

b. FBI. The FBI opened its file on Lee Harvey Oswald in October of 1959 when press reports returned from Moscow that Oswald, a twenty year old former Marine had renounced his U.S. citizenship and had applied for Soviet citizenship. Over the subsequent four years, the Bureau filed approximately fifty documents from several government agencies in its Headquarters file on Oswald (105-82555). These reports covered such topics as Oswald's whereabouts (he was supposed to arrive at the Albert Schweitzer College in Lausaunne, Switzerland in April of 1960), his mother's efforts to send him money, and his efforts to return to the U.S. with his wife and daughter in the spring of 1962. Upon his return to the U.S. in July of 1962, the Bureau interviewed Oswald. And they continued to follow the movements of the Oswalds through the fall of 1962 and through 1963 as they lived in Texas and Louisiana. At some point after the Oswalds returned from the Soviet Union, the F.B.I. became more interested in Lee Harvey Oswald's wife Marina than they were in him. Marina Oswald, in the Bureau's estimation, presented a greater security risk than did Lee Oswald. In the summer and fall of 1963, as Lee Harvey Oswald's political and travel activity increased, he became a primary investigative target of the F.B.I. Despite this investigative interest, Lee Harvey Oswald never represented such threat to the security of the U.S. that the F.B.I. would have detained him in the event of a national emergency, or notified the Secret Service of his presence in Dallas as they prepared for President Kennedy's trip to Texas in November of 1963.

Although all of the documents in Oswald's file prior to the assassination were processed under the JFK Act by the F.B.I., the Review Board made several requests to the FBI to determine whether there were additional pre-assassination records in F.B.I. records on Lee Harvey Oswald.

In its review of the pre-assassination records on Lee Harvey Oswald, the Review Board staff found documents cross-referenced from files captioned "Funds Transmitted to Residents of Russia" and "Russian Funds." The Review Board requested access to files with these case captions from the Dallas and New York Field offices, and Headquarters during the years 1959 through 1964. The Review Board staff identified [how many?] documents for processing under the JFK Act. All of these new assassination records cited Marguerite Oswald's attempts to send money to her Lee Harvey Oswald while he was in the Soviet Union.

The Review Board also received a request from a researcher to determine whether there was a Mexico City file opened on a "Harvey Lee Oswald" under the file number 105-2137. The Mexico City Legat file on Lee Harvey Oswald (105-3702) was opened on October 16, 1963 following Oswald's visit to Mexico City in September of 1963. On some of the documents in the Mexico City file, documents are routed to a file numbered 105-2137, and captioned "Harvey Lee Oswald." It is the conjecture of a researcher that this file would have been opened earlier than the Lee Harvey Oswald file, 105-3702, and might lead to documents which would give a broader understanding of Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board asked the F.B.I. to search for 105-2137 in its Mexico City Legat files. The F.B.I. found no records under this file number in its Mexico

City files.

e. Legat administrative files. The F.B.I. keeps files on the administration of its and Legal Attache (Legat) offices. Generally these files document the administrative communications between the Legat and headquarters with memoranda concerning personnel, real estate, supplies, construction, and to a lesser extent relations between the F.B.I. Legat and representatives of other government agencies abroad. It is under this last category that the Review Board expected there might be records related to President Kennedy's assassination or the pre-assassination travels of Lee Harvey Oswald. The Review Board asked the F.B.I. for access to its Legat administrative files for Mexico City, Mexico, London, England, Bern, Switzerland, and Paris, France during the periods of 1960 through 1965 and 1977 through 1979. The Review Board did not find any assassination records in the London, Bern or Paris files, or in the Mexico City file for the period of 1977 through 1979. The Review Board did designate approximately thirty documents from the Mexico City Legat Administrative file concerned with staffing resources in the Mexico City office before and after the assassination of President Kennedy.

2. FBI The Review Board attempted to determine whether the F.B.I. retained any sets of "office" files or "soft" files of its top officials during the years surrounding the assassination. Over the years there has been endless speculation regarding the alleged secret files of F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover. It is well-documented that following Hoover's death, many of his "Personal and Confidential" files were destroyed by his longtime secretary Helen Gandy. The real volume and content of the Personal files will never be known. Ultimately, 15,951 pages of Hoover's "Official and Confidential" were processed under the Freedom of Information Act by the F.B.I. But speculation remains that these were only a part of Hoover's secret files. The Review Board asked the F.B.I. for access several sets of records to determine whether there were office files of high-level F.B.I. officials that would shed new light on the Bureau's activities before and after President Kennedy's assassination. [LAURA & KEVIN--Brief Overview]