
Assassination Records Review Board Experts Conference Agenda Washington, D.C. May 16, 1995

Purpose

The purpose of the Experts Conference is to provide assistance to the Assassination Records Review Board in identifying and locating records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Conference will not be considering or debating the merits of particular theories relating to the assassination, but will instead be discussing leads for the pursuit of records. Similarly the discussion will not focus on the merits of prior investigations, including the Warren Commission, the Rockefeller Commission, the Church Committee, or the House Select Committee on Assassinations -- except to the extent that discussion of those prior investigations can promote successful strategies, help avoid mistakes, and point to the existence of additional records related to the assassination.

The Conference participants were selected for their expertise, knowledge, experience, and diverse -- indeed sometimes irreconcilable -- viewpoints. The Review Board does not anticipate, or desire, that the experts will agree on the merits of any particular theory related to the assassination. The goal is the pursuit of relevant records -- regardless of what those records might reveal. We hope that all participants will jointly contribute to the important goal of the President John F. Kennedy Records Collection Act of 1992: creating the most complete historical record that is possible.

During the course of the Conference we would like to identify specific, concrete leads for locating records. We would also like to hear suggestions regarding individuals who may be able to provide additional leads, regardless whether the individuals are former government officials who have kept copies of records, former police officers, former records personnel, witnesses who have records, or persons knowledgeable about the organizational structure and records keeping of intelligence agencies (both foreign and domestic).

Conference Participants

Assassination Records Review Board

Chairman John R. Tunheim, Esq.
Dr. Anna K. Nelson
Dr. William Joyce

Dr. Kermit Hall
Dr. Henry Graff

Experts

Professor G. Robert Blakey
Dr. David Garrow
James Lesar, Esq.
Professor Paul Hoch

Dr. John M. Newman
Mr. David S. Lifton
Professor W. David Slawson

ARRB Staff Participants

Dr. David G. Marwell
Sheryl Walter, Esq.
Anne E. Buttimer, Esq.
Dr. Mary S. McAuliffe

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn
Thomas E. Samoluk, Esq.
Philip D. Golrick, Esq.

Research and Analysis Staff

Christopher M. Barger
Manuel E. Legaspi
Kevin Tiernan
Dennis J. Quinn, Esq.
Michelle M. Seguin
Noelle C. Gray

Dr. Joan G. Zimmerman
Joseph P. Freeman
Laura Denk, Esq.
Robert J. Skwirot
Eric N. Scheinkopf

9:00 Welcome: John R. Tunheim, Chair, Assassination Records Review Board

9:15 Introduction of participants: David G. Marwell

9:30 Agenda: Jeremy Gunn

The Agenda Topics and Issues were designed to stimulate discussion. The Experts are encouraged to propose additional Agenda Items and Issues. Unfortunately, we will not be able to discuss all important topics. The Experts should be prepared to propose priorities for discussion.

CAVEAT: The presence of an issue under one of the agenda topics does not signify that the Review Board has any evidence regarding the existence of records relating to those topics. The issues are listed for the purpose of encouraging discussion only. Similarly, the inclusion of an issue does not signify that the Review Board *necessarily* believes that there is a nexus between that issue and the assassination of President Kennedy.

12:30 Lunch (at ARRB)

6:00 Break. Dinner at 6:30 at Peasant Restaurant (4 blocks from ARRB)

Agenda Topics

- No. 1: Experts' Priorities
 - No. 2: Prior Investigations
 - No. 3: Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby
 - No. 4: CIA Files
 - No. 5: FBI Files
 - No. 6: Organized Crime
 - No. 7: "Local" Records
 - No. 8: JFK Foreign Policy on Cuba and Vietnam
 - No. 9: Pro- and Anti-Castro Activities
 - No. 10: Medical Records
 - No. 11: Military and NSA
 - No. 12: Additional Federal Agencies and Federal Libraries
 - No. 13: Media
 - No. 14: Critics and Interested General Public
 - No. 15: Foreign Records
 - No. 16: Miscellaneous Issues
- Final Agenda Topic: Revisiting Topic No. 1

Agenda Topic No. 1: Experts' Priorities

Experts' initial summary recommendations of the most important records that the ARRB should pursue and the priorities among Agenda Topics.

