ASSASSINATION RECORDS RELEASE ADVISORY

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DOCUMENTS FROM MARCH 19TH MEETING SENT TO NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Introduction

The Assassination Records Review Board has released to the National Archives 362 CIA, FBI and House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) documents relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Review Board voted to release these documents on March 19, 1996.

CIA Records

The Review Board released 205 CIA documents, 24 in full and 181 in part. (The total number of CIA documents voted on by the Board was incorrectly reported to be 135 in an advisory dated April 23, 1996.)

The CIA documents being released relate primarily to the CIA's international investigation to find out anything it could about Oswald, or persons and events allegedly having something to do with him, during the days and weeks following the assassination. The Board voted that some information relating to intelligence sources and methods and true names should not be released at this time.

Nine of these documents were reconsidered at subsequent Board meetings after the CIA provided additional information to support postponements. The number of postponements changed from the original notice in the Federal Register.

After the Board's March 19th meeting, the CIA opened in full three documents that originally contained postponements.

Two documents from this meeting were incorrectly noticed in the Federal Register. The correct information is now reflected in the Record Information Forms that accompany the documents.

FBI Records

Other Board action included the release of 154 FBI documents, 27 in full and 103 in part. The FBI documents from this meeting relate in part to the Bureau's investigation of the incident involving Sylvia Odio in the fall of 1963, before the assassination. Other documents detail the FBI's post-assassination investigation of Jack Ruby. The Board voted that informant names and symbol numbers should not be released at this time. This total includes 24 documents originally voted on by the Board at the January 31st meeting, but reconsidered at the March 19th meeting.

The FBI has appealed to the President the Board's decisions to release information contained in 37 of these documents (including duplicates). Under the Board's determinations seven of these documents would have been available immediately, with certain symbol numbers redacted. The other 30 documents involved in the appeal would have been available on August 1, 1996. The appeal is pending.

The Board voted to release 9 other documents on August 1, 1996. The FBI did not appeal the determinations on these documents.

HSCA Records

The Board also released three HSCA documents, two in full and one in part. Included in this group are documents that relate to Secret Service protection of the President. The Board rescinded its determination on three other Secret Service documents from the HSCA files to give the Secret Service 60 days (until June 24, 1996) to provide evidence to support their proposed postponements.

Other Records Being Released

Based on the standards of release established by the Review Board during its earlier review of records, 71 HSCA records have been released in full. Many of the records are organized crime-related documents obtained by the HSCA from the Metro-Dade County Police Department.

Original Documents At National Archives

The original CIA, FBI, and HSCA documents being released have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection, which is housed at the National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland.