

Joseph H. Langost  
NOTES

HSCA Interview of [Harold]  
[Swenson] by Alan Handway  
& Charles Berke at HSCA  
offices on 8/21/78, 10:15  
A.M.

letter ✓

period photo White hair - glasses



[ Director of Security for  
Greenboro Farms (?) ]

N.Y.

was a VP for [Intertel]

1/5-1/55 joined CIA  
till 8/68.

1963 - two roles.

special assistant to C/SAS  
anythen C/SAS/CI.

worked with Harvey  
& D.F.

Central Intelligence Agency  
has no Objection to Release  
Date: AS SANITIZED  
2003

FIGR?

subsequent, senior rep  
for Latin affairs in  
Western Europe -  
trouble shooter  
also in Mid-East

primary concern was CII:  
did work in liaison  
@ friendly services.

function SAS: meaning  
except in context of name

CI - heading it for  
a microcosm of agency  
liaison @ FBI.

knew Harvey in FBI +  
had common understand  
@ H. re: his (S's) role.

protect against foreign  
penetration, esp Cuba.  
mount ops to penetrate  
Cuba CUB.

SAS can be SA.

Ep 4:2A.

CUA?

MCA DAY?

first in-depth knowledge  
of CU15 functions from  
[AMNIP] while still exploiting  
info got AMMUG.

5 brought him back to US  
[redacted] hesitant.

A/1 brought operational  
files - tremendously  
valuable in debriefing.  
[NIP+]MUG best sources I  
tried to exploit their  
info on other CU15  
officers

[NIP-] late 62 or 63.

before to defectors CIA  
info merger/sketchy

unreliable — "They were  
goldmines!"

CVIS (G-2) changing  
over 62 + 63.

by 64 was DQI — in  
interim great deal  
of training and progress

[NIP — Inception  
MUG — up to date]

also received info from  
all sources — other  
stations, etc.

2 Computer systems —  
separate from other  
computer indexing  
doesn't remember  
specific names —  
still in existence when  
he left —  
coordinated but a part

[CIS] wouldn't have  
access 'cept through [5.]

Phillips

minimal contact @  
 C/IS - "pretty much independent"

Mexi reports extracted  
 & included.

~~silvia~~ [S] would go to Mexi for  
 certain CI things.

became C/ISA/CI can't  
 remember exact dates -  
 gradual movement after  
 2 tours overseas -  
 Harvey's special assist  
 to C/OI.

~~travel @ him~~ close friendship @ Harvey  
 back to FBI days but  
 compartmentized.

[S] was in Marines & spoke  
 Spanish.

87 at time of missile unofficial  
 CI. Almost simul @ [D.F.] Arrival  
 Official.

MUG valuable coz desk off.  
 respon. for Mexi &  
 Central Am.

[ I was able to get to various countries to work @ this info.

ass'n attempts by CVIS  
can't recall any.  
thinks it unlikely -  
met a number  
of them - recruitment  
& elicitation

mediocre officers. in  
terms of professionalism  
most didn't have the  
stomach.

never found any indication  
except in encouraging  
revolutionary actions.

as organization? capable?  
"iffy"  
conceivable but doubtful  
too baky & careless  
& ~ that zealous.

mediocre but improving rapidly.

recruitment attempts.  
 [MEXI?] 60-63?  
 he did / ~ successful  
 but partially - individuals  
 well known to [NIP-]  
 got him to hotel room -  
 at time Castro's sister  
 defected. baked him out -  
 thought meeting C's  
 sister - guy was  
 wavering - considered  
 working for CIA but  
 changed mind. - C's sister  
 defected at time of meeting  
 - problems - and he  
 decided ~ to do it.  
 can't remember name  
 wasn't [Riz]

TALL  
 SKINNY GUY  
 light brown  
 complexion  
 dissatisfied  
 @ treatment

Chief of  
 CUIS IN  
 Embassy.  
 At that time

position  
 IN  
 Embassy?

[RIZ]

no successful recruitments  
 in Mexi that he recalls.

[Belgium] QJ/WIN - ZRRIFLE -  
 means nothing to him

8

MUG -

first indication that  
"DGI" even existed.

MUG - was aware of people  
in all C.A. + Mexi. DGI  
activities.

bona fides firmly establish  
he was completely dissatisfied

files - none that dealt  
w/ LHO or JFK ass'n.

