

*Letter Request - Belin*  
75-18471  
APR 23 1975  
4/15

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

23 April 1975

Mr. David W. Belin  
Executive Director  
Commission on CIA Activities  
Within the United States

Dear Mr. Belin:

This is a partial, interim response to questions in your letter of April 15 concerning Lee Harvey Oswald.

Further details, as stated in the attached and as discussed between you and Mr. Rocca, are in process of compilation.

Faithfully yours,

*[Signature]*  
E. H. Knoche  
Assistant to the Director

Attachment: a/s

Classified by 014359  
Exempt from general  
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652  
exemption schedule 5D (1), (2), (3)  
Automatically declassified on  
Date Impossible to Determine

SECRET

Distribution:

- Drig - Mr. Belin w/att
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- ✓ - Belin Letter Request File w/att

S E C R E T

22 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DC/OPS

REFERENCE : Letter from David W. Belin, dated  
15 April 1975, to Mr. L. Henry Knoche  
dealing with a photograph of an  
unidentified individual

1. This is an interim report. I believe that CIOPS will be able to draw up eventually a full report on this question. At the present time we have not completed the total assembly of the references to this matter. However, in anticipation of a final report, the following are factual:

a. The Agency at no time in its dealings with the FBI in the Field or with the Warren Commission in Headquarters described or suggested that the unknown individual whose photograph was taken in Mexico City on 1 October was Lee Harvey OSWALD.

b. Our total coverage of the unknown individual numbers twelve photographs taken on 1 October (USSR Embassy), 4 October (USSR Embassy) and 15 October (Cuban Embassy). OSWALD left Mexico City, it is known, at 0830 hours, 2 October. It is clear, therefore, that this individual could not be OSWALD.

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c. Mr. Helms, in a memorandum to the Warren Commission Chief Counsel, indicated very clearly that the photograph of this unknown individual had nothing to do with the OSWALD case. In the light of all of the facts in the file, we find no reason to modify this judgement.

2. The problems we have had with this photograph have derived from Mrs. OSWALD, Sr.'s, belief that the photograph shown to her in Dallas by the FBI, by whom it had been cropped, was a photograph of RUBY and that it had been shown to her before the latter had killed her son. This erroneous belief was dispelled later during her testimony before the Warren Commission. However, the FBI at that time provided a copy of the same photograph cropped in a slightly different way. All of these problems were worked out satisfactorily with the Warren Commission. In the subsequent period private individuals have attempted to develop the theory that the photograph related materially to OSWALD or a substitute for OSWALD.

3. Under the circumstances we agree with Mr. Belin that it would be appropriate to consider surfacing the entire matter factually at this time if this can be done without violation of sources or methods.

4. It is proposed, therefore, that a full run of all references to this matter be assembled (and we have nearly completed that) and that, together with a chronological summary, be submitted to Mr. Belin for his consideration and a determination in concord with LA Division and other interested components of the Agency how much can be released at this time.

5. I reviewed with Mr. Belin the facts and suggestion stipulated above in a lengthy discussion and briefing on the morning of 22 April, and he agreed with the proposed course of action.

  
Raymond G. Rocca

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