

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)
TARA JFK DATE 9-13-00

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Inasmuch as the Dallas agents who listened to the tape of the conversation allegedly of Oswald from the [deletion] and examined the photographs of the visitor [deletion] and were of the opinion that neither the tape nor the photograph pertained to Oswald. . . .

On November 25, 1963--some two days after Dallas cabled the Bureau that the tapes had been erased--Bureau supervisor Burt Turner cabled Legat stating:

If tapes covering any contacts subject with Soviet or Cuban embassies available forward to Bureau for laboratory examination and analysis together with transcript. Include tapes previously reviewed Dallas if they were returned to you.

As noted previously, Legat replied later that day to the effect that the tapes had been erased.

It is unclear as to how Shanklin learned on November 23, 1963, that the Oswald tape had been erased. CIA documents reflect that it was not until after 5 p.m. on November 23, 1963, that Agency headquarters cabled its station in Mexico City inquiring as to whether the original tapes were available. David Phillips recalls that this inquiry precipitated CIA station's search for the tapes which confirmed the fact that they had been erased. Agency headquarters was so informed on November 24, 1963.

Neither Gordon Shanklin nor Elbert Rudd [the Special Agent then assigned to Legat, Mexico, who personally delivered the alleged Oswald photograph to Dallas on November 22, 1963] recall ever having been aware of a tape recording (alleged or otherwise)