

THE LEGAL ADVISER
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 28, 1964

It should be noted that in connection with cases involving travel of other Americans, it has been found not unusual for errors to be committed in connection with the entry shown on the form FM-11 for travelers entering Mexico. As pointed out above, the original of the tourist card is surrendered by the traveler at the time of departure from Mexico. This original shows the place of issuance of the tourist card and the principal error that has been noted is showing final destination as the place where the tourist card was originally issued. In other cases final destination is shown as the point from which the person was proceeding at the time he entered Mexico. Several specific cases have occurred in which airline passenger manifests clearly showed a final destination different from the place where the tourist card was issued; nevertheless, the form FM-11 showed a final destination of this latter place.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I am enclosing a copy of a note and a confidential memorandum, dated May 14, 1964, from the Mexican Government of Foreign Affairs to the United States Embassy in Mexico City, sent in response to the United States note dated April 10, 1964. Also enclosed are two copies of a translation of the note and memorandum prepared by the Division of Language Services in the Department of State.

As you will see, the note states that the Mexican Government "understands that the enclosed confidential memorandum will not be published, either partially or in full, without the consent of the Government of Mexico."

Sincerely,



Abram Chayes

Enclosures:

As stated.

Mr. J. Lee Rankin,
General Counsel,
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy,
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.,
Washington, D.C.

- 27 -

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2119—Continued

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120

UNITED MEXICAN STATES)
FEDERAL DISTRICT)
CITY OF MEXICO) ss:
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED)
STATES OF AMERICA)

I, Pierre M. Hartman, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Mexico, Federal District, United Mexican States, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the annexed copy of Note No. 504826, dated May 14, 1964, from the Secretariat of Foreign Relations of the United Mexican States, with a memorandum of the same date attached thereto, is a true copy of the original note and memorandum, the same having been examined by me and found to agree word for word and figure for figure with the said original.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the Consular Service of the United States of America at Mexico, D. F., Mexico, this twenty-second day of May, 1964.


Pierre M. Hartman
Vice Consul of the United States
of America

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

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AC	AGA	IRS
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La Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores saluda atentamente a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América y tiene el honor de referirse a su nota número 1349, fechada el 10 de abril próximo pasado, en la que indica que sería útil al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América disponer de una información sobre la investigación realizada por los organismos mexicanos competentes respecto de las actividades que el presunto asesino del señor Presidente John F. Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, realizó durante el tiempo que estuvo en México en septiembre de 1963.

La Embajada también manifiesta en la nota de referencia que interesaría igualmente una descripción de las medidas que el Gobierno mexicano hubiese tomado inmediatamente después de que tuvo noticia del atentado contra la vida del señor Presidente Kennedy, como por ejemplo el establecimiento de una vigilancia especial en los puertos fronterizos u otras medidas similares.

En obsequio de los deseos de la Embajada, la Secretaría se complace en transmitirle con la presente nota un memorándum confidencial que contiene la información solicitada sobre los dos puntos arriba mencionados.

De acuerdo con el ofrecimiento hecho por la Embajada en el último párrafo de su nota, la Secretaría queda en

A la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América,
C i u d a d .

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MEXICO, D. F. MEXICO

MAY 21 1964

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

2

queda en el entendimiento de que el memorándum confidencial anexo no será publicado, ni total ni parcialmente, sin el consentimiento del Gobierno de México.

La Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores aprovecha la ocasión para renovar a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América el testimonio de su más alta consideración.

México, D. F., a 14 de mayo de 1964.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

El Gobierno de México, tan pronto como tuvo noticia del atentado contra la vida del señor Presidente John F. Kennedy, ocurrido el 22 de noviembre de 1963 en la ciudad de Dallas, Texas, adoptó por conducto de la Secretaría de Gobernación ciertas medidas para impedir que el autor del magnicidio pudiera buscar refugio en territorio mexicano.

De inmediato, a las 15:00 horas de ese mismo día, se ordenó el cierre de la frontera entre México y los Estados Unidos de América y, a pesar de los problemas que ocasionó esta medida, se mantuvo en vigor hasta el momento en que se supo que el presunto asesino se hallaba ya detenido por la policía de Dallas.

Asimismo, la Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional, en colaboración con la Secretaría de Gobernación, envió tropas con el fin de estrechar la vigilancia en la zona fronteriza, especialmente en Reynosa, Ciudad Miguel Alemán, Nuevo Laredo y Matamoros.

