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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Issues Addressed

The House Select Committee on Assassinations' investigation into Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City has been directed at answering the following questions:

- 1) Did Lee Harvey Oswald visit the Soviet and Cuban Consulates or Embassies in Mexico City?
- 2) In addition to the visits which may have been made to the Embassies, what were Lee Harvey Oswald's activities while he was in Mexico City?
- 3) Was Lee Harvey Oswald alone in Mexico City? If not, who were his associates and what were their activities?
- 4) Did the Central Intelligence Agency maintain any surveillance operation(s) aimed at the Cuban and Soviet diplomatic missions in Mexico City? If so, what kind?
- 5) What information, if any, about Oswald's stay in Mexico was known by the CIA Mexico City Station prior to the assassination and what was the source of that information?

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- 6) Was the information, if any, in the possession of the CIA Mexico City Station reported to the CIA Headquarters accurately and expeditiously prior to the assassination?
- 7) Was the information in the possession of the CIA Mexico City Station reported to the CIA Headquarters accurately and expeditiously after the assassination?
- 8) Was the information developed by the CIA in Mexico City communicated to the Warren Commission in an accurate and expeditious manner?
- 9) Did the CIA photo-surveillance of the Cuban and Soviet diplomatic compounds in Mexico City, if such photo-surveillance existed, obtain a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald? If so, what became of that photograph?

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B. Differences Between the Warren Commission Investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald's Activities in Mexico City and the House Select Committee on Assassination's Investigation.

The approach taken by this Committee's investigation differs from that of the Warren Commission primarily in terms of scope. The Warren Commission and the investigative agencies at its disposal went to great lengths to establish Oswald's travel to and from Mexico, but devoted minimal effort to evaluating Oswald's contacts with the Cuban and Soviet Consulates. It is the conclusion of this Committee that the Warren Commission correctly established that Oswald had traveled to Mexico City. Hence, this Committee has chosen not to reinvestigate Oswald's travel to and from Mexico City. Instead, the Committee's approach has been to focus narrowly on Oswald's contacts with the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic missions in Mexico City and on evidence that was not available to the Warren

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Commission that could possibly shed light on Oswald's activities in Mexico City outside of the Soviet and Cuban installations.

The Warren Report limited its discussion of Oswald's contacts with the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic missions to information obtained from Sylvia Duran and the Cuban Government.1/

At one point in the Report the Commission referred to other information:

By far the most important confirmation of Senora Duran's testimony, however, has been supplied by confidential sources of extremely high reliability available to the United States in Mexico. The information from these sources establishes that her testimony was truthful and accurate in all material respects. The identities of these sources cannot be disclosed without destroying their future usefulness to the United States.2/

The Warren Commission did not print anything in the twenty-six volumes of evidence to support its statement that Silvia Duran's testimony was confirmed by "confidential sources of extremely high reliability."

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In an attempt to answer the questions posed by Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to Mexico City in September and October of 1963, the House Select Committee on Assassinations has pursued the following investigative procedure:

- 1) Conducted extensive interviews, depositions, and executive session hearings involving Central Intelligence Agency personnel;
- 2) Interviewed Cuban citizens who could have knowledge of Oswald's sojourn in Mexico;
- 3) Interviewed Mexican citizens who could have knowledge of Oswald's activities and associations while he was in Mexico;
- 4) Conducted an extensive review of the files of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that pertain to Oswald and Mexico City.

C. Conclusions

- 1) Someone who identified himself as Lee Harvey Oswald called the Soviet

Consulate on 1 October 1963. This

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individual indicated that he had visited the Soviet Consulate at least once. Other evidence from the CIA wiretaps, and witness testimony, indicates that the individual visited the Soviet and Cuban Consulates on five or six different occasions. While the majority of the evidence tends to indicate that this individual was indeed Lee Harvey Oswald, the possibility that someone else used Lee Harvey Oswald's name during this time in contacts with the Soviet and Cuban Consulates cannot be absolutely dismissed.

- 2) This Committee has not been able to determine Lee Harvey Oswald's activities outside of the Cuban and Soviet Embassies with certainty. There is a report, which has not been confirmed, indicating that during his stay in Mexico Oswald attended a "twist party" at the home of Ruben Duran Navarro, the brother-in-law of

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Silvia Duran. There is also unconfirmed evidence which, if true, would indicate that Oswald spent one night and parts of two days with a group of pro-Castro students from the University of Mexico.

