

Working Notes on Photos of LHO

Lopez Report

Only available production of Soviet Embassy came from LIMITED

Not all production from LILYRIC was made available to HSCA (p.139)

Problems with photos: unidentified man photo of 10/2 did not coincide with other dates. Mistaken date of photo not discovered until 1976.

Exchanges between Silvia Duran and Soviet Embassy never mention Oswald's name, only refer to him as "the American."

HSCA found no evidence that photoproduction was routinely forwarded to HQ in 1963 (p.109 HSCA reviewed all cable and dispatch traffic fm. 10/1/63 to 11/26/63

HSCA never was able to determine with certainty, because of missing production, whether all of the basehouses were operating hte days of Oswald's visits.

Has not seen all photos produced by photosurveillance ops, hence cannot conclude that photo of LHO does not exist

Production from LILYRIC and from pulse camera at Cuban consulate not made avail to HSCA for review.

Test photography of the entrance, made available and reviewed by HSCA investigators.

Photographic coverage of Soviet Emb., Agency only able to locate the photography of one of the two cameras involved. Suggests that Oswald's 27 Sept visit to Soviet Embassy was after time last picture was taken 1146 and before he showed up at Cuban Consulate at 1605 (based on telephone log.) There was no photographic coverage of the Soviet installation that weekend, so no photograph of him taken.

1 October telephone call to Soviet Embassy in which he identified self as "Lee Oswald" was first Oswald-related intercept that caught attention of post, and triggered routing report to Washington about an American in contact with Soviet officials. In same call he further identified himself as having been at Soviet installation the previous Saturday (28 Sept.), implying it was the last time he had visited that Embassy

Pre-Assassination

9/27/63 Log showed Unidentified American Male

10/8/63 MEXI 6453 Mexico City Report on 10/1 Conversation from Lee Oswald to Soviet Embassy stating he was at SOVEMB 28 Sept. (First time he stated his name) Checked photos for that day giving the description of unidentified man that will not match LHO description.

10/11/63 DIR 74830 Report on identity of subject of MEXI 6453 Lee **Henry** Oswald

Give description that is not consistent with Mex City version.

Increased significance of LHO's contact w/USSR.

Note: Is this what prompted opening up a P File?

10/15/63 Mexi 6534 request photos of Oswald pouch to HQ

According to Lopez, P-file based on a 1 October report in which LHO gained increased significance, was opened on 15 October which was a day before tape would have been routinely erased.

10/16/63 Memo to Mann on Oswald contact w/SOVEMB (Memo #6831)

11/15/63 Oswald Photo request, cite MEXI 6534, DIR 74830, 40357(CHECK FOR THIS, DOES NOT APPEAR IN CHRON.)

Post Assassination

11/22/63 Mexi 7014 request HQ photos to identify LHO, compare to coverage. Station forwarding soonest copies of only visitor to Soviet Embassy from 10/1. (Note: Station wants to check all LIEMPTY coverage for ident. This means all 3 photo basehouses. But in the end why only coverage from LIMITED retained?)

11/22/63 Personal letter Amb. Mann okays photos sent to Dallas; Naval attache making special flight

11/23/63 Mexi 7019 Station has photos of unidentified American (possibly Oswald) entering Cuban emb. on 10/15. Searching for possible photo-documented entry Cuban emb. Other days.

11/23/63 Mexi 7021 ODENVY agent on flight to Dallas with 2 copies of 6 photos believed to be Oswald.

11/23/63 DIR 84821 orders from HQ to send staffer with all photos to HQ on next flight

11/23/63 DIR 84822 Change order; no need to send staffer with photos. Reemphasized sensitivity of photos. Obtained info. - Oswald's alias.

11/23/63 DIR 84886 Request all tapes, transcripts, ask for original tapes. Review all LIENVOY tapes and transcripts since 27 Sept. Dispatch by special courier full transcripts and original tapes if available. Are original tapes available? (Note: was there ever a response to this request?)

11/23/63 DIR84888 Photos of man at Soviet Emb. which MEXI sent Dallas not of Oswald

11/23/63 MEXI 7023 Station unable to compare voice as first tape erased. Also pouching 4 Oct. Photos.

11/23/63 MEXI 7034 - Recheck all photos of visitors to Cuban Emb August thru first half NOV against press photos shows no evidence of Oswald visit Same goes for SOVEMB photos from 1 Sept.

NOTE: "Only visit we know he made was Cuban Embassy 28 SEP, Saturday on which Emb closed and we have not had coverage. (Then how did they know on this particular early date in the investigation that he visited CUBEMB on the Saturday? He didn't use his name until the call on the 1st.) Also negative results on the check of the flight manifests.

12/8/63 DIR 87770 - Orders not to erase

5/18/67 HMMW 15488 18 May 67 To COS fm Chief, WH Division. In response to reopening of publicity in the assassination, HQ requesting Station to find out whether it still has on hand the negatives from prints of the "mystery man" coming out of both Soviet and Cuban embassies. "If still on file, it is requested that they remain so and that they be forwarded to HQ for retention rather

than destroyed if the latter action is ever contemplated." Handwritten note to COS at bottom saying "I personally checked on 27 May 67 and negatives are in photo chrono for 1 Oct. 63."

Who said a photo existed

According to Lopez Report, CIA technician who serviced the Cuban photo installations said that it was possible operation missed LHO if:

1. Oswald's visits were after dark
2. Oswald's visits were on Saturday afternoons or Sundays
3. Photographic basehouse agents had been given day off the days of Oswald's visits

Unsubstantiated Accounts that a photo existed:

Officer in Mexico City had access to LHO personality file, remembered a 3/4 shot from the back, would not have been surprised if Scott had destroyed files or photos.

