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December 3, 1993

**Memorandum for the Director,
Center for Studies in Intelligence,
Central Intelligence Agency
Attn: Mr. John Pereira
FAX: 703-243-8343**

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT

Subject: CIA Files on Lee Harvey Oswald

This is to acknowledge my telecon yesterday with Dave Gries and with John Pereira re issue of whether Oswald was ever debriefed by the Agency, and to respond to John's request for documents which may have bearing on this issue.

First, a point of order. It is my belief and the belief of the Agency personnel with whom I have discussed this matter, that your files should not contain the infamous "debrief." It strains credibility that the Agency would purposely persist in saying there was no debrief when in fact it had a copy of it somewhere in its extensive -- if sometimes sloppy -- records system. It would have been found by 1993. *The issue is not whether you have it now; rather it is whether it occurred in the past and was destroyed.*

We can all talk, theorize and argue over what it might mean later. For now the task at hand is simply to take all necessary steps to find out. I urge extreme caution in stating flatly that there was no debrief until such steps have been thoroughly exhausted. I was surprised to find out after the FRONTLINE documentary aired, for example, that there will be some new pieces on this subject in the not too distant future.

I attach a copy of CIA document number 435-173A, attachment, memo dated 25 November 1963, by a "T.B.C.", whom I believe might be one Mr. Tom Comier, possibly a former head of SR6 Branch, Soviet Russia Division, at the time Lee Harvey Oswald returned to the US in the Summer of 1962. T.B.C. stated he discussed the laying on of interviews with Oswald, either while he was en route or after his arrival. Because T.B.C. made a typographical error when he typed "1960" instead of "1962", the IISCA foolishly dismissed the veracity of this entire document.

I attach a copy of CIA document number 287-690, memo for record, dated 3 December 1963, by Mr. Birch D. O'Neal, Chief, CI/SIG, Subject: Lee Harvey Oswald. O'Neal's memo is about polygraphing Alvarado, but it is the reverse handwriting in the upper right hand corner that is pertinent to the issue at hand. That handwriting appears to be: "Andy Anderson OO on Oswald."

I refer you to Mr. ^A [redacted] a CIA employee in the Contacts Division in 1962, who told the HSCA in 1978 that he read Anderson's debrief and described its contents to his HSCA interlocutors. He will tell you today what he has been saying for 30 years. [redacted] does not have a book and shuns any publicity -- it took FRONTLINE almost a year to get him to agree to an interview on the record. He says what he says not for any personal gain because there is none, there is only disrepute. He says it because he remembers reading the debrief.

If I were you, I would first have a long talk with Don. Then I would find all surviving members of CD/OO/Support Branch. It did not take us long to figure out that this branch interfaced with the field offices of the Contacts Division. While this will not turn up a piece of paper, I think you will find some answers there.

As an aside: a Mr. Roe F. Anderson was listed in the CIRA obit this summer, and his son Richard called me after the FRONTLINE documentary aired, and confirmed his father, a Navy officer, had worked for the CIA. I doubt if this is our Anderson, but you might check all the same. I would appreciate a note stating what you find out.

Sincerely,

Dr. John M. Newman
1019 Summer Hill Drive, Odenton MD, 21113
FAX (home): 410-672-7251; (H) 301-621-0576; (W) 410-859-6131

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

25 November 1963

SUBJECT: Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald

TO :

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1992
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

1. It makes little difference now, but [redacted] had at one time an OI interest in Oswald. As soon as I had heard Oswald's name, I recalled that as Chief of the 6 Branch I had discussed -- sometime in Summer 1960 -- with the then Chief and Deputy Chief of the 6 Research Section the laying on of interview(s) through [redacted] or other suitable channels. At the moment I don't recall if this was discussed while Oswald and his family were en route to our country or if it was after their arrival. 622
10/15/64

2. I remember that Oswald's unusual behavior in the USSR had struck me from the moment I had read the first State dispatch on him, and I told my subordinates something amounting to "Don't push too hard to get the information we need, because this individual looks odd." We were particularly interested in the OI Oswald might provide on the Minsk factory in which he had been employed, on certain sections of the city itself, and of course we sought the usual BI that might help develop target personality dossiers.

3. I was phasing into my [redacted] assignment, [redacted] at the time. Thus, I would have left our country shortly after Oswald's arrival. I do not know what action developed thereafter.

Addendum

4. As an afterthought, I recall also that at the time I was becoming increasingly interested in watching develop a pattern that we had discovered in the course of our bio and research work in 6: the number of Soviet women marrying foreigners, being permitted to leave the USSR, then eventually divorcing their spouses and settling down abroad without returning "home". The [redacted] case was among the first of these, and we eventually turned up something like two dozen similar cases. We established links between some of these women and the KGB. [redacted] became interested in the developing trend we had come across. It was partly out of curiosity to learn if Oswald's wife would actually accompany him to our country, partly out of interest in Oswald's own experience in the U SSR, that we showed operational intelligence interest in the Harvey story.

T.B.C.

3 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Lee Harvey OSWALD

a FBI Request's polygraph of ALVARADO

At 1010 hours on 3 December, Mr. Papich of the FBI advised that the Bureau had received a cable last night from the Legal Attache in Mexico City who is in touch with our representative there. He stated that our representative had been informed by [redacted] of the Nicaraguan Intelligence Service that ALVARADO told him, [redacted] that he recanted his original story because of fear of physical harm; that Alvarado was being deported from Mexico to Nicaragua on 4 December 1963 and would be accompanied by [redacted]; that [redacted] assured our representative that Alvarado would be available for further interview in Nicaragua if the United States desired.

SEX: M

Mr. Papich stated that the Bureau would like to have him subjected to a polygraph examination by this Agency and would appreciate receiving word as soon as possible as to whether we will handle the matter since if we will not handle it the FBI will have to determine what other steps might be taken to see that this is done. I advised Mr. Papich that I would check into the matter, that I did not know whether we had available at this time a polygraph operator who could properly handle this matter but in any event I would let him know whether this can be done.

Document Number

287-690

for FOIA Review on MAY 1976

MAY 1976

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 Birch D. O'Neal
 Chief, CI/SIO

✓ cc: [redacted]

CLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
CONDUCTED ON 24 MAY 1976	
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WFO	SEARCHED
WFO	INDEXED
WFO	SERIALIZED
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WFO	CHIEF
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201-289248

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CONDUCTED ON	
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FROM	TO	DATE	REMARKS
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