11/22/63 - immediately caused  
search of files w/ no  
response.

MUG - was reliable + held  
confidence of CIA.

[ I got him coz he was most  
knowledgeable of CVIS -  
went to Can. sebb to  
✓ out bonafides.

once brought A/1 back  
various people delegated



to babysit & etc.  
 Hidalgo, [Flores,] [Vivian Berry,]  
 Joe Piccolo.

H was a case officer -  
 "did whatever I told him  
 to." great Spanish - Cuban  
 dialect - enthusiastic  
 ungratifying - great  
 babysitter - lots of  
 physical defects

no recall of ap use in  
 Mexi - but he did have  
 a host of info - not  
 close enough to people in  
 Mexi as [NIP] was.  
 [Miguel Roche]

[NIP] very effective -  
 [star basketball player]

no recollection of  
 penetrations at Culbemb  
 but did have observa-  
 tion posts.

sez Bishop sketch could be a  
 lot of people

AS  
first

should have known of  
penetrations but doesn't  
mean he would have  
- penetrations should  
have had a CI check

AGTHN  
gicops

- no knowledge of Cuban  
penetration of us.
- [ Will Kirby - Retired  
Piccolo
  - [ Austin Horn ] - deceased  
could have had knowledge  
but would have called  
to his attention.

doesn't think Whitten ]  
had to do @ Mex;  
~~back~~ adding 2 and 2.  
may have often gotten  
more than 4"  
jealous & ambitious  
jumpy & overestimate value  
- completely objective  
but very bright.  
tendency to subjective  
coloring.



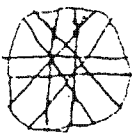
11

aware of W. respon.  
- can not recall.  
did not assist.

Phillips +  
prep. of.

## Documents

CIA # 3709 shown.



[5]urate cable - initial  
assessment.  
"speaks for itself"

3710

para. E.

commercial attache - doesn't  
recall who it was now.  
others - mentioned? can't  
at time.

man he talked to was,  
he thinks, the commercial  
attache.

3711

para. H

he is Langosh (p4.)

debriefing approx.

10 days.



tried to give HQ idea of how valuable he was so get State to pressure to give him to us.

notes in head - did not tape the debriefing must have been [redacted]

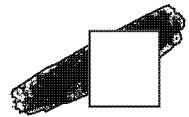
[5. I was circumsect coz suspected [redacted] of taping.

most debriefings in U.S. - taped but took notes - wrote up detailed report for indexing + distribution Meetings for interest desks<sup>#4</sup> - asked for questions

reports would have been kept in SAS/CI + dissem. to interest desks on need to know basis.

has never heard of debriefing report #40.

"SI" - obvious thing was Special intelligence/DO



but honestly doesn't know what it would stand for.

DD required a special clearance staff & sources very sensitive. ... did - want to compromise by taking actions that would reveal that we had broken code.]

Cannot remember anything done on LHO case.

if report 40 originated outside of DD would - have included their material

retention would have meant they were working on it.

CIA

3670 shown

5 ] "one I obviously prepared but I don't remember it" probably was a debriefing report.

D.D. wouldn't have retained may have tried [to break a code]

WH/PO/A - doesn't know what that would have been.

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Sturgis - no recollection of MUG mention

reviewed JMWAVE personnel for penetrations by CUIS or as contacts into Cuba.

assumes Hunt knew Sturgis from Bay of Pigs.

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3691 shown.

[ 5 ] thinks probably did write para 1 -

cannot recall what kinda contacts but would have been what MUG told him.

Laurie - no recollection. name came up coz MUG told him that.

follow-up?

[ 5 ] had no connections @ WC but would have sent memo to CIs



talks about questioning tech.  
to avoid letting interviewee  
know what point was  
significant & spurious name  
& Mongolian ponies as  
example.

No knowing deception on  
MUG's part.

had there been more detail  
would have been in memo

no knowledge of LC/CIA  
relationship

3695 shown

no recollection  
accurate quote  
normal O.P.

doesn't remember seeing  
or talking.

how reconcile? op+ w.c.?

? ? Angleton ran some ops  
out of vest pocket

[ 5. ] wanted opportunity to exploit MUG info / contacts + milk him dry. <sup>from MUG</sup> terrorist transit example Foreign minister's meeting + visits to chiefs of state.

no knowledge that MUG ever talked to W.C.

