

Outline of Report to Board, October 23, 1995

To date, CIA team has spent an enormous amount of time and energy on identifying and resolving some of the most basic--and difficult--issues in the collection. This initial effort, we expect, will prove rewarding as we move into a more rapid review of records.

We have focused primarily on one important area of the Oswald story, the Mexico City portion, and gotten to know it thoroughly. This has enabled us to isolate some of the fundamental issues, not only in the Mexico City documents but throughout the collection.

As a result of our work on this portion of the collection, we have been able to release:

- acknowledgment, both in general and in detail, of CIA's surveillance activities against the Soviet and Cuban targets in Mexico City.
- a large body of cryptonyms related to this surveillance effort.
- pseudonyms for CIA officers, both at Headquarters and in the field.
- some true names of Agency officers at Headquarters and in Mexico City important to the Oswald story (the issue of true names will be addressed further in December)
- a number of cryptonyms for CIA agents, assets, or sources.
- cryptonyms for US government entities (such as the State Department and FBI) and specific offices within CIA itself.
- numbers and cryptonyms that reveal internal CIA operating procedures for handling and directing records. Including:
 - cable, dispatch, and field report prefixes for Mexico City and surrounding areas (as well as their numbers, where not already released)
 - file numbers for Mexico City files
 - sluglines (containing action indicators)

This process of release, begun with the Mexico City part of the story, is continuing elsewhere. For example, as we begin to review Cuba-related documents, we are preparing to release a large body of operational and agent cryptonyms related to the Cuban target.

A few important issues are still outstanding. As I've already mentioned, you'll have the opportunity to address the subject of true names further in December. And the very important issue of CIA presence abroad is still under consideration.

But, overall, although there remains a large number of records to review, we have some of the basic issues resolved and anticipate that we'll be able to move ahead through the review process at an ever-increasing pace.

Already, we're starting to put large numbers of documents on a consent agenda for rapid Board consideration, where staff recommends release-in-full.

Also, David's and Chet's good work in putting our review process on computer will help speed up the process.

Today, the Board will be able to begin its review of the so-called Lopez Report on Oswald in Mexico City. Although we will not be able to complete the review until after questions related to CIA officer true-names is considered in December, we hope that significant portions of the document can be released prior to that time.

ARRB's CIA team (five, plus myself) is a hard-working group, dedicated to openness, and we expect very soon to see major quantitative as well as qualitative results from our efforts.