

# MEMORANDUM

July 17, 1998

To: Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

From: Michelle Combs  
Associate Director for Research and Review

Subject: CIA-IR-29 Oswald LeWinter

In 1997, the Review Board received a query from a researcher as to whether one Oswald LeWinter of Manheim, California had any tie, current or past, with the CIA. According to the researcher, David Mantik had met Oswald LeWinter in California. At that time, Mr. LeWinter claimed to be the current Deputy Director of Counterespionage for the Central Intelligence Agency with information on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Review Board staff examined the records of the CIA and the FBI on Mr. LeWinter. All the evidence located by the Review Board staff indicates that Mr. LeWinter is a well-known fabricator with an interest in intelligence and law enforcement activities who frequently appears with various claims in connection with sensational or unusual news events. LeWinter has publicly claimed knowledge of the negotiations to release the American Embassy hostages in Iran in 1980, the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and most recently the death of Princess Diana. None of Mr. LeWinter's various claims have been substantiated by evidence. His career and background vary from media interview to media interview with few consistencies.

There is no indication in the records that Oswald LeWinter has ever been employed by or worked for the CIA in any capacity. Further, there is not, and never has been, a CIA title or position equivalent to an "Assistant or Deputy Director of Counterespionage."