

TO: Jeremy Gunn
FROM: Eric Scheinkopf
RE: State Department and USIA NARA Files
18 Boxes Post ARCA, 9 Pre ARCA
1 USIA Box
FILE No. 4.1.5

SUMMARY

There were 27 boxes of materials from the State Department at NARA and one box of USIA material.

Nine of the State Department boxes were there from before the passage of ARCA and the State Department sent someone over to ARCA to review them. The other 18 boxes contain material assembled after the ARCA. There are boxes containing files from INR, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, correspondence from the Moscow Embassy, etc. While I did not find redacted documents there were several cases of RIFs without documents which would state that the document was unclassified and postponed or classified and postponed. There would be a comment saying refer to another agency- CIA, FBI or Navy for example. Oftentimes, I would also find papers with the title "Withheld documents database" with lot numbers on them saying current status "R." The lot numbers are for files that were pre-ARCA.

One unlabeled State Department box, post-ARCA, which has material in it that could be released after checking with other agencies, had FBI reports from 1964 that dealt with, for example, investigations of the FPCC, or the tracking down of people who were on the bus with Oswald. I also saw a copy of the 7/3/61 Fain report on Oswald which was done after Oswald expressed an interest in returning to the US. In addition, there was information on the Garrison investigation that was sent to INR, and there were also files on Mark Lane's travels. One document repeated in Box 16 from the post-ARCA era was a Mann cable to Rusk and Alexis Johnson with his thoughts on Oswald.

Some other documents in this box dealt with the FBI's investigation in Mexico City after the assassination. There are also documents dealing with other assassination plots, including some that mention Oswald. There was also one document that mentioned an offer from the Belarussian KGB to provide access to some of Oswald's records (10/20/92). Most files in this unlabeled State Department box were FBI documents.

While one might find the occasional valuable document in these boxes, I do not believe that an additional search of these boxes is needed unless there is a specific document that needs to be followed up on. However, these files are a good reference tool and give you worthwhile background information. It is important to note that many of the documents are found several times in these boxes.

Pre-ARCA boxes

The 9 boxes that exist pre-assassination contain worthwhile background material. There is a State Department report on Oswald that contains a listing of the contacts Oswald had with the Department of State (the page with procedures for renouncing his citizenship had classified information on it), the issuing of a visa for Marina and his receiving a repatriation loan. Some of the pre-assassination FBI reports on Oswald such as the Fain, Kaack and De Brueys reports are in the files.

Many documents discussed the visa and passport procedures and the "look out card procedures" to observe on issuing documents. The documents reveal that the State Department was questioned and criticized about letting Oswald back into the United States.

Post-ARCA Boxes

There are 17 post ARCA boxes at NARA from the Department of State. Many were easy to look through as several dealt with the Kennedy funeral such as arrangements to attend and condolences from many world leaders.

Many boxes contained correspondence regarding Oswald's time in the USSR and his efforts to return home. In Box 2 there was a passport defector history memo, which dealt with the travels of defectors after they returned to the United States, from May 20, 1964. Box 6 contained a document that had a possible identification of Oswald at a Mexico City party. Box 14 contained a document with comments from a US official named Stoessel as to why Oswald did not receive Soviet citizenship-the Soviet authorities saw him as unstable. This same box also contained a translation of Oswald's Mexican tourist visa and in Spanish the statement made by Sylvia Duran in the presence of a Mexican policeman named Goutierrez. Box 16 contained a message from Ambassador Mann in Mexico City to Rush and U. Alexis Johnson regarding his thoughts on Oswald. In another box, there were some documents on Oswald's military service such as his letter to Navy Secretary Connolly and some other discharge correspondence. This same box had references to State Department telegrams to Mexico City on 11/30/63 concerning a person named Alvarado.

USIA documents

There is no worthwhile information in the USIA box. While references to the USIA also appear in the State Department boxes these documents are not important. This is one agency to which much attention does not need to be paid.

FILE NAME (dosnara.wpd)