswald call as quickly as possible. Their contact expressed a strong interest in the identity of the caller and the substance of the call. The Tarasoffs translated and transcribed the call and returned the transcript on the same day, using an emergency contact as opposed to waiting until the next morning and using their standard contact.

It is not clear whether or not the Tarasoffs have any independent memory of any other calls involving Oswald.

Exhibits are classified and will be added at a later date. Questions based on these exhibits will be asked.

## BIOGRAPHY

### BORIS DIMITRY TARASOFF

Boris Dimitry Tarasoff was born on 2 November 1908 in Yekaterinoslaw, Russia. He emigrated to the United States. He worked for the Central Intelligence Agency from circa 1955 to October 1970. He was stationed in Mexico City from June 1963 to October 1970. Mr. Tarasoff's main task during this period was translation/transcription of Russian language tapes. He is currently retired and living at the Rancho Contento, Guadalajara, Mexico.

### ANNA TARASOFF

Anna Tarasoff was born on 5 May 1923. She is the wife of Boris Dimitry Tarasoff. She worked as a part time CIA contract officer. She assisted her husband in the translation/transcription of the Russian language tapes.

GOAL #1.

To determine the Tarasoffs knowledge of, and participation in, the Central Intelligence Agency's surveillance activities in Mexico City in 1963.

- a) background.
- b) assignments.
- c) awareness of surveillance operations.
- d) duties (translation/transcription).
- e) procedures.
- d) other duties.
- e) personnel involved.
- f) files.
- g) nature of transcripts.
- h) nature of assistance in duties if any.



FACTUAL BACKGROUND.

Boris and Anna Tarasoff were stationed in Mexico City in 1963. They were the Russian translators used to translate and transcribe the Russian language portions of surveillance tapes. Hence, they have actual knowledge of a portion of that operation.

In an interview with members of this staff the Tarasoffs said that the tapes and Spanish language transcripts would be delivered to them on the morning of one day by a person who worked on this operation. The next day the Tarasoffs would return the tape, Spanish transcript and the completed translation/transcript of the Russian language portions. The Tarasoffs said that they made an original copy and two carbons of every transcription. The original and one copy was retained by the Tarasoffs. One carbon was turned over to their contact.

Mr. Tarasoff also said that he was responsible for trying to identify, by their voices, the Soviet Embassy personnel involved in conversations which he transcribed.

The Tarasoffs, by the nature of their involvement in the operation, should have some knowledge of some of the other individuals involved in this operation.

The Tarasoffs said that the transcripts they prepared were literal transcriptions as opposed to summaries. They said that they made no marginal comments on the body of the transcripts.

Mr. Tarasoff was assisted in translating and transcribing the tapes by his wife, Anna Tarasoff.

GOAL #2.

To determine the nature and circumstances of the monitoring of Lee Harvey Oswald by CIA surveillance in Mexico City in 1963 and the nature of the Tarasoffs' involvement in that monitoring.

- a) the first conversation.
- b) the second conversation.
- c) nature of circumstances surrounding the delivery and transcription of the conversations.
- d) any subsequent conversations transcribed.
- e) exhibits.

GOAL #3.

To determine if the Tarasoffs ever did voice comparisons in an attempt to identify Lee Harvey Oswald's voice or the voices of the people with whom he spoke.

23 February 1978

Highlights from Tarasoff interview by Booten and Blackmore.

Full Name: Boris Dimitry Tarasoff.

DOB: 11/2/08

POB: Yekaterinoslaw, Russia.

Present Address: Ranch Contento, Guadalajara, Mexico.

Sent to Mexico on 5 June 1963.

P. 6. Worked as a translator/transcriber outside Embassy at 312 San Puerta Ave.

Robert Zambanardi at times delivered tapes to him. (7)

Also remembers another man who delivered tapes Rudy (LNU) possibly Bruno. (7)

William Bright also delivered tapes to him (9)

Charles Flick supervised the intercept operation (12)

also repaired tape recorders, got new ones etc. (12)

P.17+ transcription operation description:

got tapes with Spanish transcripts. This transcript would indicate where the Russian language parts were, Tarasoff would run the tape to that point and would then translate and transcribe simultaneously. Ann assisted Boris with conversations that were partially in English.

