

MEMORANDUM

September 23, 1998

To: Laura Denk, Executive Director

cc: Michelle Combs, Associate Director for Research and Analysis
Bob Skwirot, CIA Team Leader

From: Irene Marr, Senior Analyst

Subject: Review of CIA 1964 IG Report

Introduction

The Review Board staff reviewed the CIA Inspector General's Survey Report for 1964, part of which dealt with the Mexico City Station, to determine whether it contained information related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board requested access to this document because it dealt with Mexico City surveillance operations during the time of Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to that city in the fall of 1963. Because most of this report falls outside the scope of the Review Board's mandate, and contains information on sensitive intelligence operations, CIA opposes the full release of this document. There are, however, certain sections of the report that make reference to the assassination as well as enhance the understanding of the scope of CIA technical surveillance during the 1963-64 time-frame. In compliance with the JFK Act, the Review Board has requested CIA to open only those particular sections that it has determined to be relevant to the assassination.

Overall Assessment

The 1964 IG Report was devoted to describing and assessing the value of various CIA operations, including technical and operational details, the majority of which concerned the Mexico City Station. While most of this document contains material not believed relevant (NBR) to the assassination, there were sections covering Mexico City surveillance operations, references to the

Warren Commission, and to the station's contribution to collecting information on some of Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City. There was also a section that referred to Mexico City's registry and Chief of Station files which station personnel used to retrieve information on Oswald after the assassination. Several sections on Cuban and Soviet operations are also considered relevant because of Lee Harvey Oswald's reputed visits to those embassies. The Review Board determined that, for the most part, these pertinent sections contain much of the same information has already been opened in other documents released by the Board. However, the fact that the IG report made a point of mentioning the station's role in gathering intelligence on Oswald, presumably to demonstrate the value of the station, is certainly of interest. The Staff will negotiate with CIA staff to have the pertinent sections of the document processed in accordance with the JFK Act.

Summary of NBR Sections of the Report:

The report provided a comprehensive survey of CIA operations and activities in the early 1960's, most of which dealt with the Mexico City station. Based on their familiarity with other records on this subject matter, the staff determined that these sections did not contain information relevant to the events of the assassination. The main subjects of the report are as follows: a general history of the station and U.S.-Mexico relations; description and objectives of technical operations; operations against Cuban and Soviet targets; anti-communist activities; operations in other locations; future operations, administrative details; an assessment of the station's intelligence value; and a section on quality of life issues.

Summary of AR sections of the IG Report which should be processed:

In addition to the references to Lee Harvey Oswald, the Kennedy assassination and the Warren Commission, the IG report also contains certain operational details that are relevant to understanding some of the events surrounding the assassination. The sections that the Review Board designated for release are summarized as follows:

- *Cuban Operations.* Discussion of transit visas: p. 2, para. #6; type of surveillance that was or wasn't in place at the time of Oswald's visit.p. 3, para. #9; reference to JMWAVE station and Cuban activities p. 4, para.#11.
- *Soviet Operations.* References to assassination of President Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald and the Warren Commission with additional technical information that has already been

released: p. 8, para. #19; p. 9, para. #20; p. 10, para. # 23; and p. 11, para. 24.

- Technical Operations. Describes types of technical surveillance targetting the Soviet Embassy and mentions which project had provided data on Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to Mexico City: p. 16, para #42-43.
- *Other.* Reference to COS files and Station registry that was used to search for information on Lee Harvey Oswald after the assassination: p. 22, para #58; and p. 24, para #61.