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| **SUBJECTS:**
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|   MEXICO CITY STATION    |
|   CIA, METHODOLOGY       |
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SECRET

Summary: Pre-Assassination: Mexico

1. 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 all notations as to whether it is an incoming or outgoing call, appear at the beginning of the conversation.
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 transcripts 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 Woodpatt 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 "something question mark."
The second type is longer comments on the conversation and covers a more general area. These are usually prefaced with the word "Comment." Some examples:

- a notation of a summary process;
- 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);
- identifying a caller as the same as a man in a previous conversation;
- substitutions for literal transcriptions, e.g., note saying there is an argument without transcribing the argument;
- comments on intonation;
- notes of background conversations;
- comments on participants' ability to speak the language.
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, Miss 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 16 and October 3 inclusive.

II. Information from the Tran...

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...
This conversation occurred between 10:30 and 10:40 AM.

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 4:00-5:00 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 there at the Soviet Embassy.
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 man at the Cuban Embassy seeking the visa's 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 calls
Soviet Union. The Soviet official (henceafter SO) asks whether the American has been there. Siberia responds that he is there now. The SO says that the American showed pages 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 a SECRE first getting the
Soviet visa and the S.O. 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 S.O. says that his wife could get a visa in Washington very quickly and she could have it sent anywhere. But the S.O. doesn't think that they will get the visa on 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 S.O. says that they definitely give visas.
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. So, to bother you, Silvia: No problem. This transcription is in Spanish.

B. September 28, 1943 (Saturday):
Silvia Dunn 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. (Proceeding in Spanish, followed in English):

"Please see the Spanish transcription while waiting. She 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.' SO takes the phone and says in broken Russian, 'I was in..."
your Embassy and spoke to
your consul. Just a minute
MI took the phone and
asked 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."
C. October 1, 1963

1. At 10:31 a.m. a man calls the Soviet
   Military Attaché:
   "Mo to Mi, in broken Russian.
   Mo: Hellow, sir, I was at your
   place last Saturday and I
   talked to your consil. They
   said they'd send a telegram to
   Washington and I wanted to
   ask you if there was any
   thing new?"
   Mi: I'd like to ask you to call
   another phone number.
   Mo: Please.
   Mi: Please write it down: 15-09-55
   and ask for Mr. Cornell.
   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 incident
   (W 8572741, Vol I.) places
this call at 10:45 AM. The Oswald Mexican file has a translated copy of the English transcripts: "I met (X) (sic) mo/the same person who phoned a day or so ago and spoke in broken Russian/speaks to Obyedkov."

Lee: Hello, this is Lee Oswald (phone) speaking. I was at your place last Saturday and spoke to a consul, and they said that they'd send a telegram to Washington, so I wanted to find out if you have anything new? But I don't remember the name of that consul.

Oby: Kostikov. He is dark/hair or skin?/

Lee: Yes. My name is Oswald.

Oby: Just a minute I'll find out. They say that they haven't received anything yet.

Lee: Have they done anything?

Oby: Yes, they say that a request
has been sent out, but nothing has been received as yet.

1:35: And what... P/OBY hanging/"

The one subsequent and two prior conversations are designated "previously transcribed."

On October 3 a man calls the Soviet Military Attaché and speaks in broken Spanish and then English. The M/O asks for a visa for Russia and is asked to call the Consulate at 15-60-55. After being given the number the M/O asks "They issue the visa there?" and the M/I says he doesn't know anything about and says to call the consulate. (English transcript)

III Info from the transcripts in Oswald's Mexico file:
A. 9/27: 10:32 call - 769O4 copy
B. 9/27: 4:26 call - 11
C. 9/27: 4:05 call - 6300328

SECRET
0. 9/27, 7:26 call; carbon copy taped to another page.

1. Portions underlined in red (not on Renzi).
2. Scott writes: "Is it possible to identify?"
3. Routed to Blood pasture.
4. "William" with "Wilson".
5. Filed in Soviet Contact.

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1. 9/27, 7:26 call; carbon copy.
2. Routed to Scott, Blood pasture.
4. No dates indicated.
5. 9/28, 11:51 call, carbon copy.

---

1. Portions underlined in red.
2. "O"
3. Routed to Scott, Blood pasture.
   - no date

G. 10/1: 10:31 call; Xerox
H. 10/1: "\$\$\$?" call
I. 10/3:
J. I have requested the "Soviet Contacts" file
   from Barbados and am
   attempting to locate
   any other carbon copies

   Russell Holmes says that if the carbon copies
   or originals are not in the Mexican
   file then they probably don't exist.

IV. Information from cable
    traffic to and from Mexico City, Oswald's Mexican file, and
    his H.Q.'s 201 and M.W. 7241:
A. On 10/1/63 Mefi 6344 to H.Q.
    reports that Dave Phillips
    is now TOY in Washington, D.C.
B. Mefi 6384, dated 10/3/63, subject
    undetermined, is missing
    from the cable chronology.
C. DIR 72527, dated 10/4/63, says:
   "Mr. David Phillips, newly
   appointed chief
   Cuban operations..."
Mexi will arrive 7 Oct (in Miami) for two days consultation WAVE... For Mexi, Mr. Phillips ETA Mexi 9 Oct...

2 October, 1+4, 1963.

1. Oswald's Mexican file contains an envelope @ four points of photos of the M/M. The envelope says: "Photos of unidentified man photos in the 201" in blue painting in red script it says: "Photos of unidentified person on entering Soviet Embassy 1+4 Oct 63."