P 19+ Oswald tape:

Remembers that a major portion of his conversation (9/28) was in English and his wife worked on it.

was rather short.

remembers that all he was doing on this conversation was trying to make contacts to get into the Russian Embassy.

Did not ID himself in this conversation.

Second conversation:

Note came with the tape giving conversation reference and asking them to ID the caller. Instruction was that if this was done they were to contact immediately their CIA contact and deliver the transcript to him. "this was top priority" "It was very important to them" This conversation was long, two pages.

It was delivered with the usual batch of tapes but this one was singled out and given priority. This conversation was also largely in English. LHO IDed himself in this one. They notified contact and it was immediately picked up.

~~Re: edit for final comments: "No way." There were no comments made. What was typed was what was being said by this individual.~~

definitely remember that he was seeking financial aid from the Cubans and Russians to get to Cuba/Russia. Does not remember him offering information. He did tell them he was broke.

Do not remember him asking anything about a visa.

Typed on Government Bond with two copies. (33)

P. 38 Tarasoff contacted his "emergency" contact to turn over the 2nd LHO transcript. He declined to give this contact's name. this was done on the same day as he recieved the tape.

Page Two

They would be able to recognize the original transcript if they saw it.  
(40)  
hey transcribed tapes verbatim, adding nothing and leaving nothing out.

P.43 T.never saw the transcript again or heard the tape.

Tarasoff was never recontacted about the Oswald tapes and transcripts.

Anna.Tarasoff:  
DOB 5/5/23

"I filed according to the date of the reel and the reel itself had a number and then following that each conversation had a number and I that would be the original copy that I would file as it is in whole. Then the carbon copy would be also kept in its original state and the second one I would sort of scan it over and just delete what was not pertinent like it was a conversation with somebody saying, well tomorrow I'm going downtown....But it it had to deal with two poeple and especially if there names were mentioned, this was cut out and it was pasted on a piece of paper and it was turned over to our contact." normal procedure was to turn over previous batch of transcripts when new batch of tapes were delivered the next morning. (54-55)

71 Dan VOGEL picked up the equipment and files from the Tarasoff's when they retired.

MEMORANDUM

12-5-76

TO: Richard A. Sprague

FROM: Kenneth E. Brooten, Jr.

IN RE: Contacts with Ambassador John Joseph Jova, U. S. Embassy Mexico City and Thomas Polgar, JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

1. I Initially met with William Calderhead, Deputy Chief of Mission U. S. Embassy, Mexico City and advised him of the following:

- a) I had received information from the Committee Staff indicating that someone had contacted them advising that the Cuban Embassy personnel in Mexico City would be willing to meet with us and provide us with the information which they had on Lee Harvey Oswald.
- b) I had not been advised of the source of the information by the Committee Staff and I did not know the reliability of the source.
- c) I had discussed the matter with you for "instructions" and had been advised by you that I should take the matter up with the Ambassador.

Mr. Calderhead suggested that we make a formal contact through the Department of State and have them go through the Swiss, since the Swiss represent the interest of the U. S. Government in Havana.

2. I met with Ambassador Jova at his residence on December 2, 1976, and advised him of the foregoing. I also advised that while the Committee would be most interested in obtaining any information we could from the Cubans we were very much aware of the complications which could arise should the information prove to be erroneous.

I further advised the Ambassador that we did not want to do anything which could cause embarrassment to the U. S. Government or the Congress and that we wanted to proceed with his consent and advice. The Ambassador advised:

- a) The official U. S. position is that there are to be no official contacts with the Government of Cuba.
- b) He knows the Ambassador from Cuba on a social basis and could make a discrete approach and inquiry.
- c) He would have to get "instructions" from Washington to make an approach and inquiry from the Cuban Ambassador.
- d) He very much appreciated our consulting with him since it was a very delicate matter.

I suggested that possibly the C.I.A. could have some source either direct or indirect which could verify whether or not the Cubans wanted to meet with us.

He stated that he had not discussed our visit with [redacted] but with my consent would do so. He offered to have [redacted] come to his residence or have us meet him at his residence.

