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SUMMARY: PRE-ASSASSINATION; MEXICO

I Russian Embassy Transcripts

A General Observations

1. The name of the Embassy appears at the top of the first page of each transcript (Transcript here means one day's coverage on one phone.) This is followed by the number of the phone covered. (A series of three two digit numbers.) The next line gives the date of the coverage. The next line gives the tape reel number. On some of the transcripts this is followed by the time period (hours) covered by the transcript. On most of the transcripts the cite to where the conversation is on the reel appears on the left hand column opposite the referenced conversation. Generally, the time the conversation occurred, and a notation as to whether it is an incoming or outgoing call, appears at the beginning of the

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conversation

- 2 Generally, the transcripts appear to be paraphrases of the conversations rather than literal transcriptions. This is more true of the Spanish than the English transcripts. Some of the conversations in Spanish, and most of the English (Russian) ones, appear to be literal transcriptions.
- 3 ~~There are some~~ ^{Most of the} transcripts are in Spanish. In these transcripts there are references to those places on the tape where a conversation appears in Russian. These conversations appear later, transcribed into English.
- 4 In the English transcripts (conversation had been in Russian and/or English) the phrase "previously transcribed" often appears after a cite to the tape footage number. These conversations are not in the transcripts we

examined. Ed and I did a careful cross-referencing check of all transcripts for a three day period to try to find those conversations denoted as "previously transcribed". Our check failed to turn up any of those conversations. When asked about this Russ Holmes said that he knew nothing about it. He suggested talking to Anne Woodpasture about it.

5. Marginal Comments are not infrequent in the English transcripts. The comments seem to be of two types, both of which are set off from the text by slash marks. The first type seems to cover those instances when the translator/transcriber is unsure of a word, identity or place. In this type the comment consists, generally, of a word or name followed by, sometimes, a question mark. (Pera?)

The second type is longer comments on the conversation and cover a more general area. These are usually prefaced with the word "Comment". Some examples:

- a. notation of alarm in a participant's voice;
- b. comments on the marital relationship of a Russian Embassy official (based on the observation that the official always speaks in a condescending tone to his wife);
- c. identifying a caller as the same as a man in a previous conversation;
- d. substitutions for literal transcriptions, i.e. a note saying there is an argument without transcribing the argument;
- e. comments on intonation;
- f. notes of background conversations;
- g. comments on participant's ability to speak the language.

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6. Ed noted that the Spanish in the transcripts is very poor.
7. The transcripts for September 15 + 16, if there are any, are not on the microfilm we examined. When asked about this Russ Holmes said it was probably because those days were a Saturday and Sunday and the intercept was shut down on those days. There are transcripts for every day between September 18 and October 3 inclusive.

II Information from the trans
A September 27, 1963.

1. A man calls the Soviet Military Attache looking for a visa to Odessa. He is referred to the Consulate. He asks how to get to the Embassy and is given directions. This conversation is in the Spanish transcripts and appears to be a paraphrase.

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This conversation occurred between 10:30 and 10:50 A.M.

2. At 10:37 a man calls the Soviet Consulate and asks for the Consul. He is told that the Consul is not in. The man outside says that it is necessary for him to get a visa to Odessa. The person in the Embassy asks him to call back at 11:30. This is in the Spanish transcripts.
3. At 1:25 a man calls the Consulate and asks for the Consul. He is told that he (the Consul) is not in. The man outside asks, "when tomorrow?" The Consulate official tells him between 4 or 5 on Mondays and Fridays. This is in Spanish.
4. At approximately 4:05 pm Sylvia Duran calls the Soviet Embassy. She tells the man there that the American citizen was ~~at~~ there at the Cuban Embassy.

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the one who wants a visa to Cuba in transit to Russia. Sylvia says that he wants to know who he talked to at the Soviet Embassy because she had sent him there saying that if he got a Soviet visa that he could then get a Cuban one and all they would have to do was notify immigration. ~~The~~ The man at the Cuban Embassy seeking the visas wants to know who he spoke to at the Soviet Embassy because he was assured that there would be no problem. The man at the Soviet Embassy puts another man on the phone and Sylvia goes through the same thing with him. He tells her to leave her name and phone number and says he will call back. This transcript is in Spanish.

5. At 4:26 an unidentified Soviet Consulate ~~Official~~ official calls

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Sylvia Duran The Soviet Official (hereinafter SO) asks her if the American has been there Sylvia responds that he is there now. The SO says that the American showed papers from the Soviet Consulate in Washington, D.C. and that he wants to go to the USSR where he plans to stay for a long time with his wife who is Russian. The SO says that he has not received an answer to this man's problem from Washington and it traditionally takes four to five months. The SO says that, unless they have permission from the USSR they can't issue a visa without getting permission from Washington. However, the SO says, the man has a letter showing that he is a member of an organization that favors Cuba, but the Cubans can't give him a visa without him first getting a

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Soviet visa and the SO doesn't know what to do with him now because they should wait for an answer from Washington. Silvia agrees and says that it is doubtful that the Cubans will give him a visa because he doesn't know anyone in Cuba and that would be a problem because he wanted to wait in Cuba while his Soviet visa was being processed and he knew that would take quite a while. The SO says that his wife could get a visa in Washington very quickly and she could have it sent anywhere. But the SO doesn't think that they will get the visa or permission soon. Silvia says it is clear that they can't give him a letter because they don't know if the visa will be approved. The SO says that they give visas

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when it is appropriate. Silvia says that that is what she will put down on the forms. The SO says that they can't give him a letter of recommendation because they don't know him, sorry to bother you Silvia. No problem. This transcript is in Spanish.

B. September 28, 1963. (Saturday): Silvia Duran calls the Soviet Consulate at 11:51 A.M. She says that there is a North American there who had been at the Soviet Embassy before. The SO asks her to wait one minute. (preceeding in Spanish, following in English):

" / Please see the Spanish transcription / WO while waiting speaks in English to someone in the background: He said wait. Do you speak Russian? Yes. Why don't you talk to him? I don't know. / MO takes the phone and says in broken Russian / I was in

your Embassy and spoke to your consul. Just a minute MI takes the phone and asks MO in English what does he want

MO: /in Russian/ Please speak Russian.

MI: What else do you want?

MO: I was just now at your Embassy and they took my address.

MI: I know that.

MO: /speaks terrible, hardly recognizable Russian/ I did not know it then. I went to the Cuban Embassy to ask them for my address, because they have it...

MI: Why don't you come again and leave your address with us, it not far from the Cuban Embassy

MO: I'll be there right away. "

The Spanish transcript indicates that the MO first spoke Russian, the MI responded in English ~~secret~~ then they

both spoke in English. The transcript in Oswald's Mexican file is a carbon.

C. October 1, 1963.

1. At 10:31 A.M. a man calls the Soviet Military Attache:

"MO to MI, in broken Russian.

MO: Hello. (sic) I was at your place last Saturday and I talked to your consul. They said ^{THAT} they'd send a telegram to Washington and I wanted to ask you if there was anything new?

MI: I'd like to ask you to call another phone number.

MO: ~~Please~~ Please.

MI: Please write it down; 15-60-55 and ask for a consul.

MO: Thank you

MI: Please "

(English transcript)

2. A man calls the consul later. There is not a time on the transcript. A Chronology of the Mexico City investigation (W & SECRETARI, Vol I.) places

