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ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE

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0213

Interview of Thomas Keenan
by Dan Hardway and Harold
Leapon 3/24/78.

Mr. Keenan was given
a copy of the release letter
and stated that he under-
stood it.

Mr. Keenan said that he
was assigned to Mexico
City from February 1960 to
October 1964. He said that he
was the most junior
operations officer in Mexico
City at the time and worked
primarily in support
operations. More specifically
he said that he ran one
physical surveillance
team and the outside agent
who ran the Soviet Embassy
photo surveillance operation.

Ramon Alvarez ran the
photo surveillance and
reported to Mr. Keenan.
Alvarez and Keenan were
responsible for all three
photo bases. Mr. Keenan
stated that he had never

SECRET

213

2
SECRET

0214

been inside any of the bases.

Mr. Keenan said that the base agent would take the photos and keep a simultaneous log. After a roll of film was completed the film ^{+ LOG} would be turned over to Alvarez. Alvarez would then have a relative print the film on contact sheets and would then deliver them to Keenan. Keenan then turned the photos and logs over to either Anne Goodpasture or the Manells. He was not sure of who he gave them to. Mr. Keenan remembers that they did have a photo processing capability inside the Embassy.

Mr. Keenan remembers that there was definitely photo coverage on the Cuban Embassy because he was involved in it in some manner for a while.

SECRET

214

He could not remember the details of the operation or his involvement. He does remember that the Cuban Embassy had two gates and that they had trouble covering both of them.

Keenan does not remember the base agent's names and says that he never met them.

Keenan said that the goals of the photo operation were to: A) identify Soviets, especially new arrivals; B) identify regular visitors to the Embassy; and C) identify "unusual show-ups." In response to a question Keenan acknowledged that another goal of the operation was to identify foreigners visiting the Embassy.

Mr. Keenan stated that the photo coverage was not continuous. They tried to cover the Embassy at its most active times and this

meant, generally, 5 days a week. Mr. Keenan said that the effectiveness of the operation was far from 100% but that it was pretty good. There were three photo bases. One in the rear of the Embassy and two in front. Keenan called the two in front the "primary" and the "back-up". He said that both the primary and the back up worked at the same time so they had pretty good coverage of the front of the Embassy.

Mr. Keenan said that there was "weekend coverage" only when it was indicated, but that there may have been routine Saturday morning coverage. Mr. Keenan said that he had no memories about this and that he was trying to reconstruct it on the basis of logic. He did remember that the Soviet

216

operations officer would have set the requirements for times of coverage. Mr. Keenan said that his statement about weekend coverage was based on two things: A) the personnel operating the base had to have some time off; and B) a specific memory of a "special requirement" coverage.

Mr. Keenan stated that he had no personal knowledge of how much time off the base agents were given. He also said that he did not know whether there were back-up agents for Alvarez to use when a primary agent was not available.

The "special requirement" operation he remembers was for coverage on a Sunday morning. Even with this memory Mr. Keenan was not sure whether it was a special requirement because they did not have routine

Sunday coverage or because they had to make sure the base agent was in place and working at the right time on Sunday morning. Mr. Keenan noted that this really didn't help much in answering our question and that it didn't apply to Saturdays.

Mr. Keenan could not recall any details about how often he picked up the photo production or the time involved in processing, delivery, etc.

Mr. Keenan said that Anne Goodpasture was an extremely competent officer who enjoyed Min Scott's absolute trust.

Keenan said that Min Scott was "a unique man." He was a demanding and hard boss but once he trusted you, once you had proven yourself, he gave you pretty much free rein

although he stayed on top of everything happening in the station. He mentioned that Scott was close to most of the CIA's senior officers and that his filing system was legendary. He said that he has heard that when Scott died they did a review of the Mexico City files "to see if it was all necessary."

Keenan said that a DCOS wasn't really necessary with Scott and couldn't remember any of White's duties beyond running the station when Scott was away.

Keenan remembers that Scott liked to have Phillips. Phillips was Chief of Covert Action and, at some point, became chief of Cuban Operations.

Keenan said that

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SECRET

8

0220

Barbara Manell had a reputation as a good, competent worker.

Keenan does not remember ever having heard of Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination.

D.L.H.

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220