

August 24, 1996

Assassination Records Review Board Documents Highlights

I am including information on interesting documents that the Board has released to date:

1. The Oswald "intercept" document

The Review Board provided substitute language in the Final Determination Notification that accompanies this document, while protecting the actual text of the relevant paragraph. I included an A.P. story, excerpts from the House Select Committee of Assassinations Final Report and a staff report. The Select Committee documents explain the controversy surrounding the tape of Oswald in Mexico City. We continue to pursue whether or not a tape existed after the assassination and still exists today.

2. Document on "Fixer...Between Dallas Police and Criminal Element"

This group of documents, released in October 1995, includes an FBI memo on an informant who had obtained information on the Ruby shooting of Oswald. The Board opened up parts of the memo about the source of the information that had previously been redacted. Bracketed words are newly released.

There are other documents in this group that reveal that an associate of Jack Ruby's was an FBI informant and others that demonstrate the depth to which the FBI had infiltrated the Communist Party USA.

I also included information on the different conclusions of the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee on Jack Ruby. In light of what the informant told the FBI in the above mentioned document, I thought this was interesting for background.

3. Echevarria, Chicago Anti-Castro Cuban

Echevarria was of great interest to the Secret Service after the assassination. The FBI did not pursue him. The House Select Committee on Assassinations agreed with the Secret Service that he should have been investigated. The wire stories, the document, and excerpts from the House Select Committee report are included in these materials. Bracketed words in the document are newly released.

4. The FBI/Swiss Documents

These are five documents that the FBI originally fought us on. Eventually, we got them released after the Swiss government agreed with us. I have included "before and after" versions of these documents. They have been of great interest to historians, authors and researchers because they were heavily redacted and preceded the assassination by three years. I have included the Hoover memo (which was released before we were in business) that began the FBI's search for where Oswald

was and whether or not “an imposter was using Oswald’s birth certificate.”

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5. The “Lost JFK Film”

I have included two news clips on the film that we recovered a few weeks ago. This is a good example of our efforts to supplement the existing historical record of the assassination with records or films that are in private hands. In addition, I have included the May 3, 1996 Dallas Morning News article that led directly to us acquiring the film. In the article, Judge Tunheim made a point of saying that the Board was interested in photos and films in private hands. Janet Veazey, of Dallas, saw the article and the Judge’s comments, and donated this important film

6. Castro and “Solo”

I have included an excerpt from one of “Solo” documents that were released last year by the FBI and a couple of news clips that will explain the documents. Although the FBI released these documents on its own, and they did not require Board Review, the Board encouraged the FBI to release the documents.

7. Mark Lane Documents

Several documents released in full earlier this summer chronicle the Bureau’s monitoring of Mark Lane’s public activities through a network of informants throughout the country.

8. FBI Appeals

Starting with the Review Board March meeting, the FBI has appeal the Board’s votes to release information in documents on “intelligence sources and methods grounds. I have included past notices and a chart showing the appeals from all of the Board meetings (March, April, May, June, and July).

Please note that there are several items in the information packet that you already received on our dispute with New Orleans District Attorney Harry Connick. This matter is now in court and has been our biggest problem to date related to the acquisition of records.

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ARRB DISPUTE WITH NEW ORLEANS
D.A. CONNICK OVER GARRISON RECORDS