

Part of the mystery surrounding Oswald's defection and redefection is the question of whether the CIA's Office of Operations (later the Domestic Contacts Division) interviewed Oswald upon his return from the Soviet Union. The available evidence is contradictory. A November 25, 1963 memorandum which discusses the recollections of a CIA staff officer that the Agency considered interviewing Oswald could not be corroborated with additional information.

In an effort to clarify the mystery, the Review Board searched for records which might confirm or deny any contact between Oswald and the CIA before or after his time in the Soviet Union. In 1963, the Office of Operations (OO) was a part of the Directorate of Intelligence. This office, which interviews American citizens who might have come into contact with information or individuals of intelligence interest overseas, later became the Domestic Contacts Division (DCD) of the Directorate of Operations. The Review Board staff examined OO records and operational histories to gain an understanding of OO practices in the early 1960's. The Review Board staff could find no evidence of contact between Oswald and OO either before or after his time in the Soviet Union. While OO was interested in interviewing tourists to the Soviet Union for general information in the 1950's, by 1962 only travelers with special access, knowledge, or skills were of intelligence interest. OO had no specific policy covering contacts with returning defectors although a local field office could initiate a contact if justified by a particular situation. No records or reporting showing any OO contact with Oswald could be located.

While a DCD "A" file does exist in the CIA's sequestered collection, most of the documents in the file are from the mid-1970's, none pre-date the assassination, and the file appears to have been created as DCD personnel were attempting to locate any evidence of contacts with Oswald in response to various congressional investigative bodies. This file has been processed for release to the National Archives.