- 3) There is a report that Oswald may have been in the company of a tall, thin, blond-headed man while in Mexico. This report has not been confirmed. If true, it is possible that this same individual may on occasion, have used Oswald's name in dealing with the Cuban and Soviet Consulates. The man's name, if there was such a man, is not known.
- 4) On the dates that Oswald was in Mexico, the CIA had photographic surveillance operations which covered entrances to the Soviet Embassy and the Cuban Embassy and Consulate. The CIA also had electronic surveillance on telephones in the Soviet Consulate and Military Attache's Office and Cuban diplomatic compounds. The

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telephone at the Cuban Consulate was not subject to that surveillance.

- 5) The CIA's Mexico City Station definitely knew of Oswald's contacts with both the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic compounds and of his desire to obtain an intransit visa for travel to Russia via Cuba.

*not by name  
to  
18.02.70  
by informant  
of other connections  
i.e. Duhan's...*

The source of this information was the electronic surveillance on the Soviet Consulate and Soviet Military Attache's Office.

- 6) All information in the possession of the CIA Mexico City Station was not reported to CIA Headquarters in an accurate and expeditious manner prior to the assassination.

*h.S.*

- 7) With the exception of a few, possibly benign, irregularities, and considering the possibility that not all of the information available to the Station has been provided to this Committee, the information in the possession of the CIA Mexico Station was reported in an

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accurate and expeditious manner after the assassination to headquarters.

8) With the exception of those areas that involved sensitive sources and methods, such as the information pertaining to the electronic and photographic surveillance of the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic compounds, information developed by the CIA in Mexico was generally relayed to the Warren Commission in an accurate and expeditious manner.

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9) It is the conclusion of this Committee that the CIA's photo-surveillance operations in Mexico City probably obtained a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald entering either or both the Soviet and Cuban Consulates. The CIA denies that such a photograph exists. Hence, the disposition of this photograph is unknown.

*h.5*



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- 10) The CIA telephone surveillance on the Soviet Embassy taped several calls of a man using the name "Lee Oswald." These tapes were retained for a routine <sup>one</sup> two week period and were most likely erased shortly after 16 October 1963. These tapes were probably existence at the time of the assassination. no
- 11) The Committee is aware of the allegations that Silvia Tirado de Duran may have been an intelligence agent for either the Cubans, Mexicans or Americans. Ms. Duran was probably never employed by Cuban intelligence. While there is no direct evidence on the question other than Ms. Duran's denial, the Committee believes that the circumstantial evidence that tends to indicate that Ms. Duran had a relationship of some type with either Mexican or American intelligence is of such a nature that the possibility can not be dismissed.

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D. Structure and Relevancy

The following report detailing the results of this Committee's investigative efforts regarding Mexico City is divided into general areas:

- 1) CIA surveillance operations in Mexico City during September and October of 1963;
- 2) Information about Lee Harvey Oswald's stay in Mexico City that was known prior to the assassination;
- 3) Reconstruction of the CIA Mexico City Station and Headquarters activity regarding Oswald prior to the assassination;
- 4) Mexico City reporting of information after the assassination;
- 5) Witnesses from the Cuban Consulate;
- 6) Investigation of related information that was not available to the Warren Commission; and
- 7) Reconstruction of Oswald's activities in Mexico City.

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The reader should be advised at the outset that the first section following is technical in nature and may not appear directly relevant at first blush. But the report is cumulative in nature. The specific, detailed analyses of the standard operating procedures in the first section are necessary to, and form a partial basis for, the reconstruction of the Mexico City Station's handling of the Oswald case. There are many gaps left by the documentary and testimonial evidence concerning the manner in which the CIA's Mexico City Station and Headquarters reacted to Oswald's presence in Mexico City. A knowledge of the way in which the Mexico City Station operated and the procedures involved in those surveillance operations which detected Oswald is valuable in filling the gaps of the specific case which is the subject of this report.

*Lopez et al. Manufacturing  
"one" person's account  
of the Oswald case  
but not the story  
themselves*

II. Central Intelligence Agency Surveillance Operations in Mexico City in September and October 1963