A. Records Related to Lee Harvey Oswald

1. Pre-assassination records

b. FBI. The FBI opened its file on Lee Harvey Oswald in October of 1959 when press reports returned from Moscow that Oswald, a twenty year old former Marine had renounced his U.S. citizenship and had applied for Soviet citizenship. Over the subsequent four years, the Bureau filed approximately fifty documents from several government agencies in its Headquarters file on Oswald (105-82555). These reports covered such topics as Oswald's whereabouts (he was supposed to arrive at the Albert Schweitzer College in Lausaunne, Switzerland in April of 1960), his mother's efforts to send him money, and his efforts to return to the U.S. with his wife and daughter in the spring of 1962. Upon his return to the U.S. in July of 1962, the Bureau interviewed Oswald. And they continued to follow the movements of the Oswalds through the fall of 1962 and through 1963 as they lived in Texas and Louisiana. At some point after the Oswalds returned from the Soviet Union, the FBI became more interested in Lee Harvey Oswald's wife Marina than they were in him. Marina Oswald, in the Bureau's estimation, presented a greater security risk than did Lee Oswald. In the summer and fall of 1963, as Lee Harvey Oswald's political and travel activity increased, he became a primary investigative target of the FBI Despite this investigative interest, Lee Harvey Oswald never represented such threat to the security of the U.S. that the FBI would have detained him in the event of a national emergency, or notified the Secret Service of his presence in Dallas as they prepared for President Kennedy's trip to Texas in November of 1963.

Although all of the documents in Oswald's file prior to the assassination were processed under the JFK Act by the FBI, the Review Board made several requests to the FBI to determine whether there were additional pre-assassination records in FBI records on Lee Harvey Oswald.

In its review of the pre-assassination records on Lee Harvey Oswald, the Review Board staff found documents cross-referenced from files captioned "Funds Transmitted to Residents of Russia" and "Russian Funds." The Review Board requested access to files with these case captions from the Dallas and New York Field offices, and Headquarters during the years 1959 through 1964. The Review Board staff identified [how many?] documents for processing under the JFK Act. All of these new assassination records cited Marguerite Oswald's attempts to send money to her Lee Harvey Oswald while he was in the Soviet Union.

The Review Board also received a request from a researcher to determine whether there was a Mexico City file opened on a "Harvey Lee Oswald" under the file number 105-2137. The Mexico City Legat file on Lee Harvey Oswald (105-3702) was opened on October 16, 1963 following Oswald's visit to Mexico City in September of 1963. On some of the documents in the Mexico City file, documents are routed to a file numbered 105-2137, and captioned "Harvey Lee Oswald." It is the conjecture of a researcher that this file would have been opened earlier than the Lee Harvey Oswald file, 105-3702, and might lead to documents which would give a broader understanding of Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board asked the FBI to search for 105-2137 in its Mexico City Legat files. The FBI found no records under this file number in its Mexico City files.

e. Legat administrative files. The FBI keeps files on the administration of its and Legal Attache (Legat) offices. These files are set up to document the administrative communications between the Legat and headquarters with memoranda concerning personnel, real estate, supplies, construction, and to a lesser extent relations between the FBI Legat and representatives of other government agencies abroad. It is under this last category that the Review Board expected to find records related to President Kennedy's assassination or the pre-assassination travels of Lee Harvey Oswald. The Review Board asked the FBI for access to its Legat administrative files for Mexico City, Mexico, London, England, Bern, Switzerland, and Paris, France during the periods of 1960 through 1965 and 1977 through 1979. The Review Board did not find any assassination records in the London, Bern or Paris files, or in the Mexico City file for the period of 1977 through 1979. The Review Board did designate approximately thirty documents from the Mexico City Legat Administrative file concerned with staffing resources in the Mexico City office before and after the assassination of President Kennedy.

D. Records of Senior Agency Officials

2. FBI The Review Board attempted to determine whether the FBI retained any sets of "office" files or "soft" files of its top officials during the years surrounding the assassination. Over the years there has been endless speculation regarding the alleged secret files of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. It is

well-documented that following Hoover's death, many of his "Personal and Confidential" files were destroyed by his longtime secretary Helen Gandy. The real volume and content of the Personal files will never be known. Ultimately, 15,951 pages of Hoover's "Official and Confidential" were processed under the Freedom of Information Act by the FBI But speculation remains that these were only a part of Hoover's secret files. The Review Board asked the FBI for access several sets of records to determine whether there were office files of high-level FBI officials that would shed new light on the Bureau's activities before and after President Kennedy's assassination.

a. Hoover and Tolson Records, including "Official and Confidential" files, chronological files, and phone logs. The Review Board sought to ascertain whether FBI Director Hoover and Associate Director Clyde Tolson kept any separate records on President Kennedy's assassination within their own personal or working files, including within the famous "Official and Confidential" (O&C) files maintained by Hoover. Within the O&C files, the Review Board designated as assassination records the two O&C files on John Kennedy, the O&C file relating to Secret Service-FBI agreements on Presidential protection, a memorandum regarding Hoover's conversation with Lyndon Johnson about the assassination (from the Johnson O&C file), and several other documents from the O&C files. Since Hoover's telephone logs are publicly available in the FBI's reading room, the Review Board saw no need to designate those as assassination records. Finally, Hoover maintained various subject files (apart from the O&C files), including materials on the assassination. The Review Board asked the FBI to locate these materials, but the FBI (so far) has been unsuccessful. *See* January 8, 1998 Review Board Staff Memorandum regarding Assassination Records Among the Files of J. Edgar Hoover.

