AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : CIA
RECORD NUMBER : 104-10413-10063
RECORD SERIES : JFK
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : RUSS HOLMES WORK FILE

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

AGENCY ORIGINATOR : CIA
FROM : SENIOR OPERATIONS OFFICER
TO : DEPUTY CHIEF, LATIN AMERICAN DIVISI
TITLE : MEMO FOR: PHOTO COMPARISON
DATE : 03/29/1977
PAGES : 2

SUBJECTS : PHOTO

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER
CLASSIFICATION : SECRET
RESTRICTIONS : 1A
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED IN PART PUBLIC - RELEASED WITH DELETIONS
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/21/98

Released under the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case# NW 35590 Date: 11-01-2021

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10413-10063
MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, Latin America Division
ATTN: Chris Hopkins
FROM: Graphics and Authentication Division/Senior Operations Officer
SUBJECT: Photo Comparison
REFERENCE: DDO/LA Division Memo, dated 25 March 1977

1. On 23 March, Chris Hopkins of Latin America Division handcarried photographs to OTS/GAD for identification comparison. These photos were examined by the undersigned and two identification experts of the Disguise and Identification Section.

2. The results of the comparison is as follows:

   A. Facial Shape - Close similarities, although there are slight differences which are probably due to subject's age differences.

   B. Chin - Fair similarities-the loss of musculotone due to ageing is most apparent here.

   C. Hair Line - Again good similarity with the natural ravages of time factored in.

   D. Set and Proportion of Eyes and Eyebrows - Close similarities. (Comparison of eye detail is not possible due to poor photo quality)

   E. Nose and Caliper Lines - Close similarities in the nose but the younger man has no sign of the distinctive caliper lines which extend from the nose to either side of the mouth on the known Soviet. This could be explained by loss of musculotone and/or differences in lighting.

   F. Mouth - The shape, proportion and expression of the mouth and the whole area from the tip of the nose to the tip of the chin is perhaps the most distinctive characteristic of both subjects. Here the similarities are very close.

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6. The proportions of the head, cheek bones and the body style of the younger man tend to indicate he is of slavic origin.

3. The results of this type comparison are rarely absolute and are usually limited by poor photo quality or differences in viewing angle. With that understood it is our opinion the two subjects of the forementioned photo comparison could very likely be the same person. If additional photographs of the subjects, particularly if they are of better quality, are obtained, we would be happy to examine those as well.

Antonio J. Mendez
Senior Operations Officer,
OTS/Graphics and Authentication Division