

## MEMORANDUM

April 23, 1997

To: State Department File

From: Ronald G. Haron

Subject: State Department Records in the JFK Collection

On March 10, 1997, I reviewed the Department of State ("DOS") records contained in the JFK Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives & Records Administration ("NARA"). This memorandum sets forth my description of these records,<sup>1</sup> as follows:

1. Lee Harvey Oswald Lot File No. 69 D 186.<sup>2</sup>

This Lot File contained files from the Office of Security and Consular Affairs ("SCA"). These are mostly post-assassination records relating to the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination, and relating to the Department of State's work in assisting the Commission. Set forth is a list of the file folders within this Lot file and some comments regarding particular files:

--Oswald File IX. This contained Nov. 26, 1963 correspondence from Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., U.S. Embassy in Moscow, to John C. Guthrie, Esq., Director, Office of Soviet Affairs, DOS,

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<sup>1</sup> This is not an official inventory of all State Department records in the JFK Collection, but rather my description of certain record groups as best as I could ascertain them during one day's review. Attachment A hereto is a 1994 State Department description of the records it collected for the JFK Act. Attachment B hereto is an index entitled, "Department of State -- Kennedy Assassination Records Collection" (I located this in the Review Board's files, and it was apparently faxed from NARA; I am not certain who prepared it, but it appears to be an index of the State Department records in the JFK Collection). Attachment C hereto is a separate index I prepared listing the NARA boxes containing the State Department records in the JFK Collection; this index was prepared simply by recording the labels on the NARA boxes.

<sup>2</sup> Attachment D hereto is the State Department's inventory of Lot File No. 69 D 186 when the file was retired in 1969. Attachment E hereto contains NARA's description of this Lot File in 1989, and Attachment F is another description (apparently by NARA) of this Lot File.

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Washington, DC, enclosing the U.S. Embassy's documentation on Lee Harvey Oswald ("LHO").

--State Dept. Report to the Warren Commission. This Report was in a folder marked, "Documents Selected from SCA Files re Oswald's Alleged Association w/Cuba." Other than the Report, no other documents were in the folder.

--Oswald File XII. This consisted of DOS documents collected regarding the repatriation loan to LHO (the documents were copies).

--Department Telegrams Re: Oswald. This contained miscellaneous telegrams from U.S. embassies abroad to DOS, Washington, D.C., after the assassination.

--P-Oswald. This contained what appeared to be internal DOS Q&A guidance for press inquiries on LHO.

--Request from Warren Commission re: Declassification of Material. This contained correspondence between the Warren Commission and DOS re: declassification of records.

--SCS File Re: Oswald. This consisted of a chron set of documents from 1959 to 1964. This appeared to be a pre-assassination file on Oswald from Special Consular Services ("SCS"), and the file was assigned file No. 261.1122. The file included documentation on Oswald's return to the United States and on the repatriation loan.<sup>3</sup>

--PPT Oswald. This contained miscellaneous post-assassination memos regarding Oswald's passport file.

--SY and PPT re: Oswald Case. This contained miscellaneous post-assassination memos regarding the Department of State's "Look Out" procedures.

--Requests for Info from Warren Commission. This contained correspondence between the Commission and the Department of State.

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<sup>3</sup> The file also contained some analyses regarding the repatriation loan prepared by Allyn C. Donaldson, SCS, after the assassination.

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--Oswald, Lee Harvey -- Original. This appeared to be the original of the Department of State's pre-assassination file on Oswald. It was labeled "261.1122 Oswald, Lee Harvey/3-760 CS/MDR." The file contained the originals of numerous documents; the documents appeared to range from March 1960 to June 1962. The file appeared to be from the Office of Special Consular Services ("SCS").

--Clippings re: Oswald .

--Memo from PPT

--State Dept. Witnesses Before the WC. This contained questions submitted by the Warren Commission to the State Department.

--Best Copy. This contained originals of certain post-assassination documents of the State Department, particularly regarding the Department's Task Force considering the recommendations of the Warren Commission Report.

--Repatriation Loans. This contained internal State Department memos on repatriation issues.