Al conocerse el nombre y filiación del presunto asesino Lee Harvey Oswald, se inició una investigación que condujo al conocimiento de que dicho individuo había estado en México en 1963. En efecto, pudo establecerse con certeza que Oswald se internó a la República Mexicana por Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, el día 26 de septiembre de 1963, con una tarjeta de turista con límite de quince días que le había sido expedida por el Consulado de Méxi-

co en Nueva Orleans

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MEXICO, D. F. MEXICO
MAY 21 1964

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

co en Nueva Orleans el día 17 del mismo mes y año.

Al día siguiente, o sea el 27 de septiembre, Oswald tomó la habitación número 18 en el "Hotel del Comercio", ubicado en la calle de Fray Bernardino de Sahagún número 19 de la ciudad de México.

Durante su estancia de cinco días en la capital mexicana, Oswald se dedicó a tratar de obtener del Consulado de la República de Cuba una visa para viajar a La Habana en tránsito hacia la Unión Soviética. Sus gestiones resultaron infructuosas, ya que el Consulado cubano condicionó la expedición de la visa al previo otorgamiento por la Embajada soviética del permiso necesario para que pudiera dirigirse a Moscú.

A este respecto se transcribe, en su parte pertinente, la declaración hecha el 23 de noviembre de 1963 por la señora Silvia Tirado de Durán, empleada del Consulado de Cuba en esta capital, ante las autoridades investigadoras mexicanas:

"Ya cerca de la hora de salida, al mediodía, una compañera comentó que acababa de escuchar en el radio una noticia relativa a que el Presidente KENNEDY había sufrido un atentado, en el que le habían disparado tres balazos, por lo que le llamó por teléfono a su esposo y comentaron acerca de tal noticia, contándole éste que ya lo sabía, calificando a dicho atentado de "monstruoso" y acordando que al reunirse en su domicilio platicarían sobre ese particular, lo que hicieron a la hora de la comida pero en forma casual, ya que desconocían los incidentes del atentado y nombre y señas del presunto autor del mismo, siendo hasta por la noche cuando leyeron en una "extra" la nota relativa y posteriormente, en el radio de su domicilio, escuchó la de la voz del nombre de LEE HARVEY OSWALD, el cual le hizo recordar que este nombre corresponde a un norteamericano que en los últimos días de Septiembre o primeros días del mes de Octubre del año en curso, se presentó al Consulado Cubano solicitando una visa para Cuba, en

tránsito hacia

tránsito hacia Rusia, y apoyando su solicitud con la exhibición de su pasaporte en el que constaba que había estado viviendo en este último País por espacio de tres años, su carnet de trabajo del propio País, escrito en idioma ruso y cartas en igual idioma, así como comprobaba estar casado con una mujer de nacionalidad rusa así como ser dirigente al parecer en la ciudad de Nueva Orleans, de la organización denominada "Trato Justo para Cuba", con la pretensión de que se le aceptaba como "amigo" de la Revolución Cubana, por lo que la dicente cumpliendo con sus funciones le tomó todos sus datos y escribió el lleno de la solicitud respectiva, y la dicente, aceptando que se excedió en sus funciones, oficiosamente llamó por teléfono al Consulado ruso, con el interés por su parte de facilitar el trámite del visado ruso a LEE HARVEY OSWALD, pero de ahí le contestaron que el trámite duraría cuatro meses aproximadamente, lo que molestó al solicitante, porque según afirmó tenía suma prisa en obtener las visas que le permitieran viajar a Rusia, insistiendo en su derecho a ello por sus antecedentes y su partidarismo y actividades personales en pro del Movimiento Cubano, sin que pueda precisar por no recordarlo la de clarante, si le dijo o no, que fuera miembro del Partido Comunista, y que su esposa ya mencionada de nacionalidad rusa estaba en ese entonces en la ciudad de Nueva York, de donde lo seguiría, siendo su procedencia de la citada ciudad de Nueva Orleans; que una vez que OSWALD entendió que no era posible darle la visa Cubana, sin obtener previamente la rusa, porque aquella era en tránsito, se exhaltó o enojó mucho, por lo que la dicente llamó al Cónsul ASSUE, quien en ese momento se encontraba en su privado en compañía de su posterior sustituto MIRVAL, saliendo el primero, comenzó a alegar en inglés con OSWALD, en forma muy alterada, terminando por decirle ASSUE, que "de ser por él no le daría la visa", y que "un individuo como él en vez de beneficiar a la Revolución Cubana, le causaba daño", en la inteligencia de que en su discusión se referían a la Revolución Socialista Rusa y no a la Cubana, aduciendo OSWALD que tenía dos razones para solicitar con toda premura la visa y que eran, una, que se le vencía su permiso de estancia en México y otra, que con toda urgencia necesitaba llegar a Rusia; que a pesar del disgusto, la de la voz le entregó a OSWALD un papel igual al que en este momento manuscrite en el que le anotó su nombre "SILVIA DURÁN," y al número del teléfono del Consulado que es el "11-28-47", y de todas maneras se le dio trámite a la solicitud de visa,

