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**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1998**

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: House Select Committee on Assassinations

1. Mr. George Cary and I met today for three and a half hours with Mr. Richard C. Sprague, Chief Counsel, House Select Committee on Assassinations, for his review of the Agency's analysis and related CIA documents of the Kessler article alleging the Agency withheld details of Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico from the Warren Commission. We also discussed the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Committee and the FBI and the Director's letter to the Chairman on destruction of Agency documents.

2. Sprague raised a number of questions particularly why the Mexico Station, in its first report to Headquarters, only mentioned that an individual identifying himself as Oswald contacted the Soviet Embassy inquiring about a telegram and did not report that an individual a few days earlier had contacted the Embassy seeking to go to Russia. He made clear that he was using hindsight and that the questions he raised may be explainable. His other questions and comments are set forth in the attachment.

3. Sprague stressed that he wants to set the record straight and will seek the best evidence to resolve any questions raised. In this regard, he noted that those people the Committee has interviewed who worked on the transcript at the Mexico Station provided more information than shown in our transcripts. Also, they indicated that Oswald spoke only in English, whereas the transcripts indicate he at times spoke Russian. He will be re-interviewing them to resolve that question and asked that we provide him the transcripts. He suggested that the Agency may want to participate in the interviews since the Agency would undoubtedly have a strong interest in the matter. Mr. Cary noted that the Agency has been very reluctant to contact any of our people in connection with Committee investigations to avoid any impression that we are counseling their responses to protect the Agency; however, he would discuss this suggestion with the Director.

4. Sprague accepted the offer by Mr. Cary to visit the Agency and talk to our people who are most knowledgeable of the Agency information on Oswald's activities in Mexico and can better explain the questions he has raised. Sprague emphasized that he wants to conduct the investigation in close cooperation with the Agency and understands and appreciates the security sensitivities. He said he is appalled at the damaging effects of the Freedom of Information Act upon the agencies. To stress his position on confidentiality, he said he has withheld confidential information from the courts despite threat of contempt citations.

*but not to the
press =*

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