Phillip Agee interviewed by HSCA 11-12 January 1978.

Sept. 1966 assigned to Mexico Branch for WH/CS HQ support for ops in Mexico City.
Elsie Scaletti in charge of operational support projects for Mexico
Joe Smith mention that Mex St. was proud of finding "the picture of Oswald."

Heard other stories that Scaletti found photo.

Joe Piccolo- Specific recollections of photos, heard other stories that Scaletti found photos.

Daneil Niescur only remembers mystery man photo

Scelso Internal Memo

In original report of 9 October, Mexico City said it had a photo of an apparent American male leaving the Soviet Embassy on 1 October 1963, the day Oswald phoned there. Cabled Navy on 24 October asking for LHO's Marine photo in order to compare with their photos. Had not received photo by 22 November. After assassination, realized was not Oswald. "As chance would have it, none of our several photo observation points in Mexico City had ever taken an identifiable picture of Lee Oswald."

Re-screened all written telephone transcripts covering Soviet embassy for pertinent period. Actual tapes also reviewed but many had been erased after normal two weeks

Calls believed to be Oswald spanned period 27 Sept.-3 Oct.

Joe Smith and Phillip Agee claimed Scaletti said a photo existed but she denies this in interview with HSCA.

Scaletti does not remember seeing photo.

27 October 1978 Memo from Hardway to Louis Stokes re: allegations of possible withholding of evidence by CIA. Cites Stokes letter to Turner.

HSCA Staff never able to substantiate conclusively CIA explanations:

Maintain that no pulse camera opposite entrance to Cuban Consulate until December 1963. However, other evidence indicates that cameras were set up late Sept. 63, after the consulate was reopened, and photo technicians were in at least initial stages of testing, had cameras in place with

some technical problems, but on 26 Sept. Technician tested an automatic triggering device and two cameras. On morning fo 27 September photo technician installed triggering device and two cameras in observation post. Photo base agent was instructed to test each camera for four days. HSCA believe it was very likely that the one day that the first camera operated was the day it was installed September 27, 1963 , the day of Oswald's first visit. Dispatches that report that test film was turned over to the Station do not specify exact dates when pulse camer was in operation. Initial dispatch that says results of camera test forwarded to HQ as soon as available, no record that this was done prior to assassination.

June 1964 Mexico City notified HQ that it was forwarding negatives from pulse camera coverage of Consulate as well as five undeveloped pkgs. Film. HSCA requested access to photos but was told that photos could not be located because they had been sent to HQ by a transmittal manifest, which happens to be an unaccountable document.

CIA asserted that no photos of Oswald because no photographic coverage of the installation that he entered at the time he entered them.

Coverage from one photo base at Soviet Emb made available for review. That base did not cover the afternoon of 9/27/63 and nor was it working on Saturday 9/28, although records that it did work 4 out of 8 other Saturdays in Sept-Oct 1963.

CIA claimed transcripts of Oswald's conversation with the SOVEMB not linked to anyone until post-assassination. HSCA repudiates this claim and believes evidence shows that important substantive calls involving Oswald were linked to him by 15 October 1963.

Cables referring to photos
11/22/63 Mexi 7019

FBI Reports

1. Belmont to Tolson 11/23/63 (RIF 124-1002610234)

Shanklin requested to send photo of Oswald to LEGAT

Dallas Agents who listened to tape allegedly of Oswald and examined photos of visitor to Embassy in Mexico were of opinion that neither tape nor photo was Oswald.

Agent Rudd to take photos to Mexico. CIA should check photos of LHO against visitors to both S & C Embassies.

Tape apparently disappeared some time after the assassination, how could there have been a tape at all from that time period, Oswald or not, if Station supposedly destroyed all prior to assassination

according to routine erasing procedures.

From Director FBI to USSS 11/23/63 (RIF 124-10144-10083)

“Special Agents of this Bureau, who have conversed with Oswald in Dallas, Texas, have observed photographs of the individual referred to above and have listed to a recording of his voice. These Special Agents are of the opinion that the above referred to individual was not Lee Harvey Oswald.”

Need reference of FBI's retracting report of tape and instead that no tapes were ever received. November 25, Dallas reported that there seems to be some confusion in that no tapes were taken to Dallas.

Azcue's description/recollection of the Oswald at the Cuban consulate did not match with the Oswald in the newsreel.

Allegation that Angleton flew to MexCity after Win Scott's death and retrieved photo of Oswald. (Source P.D. Scott Deep Politics p.44. What original source?)

Voice Comparison Confusion

Tarasoff compared voices according to Anne Goodpasture. Boris Tarassoff testified that he did not do a voice comparison but connected the conversations in transcripts on the basis of memory (Lopez, p. 165) The increased significance of Oswald between 10/11 and 10/16 would have given reason to retain the tapes believed to have his voice. Most testified that if a tape of the voice had ever existed, they didn't know about it. A "p" file was opened 15 October, a day before the tapes would have been routinely erased.

Lopez report refers to transcripts that were linked to Oswald because of marginal notations made by CIA translator on the transcript. (180-10142-10167 p.265). (NOTE: do these exist? Are these the resuma?)

Process for expediting English language conversations;

If monitors came across an English conversation, would notify Arehart who would determine whether or not it warranted special attention. If so, tape would be marked "urgent" and deliver to Ann GP. (See HMMA 22005, 8/23/63)

HSCA Notes

Joseph Piccolo questioned about photo 180-10144-10242

Remembers seeing a 3/4 shot of LHO going into Cuban Embassy.

Suggested Win Scott would have had photo.