enviándola

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 15638
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4

enviándola al Ministerio de Relaciones de Cuba, de donde se obtuvo respuesta en forma ordinaria, de quince a treinta días después, aceptando la concesión de la visa, pero condicionándola a que previamente obtuviera la Rusa, aunque no recuerda si OSWALD con posterioridad llamó o no a la declarante al Teléfono del Consulado que le proporcionó; que toda la plática que sostuvo la dicente con OSWALD, al igual que la del Consul ASCUE, fue en idioma inglés, ya que aquel no habla nada de español, y que al tener a la vista su fotografía que apareció en los periódicos de hoy, precisamente en el Periódico "El Día", desde luego lo reconoció e identificó como el mismo al que se ha venido refiriendo como LEE HARVEY OSWALD."

Oswald canceló su habitación en el Hotel del Comercio el día 10 de octubre y reservó un asiento en la empresa de autobuses "Transportes Frontera", de segunda clase, para hacer el viaje de regreso a Nuevo Laredo el día siguiente.

Sin embargo, aparentemente no utilizó esa reservación y sin que haya podido establecerse la forma como viajó a Nuevo Laredo, aparece en dicha población fronteriza el 3 de octubre y atraviesa la frontera regresando a territorio norteamericano.

De las investigaciones realizadas por las autoridades mexicanas quedó establecido, por otra parte, que Oswald no hizo contacto dentro de la República Mexicana con persona o grupo alguno afiliado a tendencias políticas de ninguna naturaleza.

México, D. F., a 14 de mayo de 1964.

19

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

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[Embossed seal of the Mexican Department of Foreign Relations]

The Department of Foreign Relations presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to refer to its note No. 1349, dated April 10 last, in which it states that it would be helpful to the Government of the United States of America to have information on the investigation made by the competent Mexican agencies regarding the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged murderer of President John F. Kennedy, while he was in Mexico in September 1963.

The Embassy also stated in the note in question that it would be of interest to have a description of the measures which the Mexican Government took immediately after it received news of the attempt on the life of President Kennedy, as for example the establishment of special surveillance at the border ports, or other similar measures.

In compliance with the wishes of the Embassy, the Department is happy to send herewith a confidential memorandum containing the information requested on the two points mentioned above.

Embassy of the United States of America,
City.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

[Embossed seal of the Mexican Department of Foreign Relations]

M E M O R A N D U M

In accordance with the offer made by the Embassy in the last paragraph of its note, the Department understands that the enclosed confidential memorandum will not be published, either partially or in full, without the consent of the Government of Mexico.

The Department of Foreign Relations avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurance of its highest consideration.

Mexico City, May 14, 1964

[Initialed]

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

As soon as the Government of Mexico received news of the attempt on the life of President John F. Kennedy, which took place in the city of Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, it took certain measures through the Department of the Interior to prevent the assassin of the great man from being able to seek refuge in Mexican territory.

The border between Mexico and the United States of America was immediately ordered closed at 3:00 p.m. on that same day and, despite the problems created by this measure, it was kept in effect until it became known that the alleged assassin had been arrested by the Dallas police.

Likewise, the Department of National Defense, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, sent troops in order to tighten the surveillance in the border area, especially at Reynosa, Ciudad Miguel Alemán, Nuevo Laredo, and Matamoros.

When the name and personal description of the alleged assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, became known, an investigation was initiated which led to the discovery that the said individual had been in Mexico in 1963. Indeed, it was established with certainty that Oswald entered the Mexican Republic by way of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, on September 26, 1963, with a tourist card having a fifteen-day limit, which had been issued to him by the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans on the 17th day of the same month and year.

The following day, that is on September 27, Oswald took room Number 18 at the Hotel del Comercio located at No. 19, calle de Fray Bernardino de Sahagún, Mexico City.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

During his five-day stay in the Mexican capital Oswald made every effort to obtain a visa from the Consulate of the Republic of Cuba to travel to Habana in transit to the Soviet Union. His efforts proved fruitless since the Cuban Consulate would not issue the visa unless the Soviet Embassy first granted the necessary permission so that he could go to Moscow.