3699 shown.

[ 5. ] wrote it.

don't recall specifics but would be way handled.

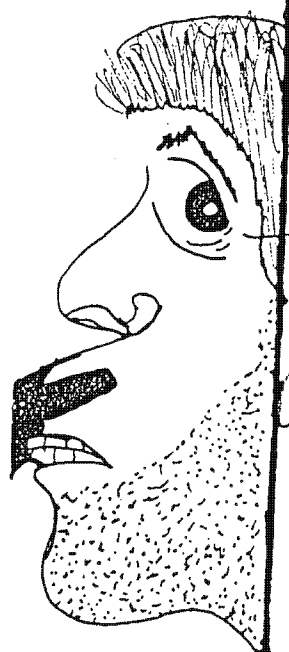
L.C. - still no recall of particulars — she would have been of interest in machine run - contacts etc [ 5. ] would have written a memo for 201.

no recall of crypt for machine runs.

contacted? possible but no specific memory

CALDERON  
RODRIGUEZ  
VEGA.





female assets - Cuban - Mexi  
no particular recall.

3703 shown.

5 did write  
second hand info.  
never determine Americans I.D.  
did - know L.C. as CIA agent  
visa section accurate.  
doesn't think R. ever  
spoke to A/I but doesn't  
know.

polygraph - recollection  
is that he was clean all the  
way

3882 shown.

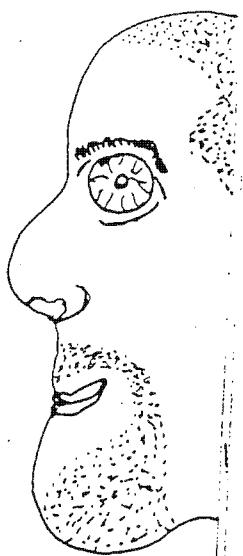


L.C. -

if he had dealt w/ WC he would  
have given him earlier memo.

doesn't know Rocca that well

CIA 1950-54 shown.



three pieces of info signi-  
 ify he had been in Mexi  
 would have explored  
 in greater detail. but  
 this part of problem  
 is that everything  
 compartmentized.

thinks W.S. would have  
 done more - would have  
 tried to interrogate the  
 3 people - polygraph -  
 enticement.

!?! [ at time would have been  
 sig. enough to have called  
 for a more stringent inves  
 but at that time Mexi  
 not strong on CI

suggests exploring @ Phillips

doesn't recall seeing any of  
 the transcripts - racks it up to  
 overzealous compartmentation.

[S. I would have thought that Scott would have jumped on this.

knows of no instance of recruitment  
no clearance.

3675

~~R~~

[Nico Garcia] is guy pitched  
@ [NIP] help (earlier)

doesn't remember much about  
Ruiz.

Viciana + crypt remembers  
rings no bells.

3717

doesn't remember seeing  
T.P. remembers name vaguely  
as dedicated comrade  
no knowledge of attempted  
recruitment or of membership  
in DGI.

3715.

would have done jointly  
 @ Bureau - talked to Papich  
 excellent cooperation.

D.E.S. - was known Domestic  
 Operations Division

OO innocuous & open - later  
 became DCD.

DDD engaged in clandestine  
 exploitation in U.S. - not  
 good rapport & cooperation  
 @ FBI.

Info on sister should be  
 available from DDD or JMWAVE

never heard of black tape

[ AMROD - ] no bells.

3714 - paragraph 2. - still no  
 bells.

36666

Senate didn't have copy.  
FBI called him.

Q: AMLASH insecure.  
opposed ass'n on practical  
grounds.

[ ESPINOZA?  
ACCOMPANIED? ]

group was untrustworthy  
& leaky.

risks unacceptably high.

C. knew  
group plotting ass'n in 62  
& good possibility that  
AMLASH was turned.

doesn't know how much  
C knew - suspects C suspected  
agency complicity. "high  
probability" coz nature of  
group & leaks.

never knew as fact that  
any in group were C agents.

[redacted] security problem.  
meeting places known.  
as far back as '63

"did not think security, general  
was very good."

HUNT?

probability that C knew of  
agency backing AMLASH  
very high in light of all  
factors.

people at SAS certainly  
knew AMLASH was an  
ass'n plot.

