

April 9, 1996

SCELSO INTERVIEW

Background and Career with CIA

C/WH/3/Mexico

C/WH/3

Dates in this position

Scelso's superiors - chain of command

Responsibilities

What was the extent of your contact with the stations?

What amount of cable traffic did you actually review?

Did you have to authenticate all cables that left headquarters from your division?

What did this process entail?

How aware were you of the operations within the stations?

Specifically, were you aware of all surveillance operations?

Were you required to approve all surveillance operations?

Did you review the monthly operational reports sent from the stations?

Were these reports the only means by which the station communicated to headquarters standard operating procedures?

How much credence do you give these reports in presenting the actual situation within the station?

Mexico City related questions

When did you first meet Winston Scott.

Previously you evaluated his competence highly.

Did you ever have reason to change?

Were you his supervisor and did he have to answer to you in some capacity?

Please describe the surveillance operations conducted by the Mexico City station in 1963.

Did the surveillance include more than phone taps in the Soviet and Cuban Embassies?

For instance, do you recall that CIA bugs were placed inside the embassies?

If so, how was this particular type of "take" handled?

Activities against Soviet & Cuban Embassies in Mexico City

What kinds of operations did the station undertake?

Who were targets, i.e., Oleg Nechiporenko, Valery Kostikov, Pavel Yatskov, etc.?

What were the SOPs for handling Americans who visited the embassies?

What were the SOPs for informing headquarters?

Under what circumstances did the CIA take operational interest in visitors? [Hensen document]

[Additional classified questions.]

Pre-Assassination

Prior to the assassination, had you ever seen Oswald's name.

Ever review any documents with Oswald's name on them.

The "Oswald" Cables

Do you recall the procedures that were followed when the Mexico City station requested information about Oswald from headquarters in October 1963?

What personnel was involved in the search?

What were standard operating procedures for such requests for information from the stations to HQ?

When you authenticated the cables, what steps did you take?

Do you recall how Oswald's "physical description" was determined?

Why did HQ use two different physical descriptions in the two 10/10/63 cables?

Where did HQ obtain the physical description of Oswald that was written in

the second 10/10/63
cable?

Why was there no follow-up on locating
a photo of Oswald?

Why did the cables not include
information relating to Oswald's
activities in New Orleans that had been
communicated to you in a FBI report?

Why didn't CIA HQ inform MC
Station about Oswald's
pro-Cuban activities?

Did you not consider this
information pertinent to the
Mexico City station's request?

Do you know if Egeter connected
the "Oswald" from the FBI reports
to the "Oswald" from the 201 file
before the 10/10/63 cables were
sent? After they were sent?

In addition, do you know why the station
employees did not include in the cables
to headquarters Oswald's visits to the
Cuban Embassy?

Could one not acquire this
information from the transcripts
alone?

Are you aware of any cables from the
station or to the station that involved
Cuba matters in the context of Oswald's
visit to Mexico City?

Post-Assassination

When did you first hear of the assassination?

What did you do?

Did you telephone Mexico City Station?

Did you give instructions to people in your office?

If so, please describe.

Investigation of the Assassination

Why and when were you appointed by Helms to head the investigation?

What were your first priorities in the investigation?

What was your strategy?

Were you and Helms in agreement on the strategy of the investigation?

What leads did you pursue initially?

Did you follow up every lead?

Were you responsible for initiating requests for information and coordinating all responses that resulted?

Who was assisting you in compiling this information?

How did you maintain all of these records?

Do you recall approximately the amount created?

How much time had passed before these were incorporated into Oswald's 201?

Was Winston Scott cooperative with you and do you believe that he was

completely forthcoming with you?

Do you believe that he had his own agenda?

Sylvia Duran

Do you recall the name Sylvia Duran.

Why was she arrested. Why not just interviewed? Did someone originally think she may have had some involvement.

Did you believe that arresting Sylvia Duran was a mistake?

What did you receive from Mexicans concerning Sylvia Duran.

Original ten-page statement by Sylvia Duran?

Supplementary reports

Are you aware of any mistreatment of Sylvia Duran by the Mexican police?

Why was she re-arrested.

Oswald surveillance

Did you ever see any photographs of Oswald or listen to any tapes of Oswald's voice?

Do you believe that surveillance photos or tapes existed after the assassination?

Did you ever hear anyone talking about photos or tapes.

J. Edgar Hoover

Anne Goodpasture

Did you ever consider whether Marina was an intelligence official.

Zapruder film

Did the agency ever have the Z film.

Preparation of All Summary Reports

Was more than one draft prepared?

What records did you use in the preparation of this report?

Did you prepare this yourself?

What did the appendices consist of and do you know where they might be today?

On page 5 of section entitled "CIA Work on Lee Oswald...", you state that a CIA officer was in the Soviet Union while Oswald was there who was supposedly tracking the Oswald case. This entailed following the Embassy and State cable traffic when Oswald was trying to get back to the U.S. Do you recall how you acquired this information and do you recall the identity of the CIA officer?

Taking this situation into consideration, why was Oswald not debriefed by the CIA when he returned to the U.S.?

On page 3 of the section entitled "Information From Europe," you state that Oswald obtained his Russian visa in Stockholm?

Did Oswald not obtain the visa in Helsinki and is there not documentation to confirm this

transaction?

Did you not have the relevant information at this point in the investigation, mid-December?

Angleton's Investigation

Please describe your relationship with James Angleton.

When and why did Angleton demand that his outfit be given control of the investigation?

What was CI/SIG?

Were you upset by Angleton's actions or did you agree that CI/SIG should take over the investigation?

What records did you give Angleton's group when you were relieved of your responsibilities?

Were you aware of Angleton's strategy in continuing the case?

Do you know who was doing most of the work for Angleton?

Was he micro-managing the investigation?

Were you brought in for consultation purposes during Angleton's tenure?

Are you aware of any records that Angleton created relating to the investigation of Oswald?

Were you aware of any meetings and conversations that Angleton had with Hoover and/or Dulles?

If so, do you believe that
Angleton would have
documented such encounters?

Have you ever read the CIA's report to the
Warren Commission?

If so, do you have any disagreements
with it?

Other Matters

What do you know about Win Scott's diary and
manuscript?

Were you aware that Angleton traveled
to Mexico City upon Win Scott's death
to retrieve Scott's manuscript?

What do you know about this
trip?

Did you ever review the materials
that were taken from Win Scott's
home and sent to HQ?

t:\scelso2.wpd