



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 7, 1964

formerly employed as a waiter at this night club. According to Mr. RODRIGUEZ, OLIVA is from Honduras and is probably in Mexico illegally. He recalled that OLIVA possessed a waiter's credential that was issued by a labor union in Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ advised that the night club was raided by the police in January, 1964, and OLIVA was taken into custody. He stated that OLIVA has not returned to the night club since that time, and, since OLIVA owes money to Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. RODRIGUEZ also is trying to locate OLIVA.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Commission Exhibit No. 2574

BASIS FOR INQUIRY

As has been previously reported, OSWALD was registered from September 27, 1963, through October 1, 1963, in Room No. 18 of the Hotel del Comercio, located at Calle Bernardino de Sahagun No. 19, Mexico, D. F., Mexico.

The records of the hotel disclosed that GABRIEL CONTRERAS, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, was registered at the hotel during the pertinent period.

INTERVIEW OF GABRIEL
CONTRERAS UVINA

GABRIEL CONTRERAS UVINA, who was residing temporarily at the Fernmont Hotel, Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico, furnished the following information to a confidential source abroad on July 29, 1964:

CONTRERAS recalled that he had resided at the Hotel del Comercio, Calle Bernardino de Sahagun No. 19, Mexico, D. F., Mexico, in late September and early October, 1963. CONTRERAS was in Mexico City on business, as well as to make an appointment to undergo eye surgery at the Hospital Colonia, operated by the Mexican National Railroad in Mexico City. CONTRERAS stated that he had cataracts on both eyes, which had reduced his vision to approximately thirty per cent of normal, according to his doctors.

CONTRERAS said that he had been unable to undergo this surgery at that time and returned to Mexico City in late November, 1963, for the operation.

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CONTRERAS stated that his normal residence is Ciudad Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico. He stated that he owns and operates a small store called "El Sol" (The Sun), selling small electrical appliances and new and used electrical parts. He said he is a retired employee of the Mexican National Railroad and is occasionally called upon by the firm known as "Aceites de Aigodon" (Cotton Oil Company) to serve as an expeditor of tank cars. He added that he spots and moves cars for loading and transfer on all of the company's sidings throughout Mexico. As a result, he is usually in Mexico City at least once a month.

During his stay at the Hotel del Comercio in late September and early October, 1963, he was in the habit of having his meals at a restaurant next to the Hotel del Comercio, which is operated by a woman named LOLA. CONTRERAS said that it was very possible he had seated himself at the same table as LEE HARVEY OSWALD during one of his visits to the restaurant, since the restaurant is often crowded during mealtimes. CONTRERAS pointed out that he could not see very well at the time and did not know LEE HARVEY OSWALD, did not remember ever seeing OSWALD during his stay at the hotel, and if he spoke to OSWALD, it would have been no more than a courtesy greeting.

After viewing a number of photographs that were exhibited to him, CONTRERAS had no trouble in selecting photographs of OSWALD. CONTRERAS pointed out that he became aware of OSWALD and his background as a result of the world-wide publicity which occurred as a result of the death of President KENNEDY. CONTRERAS said that he did not recall ever having seen OSWALD before or after his visit to the Hotel del Comercio in late September or early October, 1963.

CONTRERAS said that LOLA had advised Agents of the Mexican Ministry of Government, who had conducted investigation in regard to OSWALD's stay at the Hotel del Comercio, that CONTRERAS had been at the same table with OSWALD. CONTRERAS said that this was possible, but, because of his bad vision, he did not recall this incident.

CONTRERAS said that he was not aware of any Americans residing at the hotel during the period he was there. He associated with three of the guests, to the best of his recollection, and remembered a man named LIMA JUAREZ, who was at the hotel with another individual. CONTRERAS believed that both of these men came from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and were in Mexico City to seek employment. CONTRERAS could not recall the first name of LIMA JUAREZ and could not recall the name of the friend of LIMA JUAREZ.