??

7

CI, EO, JMWAVE certainly  
aware. despite compartmentation  
at least on basis of gossip.

discussed @ D.F. - knew  
how he felt - @ Helms -  
he went through channels.  
It was up to [D.F.] to bring  
it up @ Helms.

didn't know of Hunt's trip to  
Spain.

23

CI/SIC - no bells.

[ Show - I would probably  
have been CI person  
in MEXI

\* Phillips should be  
most knowledgeable  
about these things due  
to delegation from Scott  
and 2:40 p.m.

A/1

Piccolo - good until mid-1960s

[redacted]

admm asst, good  
at research -

w/ A/1 had [redacted]  
sit in + then look  
for collateral info to  
substantiate + refute  
A/1 knowledge -

A/1 provided accurate + reliable -  
didn't build hypothesis - gave  
hard information -  
above-average intel - good  
memory - very shrewd -

assumed in Florida -

last contact in 1965 -

under direction - did operations for CIA  
[ H.S ] took A/1 to El Salvador -  
to try + arrange meetings w/  
CVIS people

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Mx C, Cuban observation post -  
significant photos would have  
gone to Mexican desk -

wouldn't have sent photos if would  
have known photos to HQ unless knew significance  
of photos



[ H.S. ] assumes CIA + FBI had  
agreement to identify un'id American  
who had contact w/ Bloc Country  
embassies

never heard of [ TUMBLEWEED ]

knew WIN SCOTT quite well

→ { never saw LHO photos in front of Cuban  
Embassy - doesn't know where found

doesn't know [ ]

does know [ Charlotte Buxton ] quite

well - never heard that she

had found photos of LHO - good

memory - very astute, meticulous

{ wouldn't have made mistake

{ in descripts in dissem cables -


[ H.S. ] resp. for determining if  
Anti-Castro groups had been  
penetrated by CUI - including in  
Miami -

doesn't specifically recall DRIFT  
does remember ALPHA-66

Manolo Ray's group - any penetration  
recalls that was run loosely - could  
have been better screened

Dave Phillips - PP ops - not well rounded  
as far as CI work - too trusting -  
inexperienced

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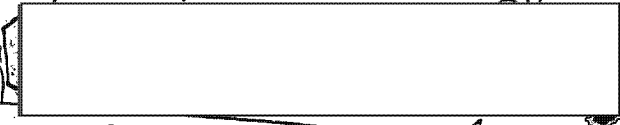
3670 - doesn't recall 

3713 - A/I never said anything about  
Sturgis -

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no one went w/ H.S. [when went  
to see [Espinoza] but FBI/  
agent went - head of Cuban Operat  
Frank LNU -

never heard of [Espinoza] before that - <sup>did send search  
after spoke w/ him</sup>

never " of  ]

Had little to do w/ Angleton  
doesn't know what operations he ran

J. A & W in Scott knew each other well

---

doesn't know if Dave Phillips ever  
initiated propaganda - post JFK assass.  
never heard of CI/515

20/3659 Ruiz - refresh recollection

- ✓ 21/3670 - ① ~~why was it~~  
Did you write  
② Was it coded [did you]  
[break it]  
③ what is the reference
- 

✓ Oswald Report No. 40  
What is SI

{ Black Tape 201 -

{ What is [AMROD-] see 3714 #3  
what about Proenza  
#

22/3666 - 1) who was [Espinoza] <sup>connection to Edward</sup>  
when was <sup>the</sup> ~~memo~~ written & what were his  
allegations  
2) #2 a who was "Totu"

re-read

see 110  
3669  
# C [austrian]

See 3667 3 A (2) - what  
does this  
mean

3668 - top # - you considered  
it an assas plot -  
by U.S. gov't &  
CIA

# [ Swenson] Interview

1. Release Letter
2. Mandate + Purpose
3. name, address, age, occupation
4. CIA position in 1963
5. other CIA positions until retirement <sup>anytime in Mex -</sup>
6. what is WH/SAS/CI - its function - your function

9) Is WH/SA/CI same as WH/SAS/CI



any successful recruitments

7. How much was known <sup>in 1963-1964</sup> about CUIS by CIA - how was info gained
  - a) any knowledge of pol. assas. carried out by CUIS
  - b) what was DEI - how was it organized <sub>Any DEI - CIA agents</sub>