3. I met with Thomas Polgar [redacted] and advised him of the situation and requested his assistance and judgement. He advised:

- a) That some of his people had informal contacts with the Cubans and could make an inquiry to see if a "responsible official" of the Cuban Embassy would meet with us. To do so he would have to get "instructions" from C.I.A. Headquarters - but at my request he would proceed to do so.
- b) He said that the Cubans would probably have to go to Havana for "instructions" before they would reply. He further stated that most of the information would probably be in Havana.
- c) I asked if he had any other method of determining the validity of the information and he said that he was not prepared to confirm whether there were wiretaps at this time. Later in the conversation he said as a result of the story - a copy of which is attached that the Cubans had been saying less on the phone.
- d) We agreed to meet with the Ambassador the next day to discuss how to proceed.

4. On Friday, December 3, 1976, I again met with the Ambassador and Mr. Polgar. Mr. Polgar had not yet received a reply to his request for "instructions," from C.I.A. Headquarters and again advised that the Cubans would most likely go to Havana for "instructions" before replying.

Ambassador Jova said he would seek instructions from State on making an informal social contact with the Cuban Ambassador but suggested that that would take time. He said the most proper method would be to go through the Swiss and State here in Washington.

I advised that while we certainly wanted to obtain the information that we wanted to use the most conservative approach so as not to create an incident. The Ambassador again expressed his appreciation for our sensitivity to a "delicate situation."

5. ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

- a) Contact C.I.A. Headquarters to follow up on Polgar's request for "instructions."
- b) Contact the Department of State and request that they go through the Swiss with a formal contact to the Cubans in Havana and follow up on Ambassador Jova's request for instructions.

- c) Both of these follow up actions should, in my judgement, be initiated immediately.
  - d) If we can confirm the contact with the Cubans it will be necessary for me to return to Mexico City, and I would purpose to do so as soon as we receive a confirmation.
6. Jonothan Blackmer accompanied me to each of the meetings.



STREET STAND PRICES (IN PESOS)		Daily	Sunday
Mexico City, Cuernavaca, San Miguel, Puebla	.....	4.00	5.40
Guadalajara, Chapala	.....	1.60	6.00
Acapulco, Mazatlan, Cancun, Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo	.....	5.00	7.00

# The News

Vol. XXVII Mexico City, Wednesday, December 1, 1976 No. 149

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THE NEWS, Mexico City  
Wednesday, December 1, 1976

## *JFK Murder Probers Sent to Mexico*

Investigators for the House Committee on Assassinations have been sent to Mexico to verify a report that the CIA, for unexplained reasons, withheld information about Lee Harvey Oswald from the Warren Commission, according to Associated Press reports from Washington.

Quoting committee spokesmen, AP said the investigators will interview two retired agency employes who reportedly heard Oswald offer a deal to Soviet officials in Mexico City less than two months before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Washington Post has reported that Oswald's voice was picked up through electronic surveillance of the

Cuban and Soviet embassies and transcribed by the two agency employes.

David A. Phillips, a now-retired CIA officer who was stationed in Mexico City at the time, also has recalled Oswald making such an offer.

Phillips and the two former agency employes who

were not identified all recalled that Oswald offered unspecified information in return for a free trip to the Soviet Union.

It was not clear what effect this version of Oswald's conversation would have had on the Warren Commission, AP said.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 5, 1976  
TO: Richard Sprague  
FROM: Jon Blackmer  
SUBJECT: Specific Inquiry into the Identity of the Person with whom Oswald spoke in the Two Phone Calls Intercepted by the CIA in Mexico City and Transcribed by Mr. and Mrs. Tarasoff.

On November 30, in Guadalajara, Mexico, Ken thought it best that I ask some specific questions of the Tarasoff's as to the identify of the person or persons Oswald may have spoken with during the two telephone conversations that were intercepted by the CIA and transcribed by the Tarasoffs. I thought I should inquire of the Tarasoffs about their knowledge of the voices of the various employees of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City and the identity of the various KGB men, including the dispute over the "Kostin" identify appearing in the letter Oswald wrote to the Soviet Embassy in Washington on November 8, 1963. The following is a brief report on the substance of that interrogation.

After three sessions with the Tarasoffs prior to the taping of the session for transcription, we learned that Mr. Tarasoff had been assigned to the Mexico City

desk for the express purpose of translating and transcribing conversations in the Russian language going into and out of the Soviet Embassy by telephone. In the course of their employment, the Tarasoffs became familiar with the voices of the Russians and could instantly identify the names of many of the Russians within the embassy when their voices were heard. Mr. Tarasoff even went so far as to put together his own scrapbook with pictures and newspaper clippings of his "Russians" so that he could become as familiar as possible with their identity and background, deemed essential by Mr. Tarasoff to understand the content of the conversation by the voice inflection. That is to say, knowledge of the region these various Russians came from would aid greatly in identifying the context of the conversations when various idioms and colloquialisms were used. In short, Mr. and Mrs. Tarasoff did their jobs well and in many cases were innovators — always toward the goal of proficiency.

