

Notice of Formal Determinations by the
JFK Assassination Records Review Board

On June 7, 1995, the JFK Assassination Records Review Board made its first formal determinations to release records under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992.

The Review Board's initial decisions were made on sixteen documents that had been created by the Central Intelligence Agency. In all instances, the majority of the information in the records previously had been released by CIA, although certain information continued to be redacted. These documents principally relate to the opening of Lee Harvey Oswald's 201 file and to certain issues related to Oswald's visit to Mexico City.

All of the CIA's proposed redactions were based upon one of two provisions in the JFK Act that permit the postponement of the release of information that: (a) would reveal "an intelligence agent whose identity currently requires protection," or (b) would reveal "an intelligence source or method which is currently utilized" and the disclosure of which "would interfere with the conduct of intelligence activities." After careful review of the documents and the evidence supplied by CIA, the Review Board voted unanimously to release the records in their entirety without redaction.

The Review Board's decisions were premised on several factors including: (a) the significant historical interest in the documents in question inasmuch as they relate to core issues surrounding the CIA's records relating to Lee Harvey Oswald; (b) the absence of evidence that the release of the information would cause harm to the United States; and (c) the lack of evidence that the release of the information would cause harm to the persons whose names (or pseudonyms) are being revealed.

The Review Board made no other formal determinations.

The CIA must notify the President within seven days if it wishes to appeal the Review Board's formal determination. The President will decide such appeals within thirty days.

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