8. ~~Family~~ Familiarity w/ crypt Ammug-1
  - a) who was he
  - b) when did he defect
  - c) w/ what into
  - d) how significant
  - e) where is he now
  - f) who handled him + in what order
  - g) what was your responsibility vis a vis AMMUG-1 - for how long
  - h) what was his operational use

why did you handle him

- h) 1) - Was he used to attempt penetration of DSI
- 2) did he succeed - against whom
- 3) did CIA have penetration agents at Mxlysta at time LHO visited - who - what were crypts + names
- i) where is A/I now

9. ~~XXXXXX~~ Did WH/RAS have a "domestic exploitation section" - what purpose

DOCS<sup>10</sup>

[ OTTA 1602  
3709 ]

Is this accurate

Did you ever hear/see/see  
Concerning A/I

- ② 3710 H E - Accurate
- a) who was comm'l attack
- b) any other DSI
- ③ 3711 H E - what does did A/I bring out - did any pertain to LHO
- ④ 3711 H H - indicates LANGOSCH -
- N.W. AS that you
- b) how long did you debrief (A/I in )
- c) where + w/ whom
- d) how did you record info - how was it seen to CIA HQ

3712

- ⑤ see 3713 H S - did A/I know F. Sturgis
- a) Did Sturgis work for you

b) 3713 - # 7 - who was [Amnrip/1-]  
 what kind of info did he provide  
 did [Amnrip] know Sturgis - was  
[Amnrip] Sturgis

5 May memo

11

- ① 3691 - Did you write this
- ② How many times did LHO visit embassy
- ③ Did you see the Mx Cy photo surveillance <sup>photos</sup> of LHO - when
- ④ Who was Luisa Calderon - what is her significance
- ⑤ Did A/1 ever indicate that LHO had actual contact w/ DGI
- ⑥ Do you believe in light of memo that LHO had contact w/ DGI in Mx Cy

~~Amnrip/1- who asked you to ask about her~~

11 May 64

3695 - ~~did you write this~~ Did you ever see this memo -

12

- ① Is this memo accurate
- 3696 ② to <sup>bottom of 3695</sup> p of page - how was overall exploitation of A/1 + responsibilities to WC satisfied
- ③

7 May 64

13

3699

- ① Did you write this
- ② why <sup>Amnrip</sup> the interest in Luisa Calderon
- ③ Was she CIA agent
- 3700 ④ was access obtained to referenced people

⑤ Do you know what was told about A/I and knowledge of LHO

5 May 64

14

3703

① any special reason for not giving report in Q+A form

② was this verbatim from a tape recording - what would happen to tape recordings

3704 ③ top - Did Vega see LHO

④ Is it accurate vis a vis granting of visas - see p 3707

⑤ Rogelio Rodriguez - what were his DBI responsibilities (sabotage or assass?)

⑥ 3705 - was it ever determined if Luisa was contacted by referenced American - who is the American

⑦ Silvia Dwan - was she DBI - was she CIA - Did CIA contact her

⑧ 3706 - Did Rocca speak to A/I

⑨ LCFIUTTER - ~~was~~ Was A/I asked about LHO - what was the response

14 June 64

15

3682

- ① Have you ever seen this

3684 - ever see this - is it accurate

② Do you know why Willens didn't

3687

③ why was <sup>see memo of 7 & 8 May</sup> little info on Luisa given

Did anyone at CIA ever indicate to you that Luisa had significance

④ Why not told about ~~rumor~~  
of CIA Assoc

16/3679 ① Did you write this  
② What does ZR by the  
names mean  
how was it filed  
③

17/3675 Ruiz ① Did you know  
he was Veciana's  
cousin -  
② Was he DGI -  
③ Discover any connections  
ever asked to  
investigate

CALDERON - remember to ask  
pp 1950-1954 if saw  
conversations

18/3717 ~~3717~~ ① ever seen it  
② who is Carlos Blanco  
✓ ③ Teresa Proenza - who is  
she - ~~who~~ was she CIA  
agent Did you know Dave Phillips  
Did he run Dirty Tricks on her  
3719 ④ Did you get a report on  
her -

19/3715 - Did you know [H/9 - ]  
① what about sister  
② what is dom. expl. p  
③ who's sister contacted