

ASSASSINATION RECORDS ADVISORY

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ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD RELEASES SCELSO TESTIMONY; CIA, FBI, AND HSCA RECORDS SENT TO ARCHIVES

The Assassination Records Review Board released to the National Archives the testimony of John Scelso, which he provided to the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), as well as 439 additional CIA, FBI, and HSCA documents (including duplicates) related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Board voted to release these documents on June 4, 1996.

Scelso Testimony

The 193 paged document is a transcript of the once-secret testimony of John Scelso (an alias), a former CIA official who was responsible, for a brief period, for the CIA's investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

CIA Records

The Review Board released 228 CIA records, 4 in full and 224 in part. Included in these documents is the "Mexico City Chronology", a 133-paged summary of CIA communications related to Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City in the fall of 1963. Other documents relate to Oswald's stay in the Soviet Union, and former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation into the assassination. The redacted information includes, for the most part, names of CIA employees and sensitive operational details.

FBI Records

The Board also released 205 FBI records, 49 in full and 156 in part. Following the June Review Board meeting, the FBI agreed to release in full 12 documents from this group that were originally postponed in part. These documents consist in large part of post-assassination FBI headquarters and field office files on Oswald. The redacted information contains informant symbol names and numbers.

HSCA Documents

The Board released 6 HSCA documents, 3 in full and 3 in part. Included in this group of documents are: a United States Customs Service document from the Metro-Dade Police files, which was acquired by the HSCA, concerning an organized crime meeting

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in Miami; multiple-year tax returns for Eileen Kaminsky (Jack Ruby's sister); a Department of Defense document that includes a fact sheet on the 112th Intelligence Corps, and a fact sheet on the destruction of Oswald's IRR dossier.

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.

Secret Service Records

As part of the mandate of the Review Board to identify assassination records, the Board designated additional Secret Service records as "assassination records." These records include Secret Service correspondence with members of the Warren Commission in 1964, and the document "Briefing Book: Director's Appearance Before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, December 1978." The Board will now review these documents for inclusion in the JFK Assassination Records Collection.

Other Board-Related Activities

The FBI has appealed to the President the Board's decisions to release information contained in 9 documents (including duplicates) from the June 4, 1996 meeting. The information contained in the redacted portions of these documents has to do with foreign counterintelligence issues.

After consultation with the FBI and in compliance with the JFK Act, 82 FBI documents will be available by consent release. Another recent group of FBI consent releases contains a December 1, 1966 document in which a KGB source is quoted as stating that at one time the Soviets believed Lyndon B. Johnson may have been responsible for the assassination. *Copies of this document are available upon request at the Review Board offices.*

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