Mr. Tarasoff came up with the idea of voice sample tapes to be indexed by identity for use whenever the need might arise to compare voices or a dispute as to identity of voices. But all voices whether identified or not were indexed. Mr. Tarasoff brought this up with Herb Mannell and was given permission to make these identity tapes.

Mr. Tarasoff knew the voices of Yatskov, Kostikov, Kanstantinov among others. He did not, however, know of any of these men's proficiency in English, but felt that only Kostikov and Kanstantinov could handle English well enough to speak it in a cursory fashion. Based on this they formed the opinion that Kanstantinov was more than likely the person to which Oswald spoke, unless there was another individual not known to the Tarasoffs, with whom Oswald may have spoken. It is of interest to note that while the Russians almost exclusively spoke Russian with each other and many Embassy employees spoke Spanish, very few, Boris believes probably only Kostikov and Kanstantinov spoke English well enough to get by. Additionally, because of this fact, Boris was not as proficient at identifying his Russians when they spoke English since the voice sounds entirely different, almost mechanical when the Russians were speaking English. They do not believe Oswald spoke with Yatskov or Kostikov on the occasion of the two telephone calls transcribed by the Tarasoffs.

One thing is certain, Mr. Tarasoff was the expert on the station in Mexico City when Oswald called the Soviet Embassy from the Cuban Embassy. Mr. Tarasoff succeeded George Misko who was in Mexico City in the same function as Mr. Tarasoff. Mr. Tarasoff was never asked who Oswald

spoke with, never identified the person with whom Oswald spoke, nor ever was asked anything about the incident. Mr. Tarasoff had on other occasions been asked to identify voices, and has had tapes returned to him on other occasions for that purpose. Both the Tarasoffs feel the information contained in the October 16, 1963 memo was not the complete and relevant as to the substance of the telephone conversations that the Tarasoff's transcribed.

Thus we are faced with the issue of why when Boris was the expert, heard the tape pursuant to his function, was the best person qualified to identify the Russians by their voices, why was he never consulted by anyone before or after the assassination as to the substance of the phone calls and the person with whom Oswald spoke. Yet the Warren Commission Report states that Oswald contacted Kostikov or Yatskov and based on this other information (presumably from Duran) and in answer to the questions posed by Oswald's letter to the Soviet Embassy in Washington in which Oswald mentions having contacted Kostin. The Tarasoffs do not feel Kostin is the short form of Kanstantinov or Kostikov nor do they know a Kostin. Boris knew Kostikov and Kanstantinov and Yatskov were KGB and knew the voices of Yatscov and Kostikov and Kanstantinov. When the

first call came in Boris was notified that the station was extremely interested in the identity of the caller. That when the second call came, the tape was rushed to Boris and when Oswald was identified the contact (probably Bright) seemed extremely interested and excited. Tarasoff typed transcripts verbatim, since at one point, unlike Misko, his predecessor, Tarasoff made a summary of a meaningless conversation and made his own comments to that effect, and was jumbed on by Bill Bright for so doing. Tarasoff did not make comments on transcripts except for using M.I. for man inside and M.O. for man outside when they were readily identifiable. Boris feels that if at the time had he been asked about the Oswald calls, he would have been able to supply much more information, but 14 years has dimmed his memory and no one, not even Bright, his contact, discussed the subject with him.

In a separate interview with Mr. Tarasoff on November 30, 1976, I learned that the photographic expert on station in Mexico City in 1963 September to November was Bob Zambernardi. Zambernardi's

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Zambernardi was probably the man in

charge of photographing the activities of both the Cuban and Soviet embassies in 1963.

