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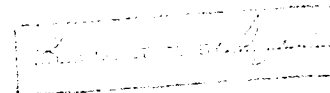
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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS DURING SESSION WITH
RICHARD SPRAGUE, CHIEF COUNSEL, HOUSE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS - 1 DECEMBER 1976 -
DURING HIS REVIEW OF AGENCY COMMENTS ON THE
KESSLER ARTICLE OF 26 NOVEMBER 1976

1. QUESTION: Does the material which we made available to him include all of the transcripts? Were there any copies in Russian?
2. QUESTION: Where are the originals of the transcripts?
3. COMMENT: The Committee has contacted the persons who allegedly translated and typed the transcripts. Both of them said that in his conversations with the foreign embassies Lee Harvey Oswald did talk of a "deal" to go to Russia. Furthermore, both of these individuals said that Oswald spoke in English not Russian. From their interviews of these individuals, the Committee feels they have obtained more information than was involved in the Oswald conversations than is included in the transcripts which we made available to Mr. Sprague.
4. QUESTION: What arrangements could be made for the people whom the Committee has interviewed to review the transcripts which we made available to Mr. Sprague for the purposes of clarifying gaps, discrepancies, or inconsistencies in their statements and inferences to be drawn from the transcripts we made available? Sprague assumes that the Agency is as interested in getting this whole business resolved as the Committee is (we indicated that indeed we were and that we would take this subject up with our people and be back in touch with him. Mr. Sprague said he would provide us with the names of the individuals whom they have interviewed and inferred that Agency representatives might be allowed to be present during these sessions if we desired.)
5. COMMENT: It appears in reviewing the various letters, affidavits, etc., that there was a deliberate attempt on the Agency's part to avoid any references to information concerning Oswald's interest in travelling to Cuba and Russia. For example, the cablegram from a station in Mexico related only to the telegram and made no mention on Oswald's part to go to Russia.



6. QUESTION: If there were taps on both embassies, why are there not two transcripts of Oswald's conversations from one embassy to the other?
7. QUESTION: Was there any provision for holding the tapes of any conversations in the event any interest was shown in them? This is particularly pertinent in view of a cable to Headquarters when five days later Oswald was identified as the individual involved.
8. QUESTION: With reference to the Belin letter, regarding the photo which was suspected of being Oswald, when was the cablegram prepared? There appears to be evidence that the cable was prepared sometime before it was sent.
9. QUESTION: Why was a description of a man taken from a photograph of a person going into the Russian embassy used to identify a man who placed a telephone call at the Cuban embassy?
10. QUESTION: Were photographs made of all persons who entered the embassy?
11. COMMENT: It's rather strange that there was no interest in an individual who was inquiring about going to Cuba and to Russia at a time when it was against U. S. law to travel to Cuba.
12. QUESTION: Who made the marginal notes on the transcripts? It appears that most of the notations were made by the same person and with the same type of writing instrument.
13. QUESTION: With respect to the Helms letter, why didn't Helms say anything about the visa request to Russia, instead of dealing only with the telegram?
14. COMMENT: I have a feeling that there was an effort not to disclose the visa aspects of this case.
15. QUESTION: With respect to the 25 November 1963 Helms letter regarding the transcripts of the three phone calls, how can you make voice comparisons when the tapes have been erased?
16. COMMENT: He does not agree with the chronology of the photographs. He also inquired who wrote the chronology.