The Review Board also reviewed the Tolson files, which consisted soley of original memoranda from Director Hoover. Unfortunately, the chron file started with January 1965, and the FBI could not account for any 1963-64 files that Tolson may have maintained. Several documents were identified as assassination records. *See* February 12, 1998 Review Board Staff Memorandum regarding Review of Clyde Tolson Files.

b. Miscellaneous administrative files from the Director's Office. The Review Board staff's review of the Hoover and Tolson indices cited above led to a request for access to miscellaneous administrative files from the Director's Office. These included the following case captions: Assistant Director's Office

Administrative File; the Attorney General; Attorney General's Briefing; Criminal Division of the Department of Justice; Director's Office Administrative File; Executive Conference; National Security Council; Office Memoranda; Protection of the Attorney General; Threats Against the Attorney General; and the White House. The Review Board staff found most of the documents in these files to be not relevant, but the Review Board designated a small number of documents from these files as assassination records. These newly designated assassination records are primarily concerned with information on organized crime that the F.B.I was reporting to the Department of Justice.

c. John P. Mohr Records John P. Mohr was the Assistant Director for Administration of the FBI when he retired in 1972. Mr. Mohr was the Executor of the estate of Associate Director Clyde Tolson, who had inherited the bulk of Mr. Hoover's estate. It has been alleged that Mr. Mohr was responsible for purging the personal files of J. Edgar Hoover upon Hoover's death in 1972. When Mr. Mohr died in February of 1997, the Review Board issued a subpeona to his estate to determine whether Mr. Mohr retained any records related to President Kennedy's assassination or to the FBI's investigation of President Kennedy's assassination. The Review Board staff inspected records produced by the estate. These records included three files of Mr. Mohr's personal correspondence, a set of the Warren Commission volumes, and the FBI's initial bound reports on President Kennedy's assassination. The Review Board staff found no new assassination records, and determined that Mr. Mohr's estate need not turn any records over to the Review Board for inclusion in the J.F.K. Collection.

E. Pro and Anti-Castor Cuban Matters

4. Cuban Intelligence Activities in the U.S.; Cuban Situation

During its review of the FBI's assassination records, the Review Board staff noted file references to cases captioned "Cuban Intelligence Activities in the U.S." and "Cuban Situation." The Review Board requested access to Headquarters, Miami, Tampa, New York, Washington, D.C. and Dallas files under these captions, and designated forty new assassination records in response to this request. Most of these records concern activity in the anti-Castro community following the Bay of Pigs invasion and following President Kennedy's assassination.

6. Threats Against the Life of Fidel Castro

b. FBI file captioned "Threats Against the Life of Fidel Castro" A House Select Committee on Assassinations Outside Contact Report dated February 18, 1978 requested access to an FBIfile captioned "Threats Against the Life of Fidel Castro" or some similar caption. The H.S.C.A. never made a formal request for such a file, and there was no file under such a caption provided to the committee. The Review Board requested access to any Headquarters files with this or a similar caption. The FBI provided two records with a reference to "Threats Against the Life of Fidel Castro." These documents summarized radio broadcasts of Walter Winchell, and contrasted these broadcasts with information that the FBI had on the issue of threats against Castro. The Review Board designated both of these records for processing under the JFK Act.

G. Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko

2. FBI Records. LAURA & KEVIN] We did not ask for any additional Nosenko records from the FBI.

N. Miscellaneous (By Agency)

2. FBI [Laura and Kevin -- Brief Overview (Laura, should this overview be a description of our strategy of additional requests? Shouldn't that be at the very beginning of this chapter?)]

*b. Liaison with other Federal Agencies.*In his Warren Commission testimony, Secret Service agent Rowley commented that, had Federal agencies shared their information relating to Lee Harvey Oswald, the Government could have compiled a list of at least 18 items that would have alerted the Secret Service that Oswald was a threat to the President. In light of the allegations that Federal agencies neglected to adequately share law enforcement information, the Review Board staff members believed that 1960s era information relating to liaison between Federal government agencies on law enforcement matters generally and matters affecting Presidential protection specifically would be relevant for purposes of the JFK Collection.

i. Secret Service/Protection of the President The Review Board requested access to the FBI's files captioned "Liaison with the Secret

Service"and "Presidential Protection". Both of these files had been available in the FBI's FOIA reading room in a heavily redacted form. The FBI's file on Presidential Protection does not begin until 1964, and the Review Board designated all documents from 1964 in this file to be processed under the JFK Act. The Review Board designated twenty-seven documents in the Presidential Protection file from the post-1964 period for processing under the JFK Act. And the Review Board also designated the entire file on the Dillon Commission for processing under the JFK Act.

iii. CIA The HSCA staff requested access and reviewed portions of the FBI's liaison file with the CIA. Many of these records were duplicates drawn from the FBI's investigative file on Oswald, President Kennedy's assassination, and the liaison file with the Warren Commission. The Review Board requested access to sections of the FBI/CIA liaison file covering the period of 1957 through 1969 to conduct an additional search for assassination records. The Review Board designated all documents for the years 1963 and 1964 as well as sixy-seven documents from the period before and after 1963 and 1964 for processing as assassination records. These documents cover a wide variety of topics related to the assassination and how the FBI and the CIA shared information when their interests overlapped.

iv. NSA

v. Customs The Review Board staff's review of the FBI's liaison file with the Customs Service identified no additional assassination records.

vi. ATF The Review Board staff's review of the FBI's liaison file with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms identified no additional assassination records.

vii. ONI