2. WX-7241, apparently prepared in 1967, also places the date of these photos on 1+4 October and does post-assassination cable traffic and Mexi 445.3 which refers to an unidentified man entering the Embassy on one October.

3. Russ Holmes recently informed me that the correct dates are 2 and 4 October.
On 8 October 1963, Mehl 6453 was sent to H.Q. It originated with Barbara Marsh. The Authentication Officer (A.O.) was Barbara Marsh and the Releasing Officer (R.O.) was Win Scott. The cable reports Oswald's call to Obrudkov on 1 Oct. Oswald's statement that he had been there on the 28th; and the inquiry and response about the telegram. The 2nd paragraph says:

"None photos male appears be American entering Sevink 1216 hours, leaving 1222 on 1 Oct. Apparent age 35, athletic build, circa 5'6' feet, receding hairline, balding top. Wore khaki and sport shirt. There is no forwarding slip on this cable.

F. H.Q. responded to Mehl 6453 with DIR 74830 (7-2) on 10 October 1963. This cable originated with Charlotte Burdaw A.O. was J.C. King and the R.O. was Thomas Keramasinis. This cable provides a summary of
Live information on Oswald including his D.O.B., date of defection, description, his return to the U.S., and his marriage. It says that the stay in the USSR "clearly had a maturing effect on Oswald."

It reported that the last info-received by HQ was a May 1962 memo that reported that it had been determined that HQ was still a U.S. citizen and that he and his family had been given visas to return to the U.S. Mexico was instructed to pass Oswald's D.O.B., fact of defection, and description to the FBI, Navy, I.G.S. and the Embassy locally. HQ said that it was passing the info in memo 6453 and the intel. data to FBI, State, Navy, I.G.S., HQ's. This cable calls him "Lee Harvey Oswald."

The routing slip in the Mexican files indicates that this cable went to Booth, White, Goodpasture, Manelli, "Paul," and D'Ain. SECRET.
"We should ask HQ for photo No?"

Barbara Manell noted that the local dissemination requested was done on 15 October. She also requested that a "P" file be opened on Lee Harvey Oswald and put all data we have into it. Photos?

C: On 9 October 1963, M. 66468

Informed HQ that M. urgently needed new tape recorders for Sasoroff, Florey: Randolph, Hurty and an as yet unidentified person. The cable reported that the machines used by these people were constantly breaking down and that transporting them for repairs was a security problem.

H. October 10th. HQ dissemination

Orig: C. Butts, R.O. ; Jane Roman (CI liaison); A.O. ; N. Galaxy (C/WH/R); Coordinated in draft by "CI/SIG/Egertz" and "SR/CI/ Re."

The cable was sent to the Department of State and Navy and the FBI. The first paragraph of the cable says: On 1 Oct...
1963 a reliable and sensitive source reported that an American male, who identified himself as Lee Harvey Oswald, contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring whether the Embassy had received any news concerning a telegram which had been sent to Washington. The American was described as approximately 35 years old, with athletic build, about six feet tall, with a receding hairline. The cable goes on to say that it is believed that the man is identical to Lee Harvey Oswald and gives basic information on him. (D.IR 74473, dated 10/10/63)

J. On 10/15/63 Mexi 6534 (IR) was dated. Orig + A.O: Herbert Manell. R.O: Min Scott

ref: D.IR 74830.

It said: "Pls. no photo of Oswald. I have not found a response to this cable in either the Mexico cable traffic chronos on Oswald's Mexican file. I have asked Russ Holmes, 6000335-SECRET.
to provide the dispatches to and from Mexico between the dates of 10/15 and 10/26. The accused said that this might not get all the pouched materials because HQ sometimes used what he called "an unattainable pouch." This cable does not have an RS attached.

K. Cable originating with TWARD (WH/3/Mexico) on 23 Oct. 1963. It was sent on the 24th.

A.O.: H. W. Balleng, R.O.: Jaime Roman
Ref: OIR 74673

"It is requested that you forward to this office as soon as possible two copies of the most recent photograph you have of Lee Harvey Oswald. We will forward them to our representative in Mexico, who will attempt to determine if the Lee Oswald in Mexico City and subject are the same individuals."

On 16 October 1963, Mr. Scott wrote a memo to the Ambassador's counterintelligence.
It reported that the information was from a very sensitive, unusually reliable source; that a man identifying himself as Léon Oswald had contacted the embassy on 1 October; that he had previously contacted them once before; that he had talked to Kostikov about a reply to his request for his D.D. (D.O.B.; his defection); and a promise to pass on any additional information obtained (9-5-61). The memo says, in part:

This office determined that Oswald had been at the Soviet Embassy on 21 September 1963 and had talked with Valeri Vladimirovich Kostikov, a member of the consular section, in order to learn if the Soviet Embassy had received a reply from Washington concerning his request. They have no clarifying
Information with regard to this request. The original of this memo went to:
The Ambassador
The Minister
Counselor for Political Affairs
Regional Security Offices

Copy to:
Legat
Naval Attache
T+N+S
Osvald "P"
50-2-4-1 (written over 1)

Liaison with Legat
"Naval Attache"

Info from photo-production and loq; and Lubende tapes
Russ Holmes tells me he is having trouble locating these
documents but will make them available if and when
he can find them.