CONTRERAS stated that the third man with whom he spoke on two or three occasions was a Cuban, who was residing at the hotel while waiting for a visa to enter the United States, en route to the State of Florida. CONTRERAS could not think of the name of this individual, but when the name of JULIAN FRANCISCO HUERTA was mentioned, he immediately acknowledged that this was the person he had in mind. CONTRERAS recalled going to an office of the Mexican Ministry of Government with HUERTA on one occasion to obtain some papers that HUERTA needed. CONTRERAS was not certain of the name or location of the office and could not identify the person to whom HUERTA spoke.

CONTRERAS said that he knew HUERTA was acquainted with LIMA JUAREZ and the friend of LIMA JUAREZ, but he did not know if HUERTA visited with other persons in the hotel.

CONTRERAS said that he had not known LIMA JUAREZ prior to his visit to the hotel during the pertinent period. CONTRERAS ascertained that LIMA JUAREZ was a member of some labor union and that the friend of LIMA JUAREZ apparently was an electrician.

CONTRERAS said that the best description he could furnish of LIMA JUAREZ, due to his limited vision, was that LIMA JUAREZ was a white, male, Mexican, about 55 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighing 165 pounds, with grey hair and wearing glasses. The friend of LIMA JUAREZ was a white, male, Mexican, about 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighing about 160 pounds, with black hair.

CONTRERAS recalled going out with LIMA JUAREZ, the friend of LIMA JUAREZ, JULIAN FRANCISCO HUERTA, and another man, whose name he could not recall. This unknown individual is a huge man, who is a rancher from Zacatecas, Zacatecas, Mexico, or from Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, and CONTRERAS thought that his name might be MACIAS. CONTRERAS recalled that this man occupied Room No. 12 in the hotel and was in Mexico City to conduct some business with the Confederacion Nacional Campesina (National Federation of Farmers) and the Mexican Department of Farm and Colonization Matters in Mexico City. CONTRERAS and the other four individuals left the hotel together and visited the Tijuana Bar, located on the corner of Plaza Buenavista and Calle Heroes Ferrocarrileros, Mexico City. While at this bar, a sidewalk photographer took two pictures of the group. The photographer developed the pictures on the spot. CONTRERAS bought one of the pictures and HUERTA also bought one. CONTRERAS did not recall whether or not everyone signed the photographs but did say that some of the group signed the photographs.

CONTRERAS said that he looked at the photograph in the hotel the next day and decided that he would not want his wife to see the photograph since she might object to his drinking and being photographed while drinking. He then tore up the photograph and threw the pieces away.

CONTRERAS stated that he usually does not drink and the above-mentioned incident was the only time he went out with anyone to visit a bar.

CONTRERAS said that he did not know if the other men who went with him to the Tijuana Bar were regular customers there. He did not know if they went to other nearby bars. He could not recall that any of these persons had engaged in conversations with any Americans or with any other persons who were not Mexicans.

CONTRERAS was certain that he had not seen LEE HARVEY OSWALD, regardless of the statement by LOLA indicating that CONTRERAS and OSWALD had shared a table in the restaurant. CONTRERAS said that the only reason he could identify a photograph of OSWALD was the fact he had seen photographs of OSWALD frequently in newspapers and other news media.



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August 10, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

As has been previously reported, OSWALD was registered from September 27, 1963, through October 1, 1963, in Room No. 18 of the Hotel del Comercio, located at Calle Bernardino de Sahagun No. 19, Mexico, D. F., Mexico.

ERNESTO LIMA JUAREZ from Reynosa, Tamaulipas, was a guest of the Hotel del Comercio on September 26, 1963. LIMA JUAREZ previously advised that a photograph had been taken of a group of the guests of the hotel.

JULIAN HUERTA OLIVA, a Cuban who was residing at the Hotel del Comercio shortly prior to the arrival of OSWALD in September, 1963, furnished a copy of a photograph of a group of the guests at the Hotel del Comercio in September, 1963.

ERNESTO LIMA JUAREZ also advised that he believed that he had seen OSWALD conversing with two Cuban Negroes who were residing at the Hotel del Comercio

Employees of the Hotel del Comercio stated that ANTONIO OLIVA, a young Negro, possibly a Cuban, had resided in Room No. 4 at the Hotel del Comercio during the period of time that OSWALD was a guest at the hotel. A housemaid at the hotel advised that OLIVA was visited frequently by another young Spanish speaking Negro who may have been a Cuban.