Having a copy of Coup d'etat in America with me. I thought I would ask the Tarasoffs if they could identify any of the photographs in the book. Specifically, photographs of the bums arrested in Dallas on the day of the assassination. Three photographs of Howard Hunt, two photographs of Frank Sturgis. I asked whether the Tarasoffs knew any of these men either professionally or socially. The Tarasoffs were unable to identify any of the photographs, nor could they recall seeing any of the individuals in Mexico City or anywhere else. However, I got the feeling that Boris indicated a faint glimmer of recognition when I showed him the picture of Eugene Edgar Bradley which appears on page 222 of the text. I don't know whether Boris knew this man and as he stated he did not and as his credibility, in my opinion, is very high, I think the man probably resembles someone Boris might have known. They could not recall having known Howard Hunt in Mexico City nor having seen him. These photographs came from pages 208 through 223 of the above book.

We also went over photographs of the mysterious man leaving the Soviet Embassy. The Tarasoffs had their own copies of these photos supplied by Ron Kessler. While the Tarassoffs thought they were all of the same man on

two different occasions, they could not positively identify them. Mr Tarasoff felt the man was Russian, and that he was wearing clothing one would wear on a fishing trip. Mr. Tarasoff noted the Russians were crazy about fishing. He felt the first photograph was blocked in such a way as to make the man appear much heavier than he really was, but in comparing all the photographs with his personal file of photos and newspaper clips, he could not match them. The first photograph we were referring to is the one that just shows the head and shoulders of a man in a dark sweater. He did however feel that one photo looked a lot like Alfredeyev, Soviet KGB, but felt the mystery man was much heavier. I have no photo of Alfredeyev, but he looks a little like the french film star Yves Montand.

I would recommend following this lead by first interviewing Charles Flick, then George Misko, then Bill Bright, then Robert Zambernardi, then Clark Anderson, then Herb Mannell, and then possibly, Sylvia Duran to pick up the thread.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard A. Sprague

FROM: Kenneth E. Brooten, Jr.

IN RE: Mexico City Trip -- Brooten & Blackmer 11-28-76 to 12-4-76

1. We initially had reservations to depart on an American Airlines Flight at 7:15 a.m. on Sunday, November 28, 1976. Jonathan had called American to confirm the fact that we only had to show our official passports to get a tourist visa for Mexico. We arrived at the airport at 6:30 a.m. and were advised that they could not issue Mexican Tourist Cards on Official Passports. I called the operations desk at the Department of State who said the Official Passport was proof of American Citizenship and that should be sufficient. American Airlines employees would not accept that so rather than create a confrontation as to who we were we took a later flight and traveled on our personal passports.
2. Upon our arrival in Mexico City we were met by William J. Roche, the Chief of Security for the Embassy. The Embassy had reserved rooms for us.
3. On Monday, November 29, 1976, Mr. Roche made airline reservations for us to Guadalajara -- it is a 1 hour flight and approximately 355 miles from Mexico City. He arranged to have us met by Mathias Ortwein the Consul General. Mr. Ortwein made arrangements for our hotel and offered us the use of his personal vehicle.
4. We made initial contact with Boris Tarasoff at approximately 3:30 p.m. His wife was not at home and had been in Guadalajara for 5 or 6 days at their daughters taking care of her sick children. Our interview with Mr. Tarasoff lasted until approximately 9:00 p.m. when we went to Guadalajara to meet with his wife. We interviewed her until approximately 11:00 p.m.
5. Following our telephone conversation on Tuesday, November 30, we taped the formal interview which is transcribed. Jonathan is preparing a separate Memorandum on the specific areas of inquiry which I asked him to make.
6. We returned to Mexico City on Thursday, December 2, 1976, and took up the matters at the Embassy which are the subject of my separate Memoranda. We returned to Washington on Saturday, December 4, 1976.

Interview with Boris Dimitry Tarasoff and Ann Tarasoff at Ranch Contento, Guadalajara, Mexico on Tuesday, November 30, 1976, 1:15 (local time).

Mr. Brooten: Mr. and Mrs. Tarasoff, do you understand that my name is Kenneth Brooten, I am Counsel for the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States Congress in the House of Representatives and with me is Jonathan Blackmer, also a Counsel to the Committee and that we are recording this interview with you today?

Mr. Tarasoff: Yes sir.

Mrs. Tarasoff: We've seen your identifications and we feel that you're documents are authentic.

Mr. Brooten: And, do we have your consent to tape this interview?

Mrs. Tarasoff: Yes, you do.

Mr. Tarasoff: Yes.

Mr. Brooten: Now, I'll start with Mr. Tarasoff first. Mr. Tarasoff, for the record would you please state your full name.