In this connection, the pertinent section of a statement made on November 23, 1964 by Mrs. Silvia Tirado Durán, an employee of the Cuban Consulate in this capital, before the Mexican investigating authorities, is transcribed below:

"Around noon, the time she usually left, a friend told her that she had just heard a news flash on the radio that President Kennedy had been the victim of an attempted assassination in which three shots had been fired at him. Accordingly, she telephoned her husband and they discussed the report. He told her that he had already heard about it. He called the attack 'monstrous,' and they agreed that they would discuss the matter later when they reached home, which they did at the dinner hour, but only briefly, since they did not know the details of the attack and the name and description of the alleged perpetrator of the crime. It was only in the evening that they read the report on the occurrence in an 'extra' and when later, on the radio at home, the declarant heard the announcer mention the name of Lee Harvey Oswald, she remembered this was the name of an American who had come to the Cuban Consulate to obtain a visa to travel to Cuba

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

in transit to Russia, the latter part of September or the early part of October of this year, and in support of his application had shown his passport, in which it was noted that he had lived in that country for a period of three years; his labor card from the same country written in the Russian language; and letters in that same language. He had presented evidence that he was married to a Russian woman, and also that he was apparently the leader of an organization in the city of New Orleans called 'Fair Treatment for Cuba,' claiming that he should be accepted as a 'friend' of the Cuban Revolution. Accordingly, the declarant, complying with her duties, took down all of the information and completed the appropriate application form; and the declarant, admittedly exceeding her responsibilities, informally telephoned the Russian Consulate, with the intention of doing what she could to facilitate issuance of the Russian visa to Lee Harvey Oswald. However, they told her that there would be a delay of about four months in processing the case, which annoyed the applicant since, according to his statement, he was in a great hurry to obtain visas that would enable him to travel to Russia, insisting on his right to do so in view of his background and his loyalty and his activities in behalf of the Cuban Movement. The declarant was unable to recall accurately whether or not the applicant told her he was a member of the Communist Party, ^{but he} ~~did~~ say that his wife, mentioned above, who was of Russian nationality was then in New York City, and would follow

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

him, having come from the city of New Orleans. [The affiant stated] that when Oswald understood that it was not possible to give him a Cuban visa without his first having obtained the Russian visa, since the Cuban visa would be a transit visa, he became very excited or angry, and accordingly, the affiant called Consul Ascue, who was then in his private office with his subsequent replacement, Miraval, and the former came out and began a heated discussion in English with Oswald, that concluded by Ascue telling him [Oswald] that 'if it were up to him, he would not give him the visa,' and 'a person of his type was harming the Cuban Revolution rather than helping it,' it being understood that in their conversation they were talking about the Russian Socialist Revolution and not the Cuban. Oswald maintained that he had two reasons for requesting that his visa be issued promptly, and they were: one, that his tourist permit in Mexico was about to expire; and the other, that he had to get to Russia as quickly as possible. Despite her annoyance, the declarant gave Oswald a paper identical to the one she is now signing in which she put down her name, 'Silvia Durán,' and the number of the telephone at the Consulate, which is '11-28-47' and the visa application was processed anyway. It was sent to the Ministry of [Foreign] Relations of Cuba, from which a routine reply was received some fifteen to thirty days later, approving the visa, but on the condition that the Russian visa be obtained first, although she does not recall whether or not Oswald later telephoned her at the Consulate number that she gave him.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued

She stated that all of the conversation she had with Oswald, as well as that with Consul Ascue, was in the English language since Oswald did not speak any Spanish, and when she saw the photograph that came out in the newspapers today, to be specific, in the newspaper El Dia, she immediately recognized and identified him as the same person to whom she had been referring as Lee Harvey Oswald."

Oswald checked out of his room at the Hotel del Comercio on the first of October and reserved a second-class bus seat on the "Transportes Frontera," for the return trip to Nuevo Laredo the next day.

However, he apparently did not use that reservation; and although it has not been possible to ascertain by what means he traveled to Nuevo Laredo, he appeared in that town on October 3, and crossed the border, returning to American territory.

From the investigation conducted by the Mexican authorities, it was established, however, that, while in the Mexican Republic, Oswald did not get in touch with any person or group affiliated with any political movement of any kind.

México, D.F., May 14, 1964

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2120—Continued