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OSWALD, LEE, POST-RUSSIAN PERIOD, TRAVEL, TRIP TO
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COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

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D. OSWALD & THE WARREN COMM'N

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287-13

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

3 MAY 1975

Mr. David W. Belin
Executive Director
Commission on CIA Activities
Within the United States

Dear Mr. Belin:

I am attaching, per your request of 15 April, background materials relating to certain questions relating to Oswald and the Warren Commission.

Tab A is a classified Secret memorandum responsive to your request. Tab B is an unclassified version, which you can use as you see fit in whatever report you are preparing on the subject.

Additional details are available in the Office of the Inspector General should you wish to pursue this in greater depth.

Faithfully yours,



E. H. Knoche
Assistant to the Director

Attachment: a/s

*logged
5-14-75*

Belin

12 May 1 5

SUBJECT : Review of Agency Holdings Regarding Photograph of Unidentified Individual in the Warren Commission Report

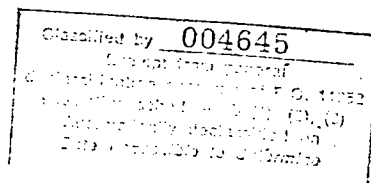
REFERENCE: Memorandum from David W. Belin to E. Henry Knoche, dated 15 April 1975

1. In accordance with reference request, we have examined and summarized the record concerning a cropped photograph that was considered by the Warren Commission in the course of its investigation. The photograph (together with others of the same individual) originated from an intelligence operation conducted in October 1963 by the CIA and the Mexican security authorities.

2. Under the extraordinary press of effort to develop information on the assassin and the assassination, copies of the photograph were made available by CIA's Mexico Station Chief on the afternoon of 22 November to the local FBI representative. Later that day, assertedly on the decision of the Ambassador, copies were conveyed by an FBI representative on a special U. S. Naval Attache flight to the Dallas office of the FBI for possible use in the ongoing investigation. One photograph, cropped by the FBI, was shown to Mrs. Marguerite OSWALD (Lee Harvey OSWALD's mother) in Dallas on the evening of 23 November 1963 by an FBI agent.

3. The Warren Commission's report describes the sequence of events that ultimately resulted in Mrs. Marguerite OSWALD's allegation that she had been shown a cropped photo of Jack RUBY the day before he murdered her son. A further complication

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compounding this erroneous conclusion was the fact that, when she had been shown a copy of the same photograph in her appearance before the Commission, it had been cropped by the FBI in Washington in a slightly different manner.

4. Although in no way related to Lee Harvey OSWALD or his stay in Mexico City from the morning of 27 September 1963 to the morning of 2 October 1963, at least one set of photographs of the unidentified man originated during OSWALD's stay there. It is important, therefore, to an understanding of the acquisition and handling of the photographs by the Mexico Station to review what the Station ascertained and did with the information it developed about OSWALD in Mexico City, together with Headquarters action on that information.

5. From all credible evidence known to this time (none, incidentally, added since the exhaustive work of the Warren Commission), Lee Harvey OSWALD spent four (4) full days and two (2) partial days -- about 116 hours in all -- in Mexico City from about 10:00 a.m. 27 September 1963 to about 8:30 a.m. 2 October 1963. His place of residence was a small commercial traveler hotel, not frequented by "gringos" -- the Hotel Comercio -- where he was registered under alias. Exhaustive and detailed interviews and interrogation by the Mexican authorities and the FBI after the assassination established that, in the recollection of all hotel personnel, he left and returned late each day of his stay.

6. Allowing for the fact of late arrival and early departure, and assuming that he slept one-third of the time of his stay (38 or 39 hours), there remain some 78 hours of activity to be

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