

ASSASSINATION RECORDS ADVISORY

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January 5, 1996 Review Board Meeting

The Assassination Records Review Board released 51 CIA, FBI, House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), and Warren Commission documents relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Board voted to open 47 of these documents on January 5, 1996. Four HSCA documents released with this group were voted on at the Board's November 1995 meeting.

The Review Board released 13 CIA documents, two in full and 11 in part. These documents relate to the CIA's post-assassination investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Originally, the Board had voted to release 21 other CIA documents at the January 5th meeting, but reconsidered the documents at its March 19, 1996 meeting after receiving additional evidence from the CIA. The issue in these documents is disclosure of the originators of cables. The Board voted to use substitute language in these documents. Notification of the Review Board's action on these documents was sent to the President of the United States and the agencies on April 2, 1996. The President has 30 days to agree or disagree with the Review Board's determinations.

Also released by the Board were six FBI documents in full. These documents relate in part to the Bureau's interest in New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

In addition, the Board released 23 HSCA and five Warren Commission documents in full. These documents were previously available but contained redactions based on privacy grounds. Four additional HSCA documents from the Board's November 1995 meeting, which had not previously been processed, are also now available.

The original documents being released have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection, which is housed at the National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland.

January 31, 1996 Review Board Meeting

The Assassination Records Review Board released 152 CIA, FBI, House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), and Warren Commission documents it voted on at its January 31, 1996 meeting.

The Review Board released 44 CIA documents, three in full and 41 in part. These documents relate in part to the Agency's post-assassination investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald, including Oswald's trip to Mexico City in the fall of 1963, only weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy.

Originally, the Board voted to release 28 other CIA documents at the January 31st meeting, but reconsidered the documents at its March 19, 1996 meeting after receiving additional evidence from the CIA. The issue in these documents is disclosure of the originators of cables. The Board voted to use substitute language in these documents. Notification of the Review Board's action on these documents was sent to the President of the United States and the agency on April 2, 1996. The President has 30 days to agree or disagree with the Review Board's determinations.

Also released by the Board were 81 FBI documents (including duplicates), 20 in full and 61 in part. These documents relate in part to the FBI's post-assassination investigation of Jack Ruby. Other documents relate to a request made by the White House to the FBI for information about critics of the Warren Commission. These documents were previously available but contained redactions.

The Board had originally voted to release 24 additional FBI documents at the January 31st meeting, but reconsidered the documents at its March 19, 1996 meeting after receiving additional evidence from the FBI. The issues in these documents are the protection of informant names and the protection of confidential relationships. The Board voted to release 21 of these FBI documents on August 1, 1996. The other three documents will be opened in ten years. Notification of the Review Board's action on these documents was sent to the President of the United States and the agency on April 2, 1996. The President has 30 days to agree or disagree with the Review Board's determinations.

In addition, the Board released 23 HSCA documents in full, with the exception of HSCA staff social security numbers. These documents include interviews with Secret Service Special Agents in Chicago and Miami regarding the assassination. Other HSCA documents relate to David Ferrie and his attempt to get reinstated as a pilot with Eastern Airlines after his dismissal by the airline following the filing of 'corruption of minors' charges against him. These documents have been previously available with certain names redacted for privacy reasons.

The Review Board also released four Warren Commission documents in full which had previously been available in redacted form with certain information closed on privacy grounds.

In other Board-related activities, documents from the HSCA Security Classified files series which both the Department of State and the Department of Defense agreed to release, at the Board's request, are now available. The Department of Defense released three documents and the Department of State released 30 documents, some of which pertain in part to the HSCA's 1978 trip to Cuba to interview Castro. Many of these documents have been previously available in redacted form.

The original documents being released have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection, which is housed at the National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland.

March 19, 1996 Review Board Meeting

The Assassination Records Review Board voted on March 19, 1996 to release 266 CIA, FBI and House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) documents.

The Review Board voted to release 135 CIA documents, 24 in full and 111 in part. These documents relate primarily to the CIA's international investigation to find out anything it could about Oswald, or persons and events allegedly having something to do with him, during the days and weeks following the assassination. The Board voted that some information relating to intelligence sources and methods and true names should not be released at this time.

Other Board action included votes to release 130 FBI documents, 27 in full and 103 in part. These documents relate in part to the Bureau's investigation of the incident involving Sylvia Odio in the fall of 1963, before the assassination. Other documents detail the FBI's post-assassination investigation of Jack Ruby. The Board voted that informant names and symbol numbers should not be released at this time.

The Board voted to release six HSCA documents, five in full and one in part. Included in this group are four documents that relate to Secret Service protection of the President.

In addition to the 21 CIA documents from the January 5 and 28 CIA documents from the January 31, 1996 meetings reconsidered by the Board, (referred to above), two other CIA documents were reconsidered. The Board reconsidered a CIA document originally voted on at the November 14, 1995 meeting. The issue is protection of information about an individual. The other CIA document reconsidered by the Board was from the December 13, 1995 meeting. As with other CIA documents originally considered at Board meetings of January 5th and January 31st, the issue is disclosure of the originator of a cable. The Board voted to use substitute language in these documents.

Notification of the Review Board's action on these documents was sent to the President of the United States and the agencies on April 2, 1996. The President has 30 days to agree or disagree with the Review Board's determinations.

Agencies to Release Additional Records Based on Review Board Release Standards

In other Board activities, 887 additional documents will now be open in full by the CIA and the FBI, as well as records from the files of the HSCA. These records are being released based on the standards of release established by the Review Board during its earlier review of other records. They did not require Board votes because they are being released in their entirety by the agencies. The CIA has agreed to release 406 documents, the FBI will release 410 documents, and 71 HSCA records will now be available in full, 55 of which are organized crime-related documents obtained from the Metro-Dade County Police Department.

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