

MEMORANDUM

To: File
cc: David G. Marwell
From: T. Jeremy Gunn
Date: March 28, 1995
Re: Interview with Russell Holmes

Russell Holmes came to the office today to drop off a resume and to inquire about obtaining a position with the Review Board. When I heard he was in the office, I went out to see him and we spent approximately 30-45 minutes talking. We discussed no details of his receiving any position with the Board. We had a short but interesting discussion about some of CIA's records and we agreed that we should talk again in more detail in the future.

Mr. Holmes was, as I understand it, the person at CIA responsible for managing JFK assassination records during the HSCA investigation and for responding to subsequent FOIA requests. (This does not appear on his résumé.) Some of the HSCA-era documents that now appear in the files were created by him.

Mr. Holmes made it implicitly clear that he accepts CIA's version of events and that he believes the records reveal no hidden mysteries. He acknowledged, however, that there are many things in the records that cannot be explained. He admitted that the Office of Security (OS) had a pre-assassination file on Oswald, but he could not explain why it did. (It may be significant that OS had such a file.) Holmes believed that the

existence of an OS file could not be attributed to any secrets in Oswald's possession regarding the U-2.

Holmes also acknowledged that there was a pre-assassination "soft file" on Oswald at CI/SIG as well as a separate HTLINGUAL file. He confidently stated that Angleton did not have a "parallel" 201 file on Oswald in Angleton's "inner-vault." He said that there was not more on Oswald because the latter was "small potatoes." If he was small potatoes, I asked, why was there interest in his file up and down the CI and SR staffs (I showed him the routing slips). He could not explain it.

I showed him a document that refers to a Mexico City Cuban Embassy operation conducted by CIA and asked him why it was in the Oswald 201 file. He said it was because it referred to Calderon and Cuba. I asked why it was in the 201 before the assassination? He said it wasn't. I then showed him a document that he himself had prepared identifying that document as being in the pre-assassination file. Instead of saying that there was a typo or another mistake, he simply smiled (knowingly) and said he couldn't explain it.

The conversation was very cordial and I hope to renew it in the near future.