--Repatriation Loans (Warren Commission)

--Report of Department of State -- Lee Harvey Oswald. This contained 1966 State Department memos on the transmission to NARA of the Department's files relating to Oswald and the assassination.

--Congressional Correspondence re Oswald.

--Material Relating to After Release of Warren Commission Report.

--Dept. Correspondence w/ Mother of Oswald.

--Copy of Dept. of State Report

2. Lee Harvey Oswald Lot File No. 85 D 275 <sup>4</sup>

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This Lot File contained the assassination-related files of the State Department Legal Advisor's Office.

In 1963-64, the principal persons from that Office working on the assassination appeared to include: Abram Chayes, Legal Advisor; Leonard C. Meekey, Acting Legal Advisor; Richard A Frank; and Thomas Ehrlich. There were numerous file folders, and I did not have time to index all of them. Some of the records were as follows:

--File re allegations of a Mr. Sergievsky that Oswald knew Ruby.

--File on Hoover's Statement to the Warren Commission.

--Requests from the State Department for the statements of U.S. Embassy personnel in Moscow who had contact with Oswald, and the Embassy responses (the responses are contained in a folder marked "Oswald File VII").

--The State Department's interview with the DeMohrenschildts in Haiti after the assassination.

--A file containing original papers (1961-62) regarding Marina Oswald's immigrant visa ("Oswald File VIII" also relates to Marina).

--Documents on the State Department's efforts to obtain records from Cuba after the assassination.

--Records re the May 5, 1964 diplomatic note of Ambassador Dobrynin enclosing certain Soviet Government records including LHO medical records.

--Other "Oswald" files denoted with a roman numeral.

--Documents from the Office of Security, Division of Investigations (some of these documents are contained in "Oswald File VI"). It was the Office of Security that received the Oct. 10, 1963 CIA cable on Oswald's presence in Mexico City.

### 3. Office of Security File

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<sup>4</sup> Attachment E hereto contains NARA's description of Lot File No. 85 D 275 in 1989. Attachment G hereto is a more detailed index (apparently prepared by NARA) of this Lot File.

This material is contained in NARA Boxes entitled, "Bureau of Diplomatic Security." The Office of Security, Division of Investigations, apparently received FBI reports on Oswald, including those denoted "internal security" prior to the assassination . Some of the reports bear a handwritten file no. (39-141-122), which appeared to be an Office of Security file.

4. Central Policy File, POL 15-1 US/Kennedy.

This contained memos and cables regarding foreign reaction to, and foreign policy implications of, the assassination. Contains numerous cables from U.S. embassies around the world.

5. Papers from Miscellaneous Files.

This was a miscellaneous collection of documents from the following files: POL 30-2 Cuba; POL 15 Cuba; Def 15 Cuba - USSR; POL 6-1 US/Oswald; POL 2-1 Mexico.

6. Miscellaneous Europe Files.

7. Correspondence between HSCA and Dept. of State.

This was correspondence between the Assistant Secretaries of State for Congressional Affairs, Robert G. Beckel and Douglas J. Bennet, and the HSCA.

8. Llewellyn E Thompson Records (LOT No. 67 D 2).

The documents were copies only.

9. Intelligence and Research ("INR") Records re Assassination (LOT No. 90D 329).

The INR Director was Thomas L. Hughes. Another INR person apparently involved in post-assassination matters was John D. Hemenway. This file contained INR "Morning Briefs."

10. Soviet File Records (Lot No. 90 D 481).

This included post-assassination documents re Marina Oswald and communications with the Soviet Government.

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11. Secretary of State Dean Rusk Records (Lot No. 72 D 92).

This included short internal memoranda regarding Secretary Rusk's telephone conversations shortly after the assassination, including conversations with Katzenbach, Dobrynin, and Dillon.

12. Records of the Office of Overseas Citizen Services.

13. Lot No. 71 D 198 L/ARA.

This appeared to contain records of Richard Frank, an attorney in the office of Legal Advisor.

14. U. Alexis Johnson Files on Oswald.

This was a substantial and well-organized set of files on the assassination and on Oswald, apparently from the files of U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Undersecretary of State.