

January 28, 1997

Mr. John Pereira  
Director  
Historical Review Group  
Center for the Study of Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Re: Request for Additional Information and Records No. CIA-16  
(Oswald Pre-Assassination Files)

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Dear John:

Under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994), the Review Board has the authority to “direct a Government office to . . . investigate the facts surrounding, additional information [and] records . . . .” Section 7(J)(1)(C)(ii). Pursuant to this authority, the Review Board is seeking to resolve in a complete and comprehensive manner certain questions related to files on Lee Harvey Oswald that CIA may have held prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. Accordingly, we request that CIA provide complete and comprehensive answers to the questions identified below.

On May 12, 1992, Director Robert M. Gates testified to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs regarding CIA’s records on Oswald prior to the assassination. Mr. Gates testified that “[p]rior to President Kennedy’s assassination, *CIA held only a small file* on Lee Harvey Oswald that consisted of 34 documents amounting to 124 pages . . . .” (*The Assassination Materials Disclosure Act of 1972: Hearing Before the Committee on Governmental Affairs*, 100th Cong., 2d Sess. 52 (1992) (emphasis added) (copy enclosed). It is the Review Board’s current understanding, however, that at the time of the assassination, CIA held at least three separate files (including soft files) on Lee Harvey Oswald: a 201 file (201-289248), an HTLINGUAL file, and an Office of

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Security file.<sup>1</sup> We have identified references to one or more other possible Oswald files including possible soft files designated as follows: CI/SI, CI/SIG, CI/LSN, and CS/LSN.

1. Please identify, as specifically as possible, *each* file held by CIA on Oswald at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy.
2. Other than for the 201-289248 file on Oswald, please explain when each Oswald file was opened, the purpose for the opening of the file, and the documents that were in the file at the time of the assassination.
3. For the 201-289248 file on Oswald, please identify which records (and the total number that) were in the file at the time of the assassination.
4. To the extent that Counterintelligence and the Office of Security maintained pre-assassination files on Oswald, please explain why those offices maintained files on Oswald prior to the assassination. In answering this question, please make appropriate references to the Clandestine Services Handbook (CSHB) and to any other materials (including organizational charts) that would help explain the jurisdictional and organization reasons for which CI and OS would have maintained such files.

For each question, please explain the basis for the answer and the sources (records or persons) whom you consulted to answer the question. To the extent that you are not able to answer a question completely, please so indicate and provide the best reasonable answer. If, during the course of your research, you learn that any record relating to a pre-assassination file or record has been destroyed, please provide us with all available information related to the destruction of the records or files.

These queries should be interpreted in their broadest reasonable sense. To the extent that you question whether certain responses may be within the scope of our request, please let us know and we can advise you whether we would wish to include it. We anticipate that the responses to these questions will be referenced in CIA's Final Compliance Statement.

We request that you make this information available to us by February 24, 1997. If this does not provide you with sufficient time, please let us know, in writing, by what date you believe you will be able to answer the questions fully.

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<sup>1</sup>One Office of Security file on Oswald (or relating to Oswald) may have been numbered 351-164. In addition, Margaret Stevens may have held an Office of Security "MS-" file on Oswald.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell  
Executive Director

Enclosure