Mr. Tarasoff: Boris Dimitry Tarasoff.

Mr. Brooten: Thank you sir. And your current address.

Mr. Tarasoff: Ranch Contento, Guadalajara, Mexico.

Mr. Brooten: And your date of birth sir.

Mr. Tarasoff: November 2, 1908.

Mr. Brooten: And your place of birth.

Mr. Tarasoff: Yekaterinoslaw, Russia.

Mr. Brooten: Alright, sir. What is your occupation or profession now?

Mr. Tarasoff: I am retired.

Mr. Brooten: How long have you been retired?

Mr. Tarasoff: Since the end of October, 1970.

Mr. Brooten: Alright sir. And prior to that time, what did you do, for whom were you employed?

Mr. Tarasoff: I was employed by the, so called, Company.

Mr. Brooten: All right. And the Company is the Central

Mr. Brooten: Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Tarasoff: Well, let's put it that way.

Mr. Brooten: All right. We just want to clarify that for the record.

Mr. Tarasoff: All right.

Mr. Brooten: And that is of the United States Government.

Mr. Tarasoff: Oh, definitely.

Mr. Brooten: And, at which, how long did you work for the Company?

Mr. Tarasoff: About 15 years.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir. And in 1963 what was your duty station.

Mr. Tarasoff: Well, I came here from Washington, D.C. It must have been the sixth of June, if I'm not mistaken.

Mrs. Tarasoff: The fifth of June.

Mr. Tarasoff: The fifth of June, 1963.

Mr. Brooten: All right, sir. And, were you on temporary assignment then or what?

Mr. Tarasoff: No, that was to be my permanent assignment. By permanent, I mean that you put in two years. And if you are not satisfactory, they ship you back.

Mr. Brooten: All right.

Mr. Tarasoff: But I managed to survive for about eight years in the same capacity.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir. Who did you relieve in your job when you came.

Mr. Tarasoff: George Miscow was my predecessor.

Mr. Brooten: And where did you work specifically when you came from Washington to Mexico City.

Mr. Tarasoff: Do you mean on permanent assignment?

Mr. Brooten: Yes sir. I mean when you were changed, where did you work, for what department or.

Mr. Tarasoff: I don't know which department.

Mr. Brooten: Was it with, were you a translator sir?

Mr. Tarasoff: I was translator and transcriber at the same time. There is a difference, sometimes they use two people for those two jobs.

Mr. Brooten: All right. And your duties when you came down in June of 1963 then were as transcriber and translator.

Mr. Tarasoff: Right.

Mr. Brooten: At the station in Mexico City?

Mr. Tarasoff: Right.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir. Now following, how long did you work inside the station in Mexico Station?

Mr. Tarasoff: Oh, that was on TDY in 1960.

Mr. Brooten: All right, in 1960 you worked in the station. In June of 1963, where did you work?

Mr. Tarasoff: Well, in the house that was rented.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir. And, was that in Mexico City?

Mr. Tarasoff: That was in Mexico City.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir. Do you recall the address of that house.

Mr. Tarasoff: That was 312, I think. Wasn't it? San Puerta Avenue.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir. Did any officials at the American Embassy have that address to know, to contact you?

Mr. Tarasoff: They certainly did have it because they were delivering stuff to me.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir. Now, did you work at that address with anyone else in the translation and the transcribing of things that we'll get into and identify a little bit later on. Did anyone else work with you directly.

Mr. Tarasoff: Directly, just my wife was helping me out until she was put on official status.

Mr. Brooten: Now, what did you receive and from whom

Mr. Brooten: did you receive it, to transcribe and translate?

Mr. Tarasoff: You mean the names?

Mr. Brooten: Yes sir. Well, I want to know what you received first.

Mr. Tarasoff: First, I received a mountain of tapes left over from the previous transcriber.

Mr. Brooten: All right.

Mr. Tarasoff: And I think they were delivered by Bob(Zumbanardi spelling?)

Mrs. Tarasoff: Yes, he was the first one.

Mr. Brooten: All right.

Mr. Tarasoff: The first one, but since he had other duties, I suppose they took the Rudy character.

Mr. Brooten: All right, and you don't know Rudy's last name?



Mr. Tarasoff: No. That's what I say. There is some association in my mind with the name of Bruno.

Mr. Brooten: Bruno? Would you describe, as best you can, the physical characteristics of?

