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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. ^{Most of the} ~~There are some~~ 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

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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 Goodpasture 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. (Vera?)

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.

