

Responses to Questions from Mr. Lebedev of the GOR.

Background:

The USSR provided a total of 140 pages of material to the Warren Commission. Many of those documents were published, either in facsimile or in translation, by the Warren Commission (Vol. 18, pp. 399-539). All of those documents are, as far as we are aware, available to the public at the National Archives and none contains any redactions or restricted information.

The 140 pages were provided to the USG in two separate deliveries. The first delivery, by Ambassador Dobrynin in November, 1963, consisted of information from the Soviet Consulate in Washington and pertained to contacts between the Soviet Consulate and the Oswalds during the 1962-63 period.

Because of the absence of any information related to Oswald's stay in the Soviet Union (1959-62), the Warren Commission requested Secretary of State Rusk to request additional information from the USSR. (See letter from Earl Warren to Dean Rusk, March 11, 1964, reprinted in 18 WC 399). In response to the request by the USG, the USSR provided a second set of papers in mid-1964 consisting of approximately 15 documents (identified in 18 WC 404-05). The documents consist largely of official forms, applications, and reports. They contain no information regarding: any intelligence interest that the USSR may have had in Oswald; any intelligence debriefings of Oswald; nor any surveillance conducted on Oswald during his stay in the USSR. The records also say nothing about any possible connection Marina Oswald, nee Prusakova, may have had to Soviet intelligence. (AMEMBASSY Moscow should be aware that Mr. Oleg Kalugin, former Chief of Counterintelligence of the KGB, told a representative of the Review Board that he speculates (but has no actual evidence), that Marina Prusakova was recruited by the KGB prior to her departure from the USSR. Moreover, Marina Prusakova's uncle, with whom she lived in Minsk, was Ilya Prusakov, a Lt. Colonel in the MVD.)

Lebedev Question 1: Why has the USG again raised the question of documents?

There are two basic reasons. First, under the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, the USG is compiling all records related to the assassination and is making similar efforts in the US to collect all records related to the assassination. The statute was enacted in response to a widespread public interest in having all of the records related to the JFK assassination being made available to the public. Second, in the wake of the publication of Norman Mailer's book, *Oswald's Tale*, it is now very clear that the KGB had extensive records on Oswald that were never made available to the USG. (AMEMBASSY should note that the government of Belarus has now agreed to make the Belarus files available for the Review Board's

inspection.)

Lebedev Question 2: Why is there renewed interest in the JFK Assassination?

Since the 1960s, a substantial portion of the American public has not been satisfied that it knows the truth about events related to the assassination. The JFK Act is an effort by the USG to respond to the long-continuing doubts. The goal is to make as many records as possible available to the public so that the people may make up their own minds.

Lebedev Question 3: Background on JFK Act and Board

Boilerplate answer. Copy of statute should be sent by diplomatic pouch.

Lebedev Question 4: Status of Warren Commission documents.

The vast majority of Warren Commission documents have been declassified and are now available to the public. Our best estimate is that 98 percent are now available. The Review Board is in the process of reviewing these records and expects that virtually all Warren Commission documents will be made available within the next year.