1. John Newman
2. Robert Blakey
3. Jim Lesar
4. David Garrow
5. David Lifton
6. David Slawson
7. Paul Hoch

Agenda Topic No. 2: Prior Investigations

Issue: Lessons learned from the Warren Commission and HSCA

- Dealing with federal agencies
- Important leads that were not but should be pursued
- Any areas where agencies demonstrated unexpected sensitivities

Issue: Lessons learned from HSCA procedures for requesting and reviewing agency records

Issue: Records generated by prior investigations

Issue: Garrison investigation

Issue: RFK investigations

Issue: Congressional investigations

Issue: Other semi-official/unofficial investigations

Issue: Military investigations

Issue: Foreign investigations

Agenda Topic No. 3: Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby

Issue: Additional LHO military records
e.g., Defense Language Institute (Monterey); Uniformed Services
Identification and Privilege Card

Issue: LHO in Japan

Issue: LHO and Soviet Union

Issue: LHO police records

Issue: Other LHO Texas, New York, New Orleans records
e.g., school records, library records

Issue: Oswald as FBI informant

Issue: Ruby in Cuba

Issue: Ruby in Las Vegas prior to the assassination

Issue: Additional Ruby records

Agenda Topic No. 4: CIA Files

Issue: Oswald's 201

Issue: Additional Oswald files

- CI soft

- CI/SIG

- OS

- Staff D

- Task Force W/Special Affairs Staff

- OO or DCD

Issue: CIA organizational structure

- Role of OS

- Role of CI/SIG

Issue: Cuba, MONGOOSE, JMWAVE, Task Force W, SAS

Issue: Bishop and David Morales

Issue: CIA and NSA

Issue: Mexico City

- David Atlee Phillips

- Win Scott

- Back-channel communications to JMWAVE, SAS

- Photographs

- Tapes

Issue: CIA personnel in Guatemala (1954)

Issue: Identifying additional relevant 201 files

Issue: Identifying additional relevant topic files

Issue: Stations other than Mexico City

Issue: Most important living CIA officials to be interviewed

Issue: Personnel files of the relevant CIA officials

Agenda Topic No. 5: FBI Files

Issue: Most important living FBI officials to be interviewed
e.g., Warren DeBrueys, James Hosty, Cartha DeLoach, Sam Papich

Issue: FBI "secret" files
Hoover memoranda
High-level internal memoranda
Hoover/Tolson files

Issue: Other FBI records
Laboratory records
Administrative and policy files

Issue: Why DeBrueys and Quigley were not disciplined

Issue: FBI records on JFK, JPK

Issue: FBI national security surveillance
Intercepts of telephone communications to and from Cuba
Other clandestine operations

Issue: FBI and organized crime
Surveillance of key figures
Surveillance of lesser figures (New Orleans, Dallas, Chicago, Miami)

Agenda Topic No. 6: Organized Crime

Issue: FBI surveillance

Issue: Local police records on organized crime

Issue: Other federal agency surveillance and investigations

INS

NSA

Customs

ATF

DEA

Issue: Organized crime and Cuba

Issue: Marcello

Issue: Campisi

Issue: Trafficante

Issue: Giancana

Issue: Ragano

Issue: Hoffa

Issue: Garrison

Agenda Topic No. 7: “Local” Records

Issue: Local police department files for Dallas, New Orleans, Miami, Tampa, Chicago, New York

Issue: Other repositories of organized crime records

Issue: Dallas police officers

Issue: Dallas attics and basements

Issue: New Orleans attics and basements

Issue: Other attics and basements

Agenda Topic No. 8: JFK Foreign Policy on Cuba and Vietnam

Issue: NSC records on MONGOOSE and other Cuban activities

Issue: White House records on Cuba

Issue: NSC records on Vietnam

Issue: White House records on Vietnam

Issue: RFK, Castro, MONGOOSE and Cuba

Issue: Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee of Cuban Affairs

Agenda Topic No. 9: Pro- and Anti-Castro Activities

Issue: Fair Play for Cuba Committee

Issue: Communist Party (USA)

Issue: Anti-Castro paramilitary and other groups (CRC, FRE, Alpha 66)

Issue: CIA and paramilitary groups

Issue: Cuban intelligence activities in the U.S.

