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Memo to Jeremy Gunn

From: Eric Scheinkopf

Date: January 26, 1995

Documents from CIA file on Lee Harvey Oswald held before the assassination of President Kennedy

In March 1964, the Central Intelligence Agency forwarded to J. Lee Rankin of the Warren Commission information they said was in its possession prior to November 22, 1963.   There were 30 documents in the Oswald Dossier forwarded to the Warren Commission.   I will mark all the documents as coming either from the CIA file I copied from NARA or the ones in the ONI file that I copied from Gene Burpoe.   Michelle also copied documents that were in another pre-assassination file box and a cursory glance shows that this box with a few small exceptions is identical to the box which I copied. I have also enclosed the Memo to Rankin.

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The number of CIA documents in the Oswald Dossier that was forwarded to the Warren Commission is small.   There is a letter from the Deputy Director, Plans in response to a letter from the Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the State Department for information on "American defectors" to the Soviet bloc, the internal CIA request for the opening of the Oswald 201 file, dated December 9, 1960, an internal CIA memo of September 28, 1961 that notes Marina Oswald's request for a visa to go to the United States, and an I & NS Name Check Request from the CIA on Oswald that was headed Attention: Deputy Director, Plans, dated December 5, 1961.

Another possible CIA originated document is a request, dated 11/2/59, saying a Mr.   Papich would like information concerning a recently defected ex-Marine in the USSR, a reply two days later noted that we had no information on the subject.   I do not know if any of the offices involved in this exchange were CIA ones.

Michelle also found for me, in another box we examined in College Park on the pre-assassination files, the CIA Summary Report on Oswald's activities in Mexico City. This document is dated January 31, 1964. In this report, the CIA notes that their file on Oswald was opened on December 9, 1960 to accommodate biographic information the CIA developed in response to an inquiry from the State Department on a list of American defectors in the Soviet Bloc. Oswald's name was among those on the list. The CIA also notes that until early October, 1963 the contents of the Oswald file held by them consisted entirely of press materials and disseminations received from State, the FBI and the Navy Department.

One document which I did not find at the Archives at all was an internal CIA biographical profile of Mr. Oswald dated around May 1960. However, I did find 6 CIA documents at the end of the file that dealt with Mr. Oswald's trip to Mexico City.

Another document that was not in the file which I copied at NARA was a Navy Message 20197/R/3 from March 1962. However, Gene had a copy which I have included in the file and will mark as coming from the ONI file.

I thought it prudent to compare the files sent from the FBI on internal surveillance to the ones that were in the ONI file.

An FBI report from John W. Fain of the Dallas Office, dated May 12, 1960 was in both the ONI and the CIA files. It concerned interviews with Oswald's brother Robert and his mother, Marguerite. The report also discussed the money Mrs. Oswald sent to her son in the USSR. The reports are identical except for the cover sheet. The file that was sent to the CIA was sent by Director Hoover to the Deputy Director, Plans on May 25,

1960.   The number in the CIA Memo to Rankin was DBF 49478.

There was one report sent to the Deputy Director, Plans from the FBI on July 13, 1961 that was not in the ONI file.   The copy of the file, DFB 82181, was a poor copy and in many parts illegible.   I believe that some of the early pages do not flow together, I am not sure about the order, and one page may be missing.   It is a Fain memo dated 7/3/61.   The number in the CIA Memo to Rankin was DFB 82181.

Another FBI report from John Fain of the Dallas Office, dated 8/30/62 was in both the ONI and CIA files.   It   was sent over to the Deputy Director, Plans at CIA on September 7, 1962.   The file matches up the same from both the ONI and CIA sources.   The file dealt with an FBI interview of Mr. Oswald.   Oswald was interviewed about the contact he made with the Soviet Embassy which he says was to notify them of his wife's current address.   The interview also dealt with his time in the Soviet Union.   The number in the CIA Memo to Rankin was DBA 20883.

One FBI report in both the ONI and CIA files was not totally identical.   The report from the CIA files did not have a cover page saying when it was sent over from the CIA, did not have a title page and did not have an appendix that discussed the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Otherwise, the text was identical.   The report was written by James Hasty of the Dallas office on 9/10/63.   The number in the CIA Memo to Rankin was DBA 51407.

Another document in both the ONI and CIA files was a letterhead memorandum from the FBI dated 9/24/63 at New Orleans.   It was sent to the CIA on November 8,1963.   It dealt with the passing out of leaflets by Oswald on August 9 and his claim that he was doing so as a member of the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee."   There is no author's name on the

memorandum.   The number in the CIA Memo to Rankin was DBA 52355.

One FBI report that was in the CIA and ONI files was sent to the CIA on November 7, 1963.   Written by Special Agent Milton R. Kaack on October 31, 1963 from the New Orleans office, it concerned Oswald's activities on behalf of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.   The number on the CIA Memo to Rankin was DBA 55715.

Another report from the New Orleans office that was in the CIA but not the ONI file was written by Special Agent Warren C. De Brueys on October 25, 1963.   There is no date on the file as to when it was sent to the CIA although it likely was November 8, 1963-the date indicated in the memorandum to J. Lee Rankin.   The number on the CIA Memo to Rankin was DBA 55777.

FILE NAME (agency.gen)