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13 February 1964

XAAZ 16999

DD/P 4-0890

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: FBI Request for Polygraph Test of Mexican
Ylario ROJAS

1. On 31 December 1963 a Mexican from Guadalajara named Ylario ROJAS wrote to Attorney General Robert Kennedy, White House, saying he had known Lee OSWALD in Mexico. Follow-up interrogation by the FBI in Mexico produced the claim from ROJAS that he had seen OSWALD on the Yucatan Island of Cozumel. He said that OSWALD was there in the company of Cubans and also connected with an American official named Albert (Lau).

2. FBI investigation of the story shows many flaws, and fabrication is certainly indicated, but no confession has been obtained. The FBI in Mexico and Washington have both officially requested help from us in polygraphing ROJAS. The FBI has few polygraph operators and does not make much use of the device.

3. I have conferred with Mr. Papich of the FBI, Mr. O'Neal of the CI Staff, and Messrs. Howard Osborne and [redacted] about the problem. We and Security do not want to test ROJAS in Mexico because he is a Mexican citizen and we have no control over him; he could scream to the press and embarrass us. This could be avoided by enlisting the aid of Mexican authorities, but Security does not want to do this because it would identify their operator, Mr. Calvin Davis, to the Mexicans. Mr. Davis is the man regularly sent secretly to Mexico to test our own agents, and we do not want to blow him. The FBI has offered to bring ROJAS to Texas for us to polygraph and we and security agree this would be fine. Mr. Osborne thinks we should get the permission of the Director to do this.

4. We request that you consider this issue and, if you agree that we should do it and that the Director's permission is needed, you obtain it.

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5. The FBI is continuing its investigation of ROJAS and it is just possible that the test will not have to take place, but we want to get the decision made anyway.

John M. Whitten
C/WH/3

DDP/WH/3/JMWhitten:cmv (18 February 1964)

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