Agenda Topic No. 10: Medical Records

The JFK Assassination Records Collection Act exempts “the autopsy records donated by the Kennedy family” from inclusion within the JFK Collection in the National Archives. Our inquiry should, therefore, be confined to other medical records.

Issue: JFK autopsy records in private hands

Issue: Other JFK medical evidence

Issue: Connally medical evidence

Issue: Tippit medical/autopsy evidence

Issue: Missing medical evidence

Agenda Topic No. 11: Military and NSA

- Issue: Domestic surveillance between 1958 and 1964
 - Army Security Agency, ACSI, G-2, NSA, ONI, other
- Issue: Important military and NSA officials to be interviewed
- Issue: Individuals in Oswald's Marine units
- Issue: Records relating to the state of military alert after the assassination
- Issue: Air Force Records
- Issue: Post-assassination investigations by military (any leads since HSCA)
- Issue: Oswald military records
- Issue: Military files on Oswald
 - G-2/112th MIG
 - Other
- Issue: NSA intercepts in 1963
 - Scope
 - State of cryptography
 - Accessibility of data in 1995
- Issue: NSA pre-assassination intercepts (SIGINT, cable, telephone)
 - Cuba
 - Soviet Union
- Issue: NSA Post-assassination actions
 - Tasking
 - Traffic analysis
 - Cuba
 - Mexico
- Issue: Oswald's Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card
- Issue: Military defector programs

Agenda Topic No. 12: Additional Federal Agencies and Federal Libraries

Issue: DEA

Issue: ATF

Issue: INS

Issue: NARA

Issue: Secret Service

Issue: State

Issue: Customs

Issue: IRS

Issue: Justice

Issue: JFK Library

Issue: LBJ Library

Issue: Ford Library

Issue: Library of Congress

Earl Warren Papers

Curtis E. LeMay

Alexander Haig [assigned to Cuba matters on July 12, 1963]

Clare Booth Luce

Cord Meyer, Jr.

U.S. President's Commission on CIA Activities Within the U.S.

Agenda Topic No. 13: Media

Issue: Major networks

News coverage of assassination

Subsequent reporting on assassination

Issue: Local radio and television coverage

Dallas

New Orleans

Agenda Topic No. 14: Critics and Interested General Public

Issue: Governmental investigations of critics

Issue: Interference with publications of critics

Issue: Evidence in possession of critics (and other investigators)

Issue: FOIA files

Agenda Topic No. 15: Foreign Records

Issue: Former USSR

- KGB Moscow surveillance of Oswald
- KGB Minsk surveillance of Oswald
- Mexico City Embassy/consulate
- Mexico City -- Moscow Center
- Soviet intercepts of Cuban communications
- Soviet communications after assassination
- Soviet knowledge of anti-Castro activities of US government
- Oswald acquaintances (Pavel Golovachev, Ernst Titovitz)
- Soviet investigation of assassination

Issue: Cuba

- Mexico City Embassy/consulate
- DGI knowledge of anti-Castro activities of US government
- Cuban investigation of assassination

Issue: GDR/East Germany

Issue: Israel

Issue: France

Issue: Great Britain

Issue: Japan

Agenda Topic No. 16: Miscellaneous Issues

Issue: Gun-running activities in Dallas, New Orleans

Issue: Right-wing groups (other than Cuba)
Minutemen
Paramilitary

Final Agenda Topic: Revisiting Topic No. 1

Based upon the discussion, have the experts' priorities undergone any revisions from their original suggestions? What should be the highest priorities for the Review Board?

What records should receive priority attention for Board Review?