Mr. Tarasoff: Well, he was rather tall.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir.

Mr. Tarasoff: Slim and probably stooped a little bit, with sandy hair.

Mrs. Tarasoff: receding a little bit.

Mr. Tarasoff: No particular distinguishing features.

Mr. Brooten: All right. Did he. How old a man was he about at that time.

Mr. Tarasoff: About 45 I'd say.

Mr. Brooten: Did he have any children.

Mr. Tarasoff: He had two. Two boys.

Mr. Brooten: And, was, he was married?

Mr. Tarasoff: He was married to a French woman who abandoned him or divorced him or just run away from him. Because he wasn't supportable in private life.

Mr. Brooten: Now, did you receive tapes from anyone else, other than Mr. Flick or this Rudy or the individual that you named previously that delivered a bunch of them to you. Did you receive tapes from anyone else?

Mr. Tarasoff: Well, not at the same time. But after.

Mr. Brooten: All right.

Mr. Tarasoff: Oh, what's his name.

Mr. Brooten: Mr. Bright.

Mr. Tarasoff: Yes, Bill Bright

Mr. Brooten: Would you describe Bill Bright to me. Was he a young man or an old man or.

Mr. Tarasoff: He was a young man with 2 or 3 girls. Very small ones.

Mrs. Tarasoff: Well, I think they had two youngsters.  
The two girls.

Mr. Tarasoff: Typical Anglo-Saxon type.

Mrs. Tarasoff: Blondish hair, sandy hair.

Mr. Tarasoff: I told him. He was driving in a Volkswagen.  
We have pictures of him.

Mr. Brooten: Now, would you tell me how Mr. Bright  
would deliver the tapes. Do you know where the tapes came  
from.

Mr. Tarasoff: Well, at first, no. I didn't know.

Mr. Brooten: Did you ever subsequently learn where the  
tapes came from?

Mr. Tarasoff: Subsequently, yes. During my last two years  
or three years. I don't recollect exactly when.

Mr. Brooten: All right. But can you now state where  
those tapes came from?

Mr. Tarasoff: Now I can, I have a very good idea where

Mr. Tarasoff: they came from.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir, where did they come from?

Mr. Tarasoff: It was a house that had several recording machines set up. The address I don't know.

Mr. Brooten: All right, but they were tapes of telephone taps were they?

Mr. Tarasoff: Yes.

Mr. Brooten: All right. And you did the specific ones to and from the Soviet Embassy.

Mr. Tarasoff: Right.

Mr. Brooten: Now, would you describe for me the procedure to the best of your recollection, whereby the tapes were taken from the house where they were initially recorded, and how they got to you? What was the chain of.

Mr. Tarasoff: I know one thing that, for instance let's say that Bill Bright, he would pick them up. I don't know whether he would pick them up from Charlie.

Mr. Brooten: Now Charlie is?

Mr. Tarasoff: Charlie Flick

Mr. Brooten: And Charles Flick was, what was his job?

Mr. Tarasoff: He was actually, supervising the workings of this tape record listen. If anything went wrong, he was the fellow who would fix it. If he couldn't, then he would send them back probably to Washington to be fixed. Gotten new ones.. How many times I argued with him, and I said, my gosh, give me a better machine because it's breaking down. He says, well, we don't have any more. But eventually, I would get something decent out of him.

Mr. Brooten: Do you know whether or not Mr. Flick monitored both the Cuban and the Soviet wiretaps from this one safe house that you've described?

Mr. Tarasoff: Well, I would say that he was monitoring them because his Spanish wasn't too hot.

Mr. Brooten: I guess, were the tape recordings made from of the conversations / the Cuban Embassy at this same place?

Mr. Tarasoff: I imagine so.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir.

Mr. Tarasoff: Because there were quite a number of people working there.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir. And, were there people working there all employees, were they Americans or were they Mexican nationals or?

Mr. Tarasoff: I think they were mostly Mexican nationals.

Mr. Brooten: All right. But they worked for the CIA in the interception of these communications?

Mr. Tarasoff: I imagine so, of course.

Mr. Brooten: All right. Did you ever personally go to the safe house?

Mr. Tarasoff: I did

Mr. Brooten: And how often did you go there?

Mr. Tarasoff: Not less than once, maybe twice.

Mr. Brooten: All right sir

