

NEWS RELEASE

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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD RELEASES ADDITIONAL
FBI, CIA, AND HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
RECORDS

The Assassination Records Review Board *announced today that it has released additional FBI, CIA, and House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) documents related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The documents are being released in full or in part and have been publicly available, but previously contained many redactions.*

“The record of the assassination of President Kennedy becomes fuller with each group of documents released by the Review Board,” said John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. “Our mandate is not to solve the assassination, but by opening up the files we give the public the opportunity to better understand its government and how it responded to this crisis.”

The Review Board released 37 FBI documents (including duplicates), 34 in full and 3 in part. These documents cover various aspects of the FBI investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy, including a report

on anti-Castro Cubans in the Chicago area who were the focus of the Secret Service's attention as part of their assassination investigation. Some FBI documents in this group are duplicates of ones previously released that were located elsewhere in the FBI filing system.

A total of 197 CIA documents were released by the Board, 143 in full and 54 in part. These documents relate primarily to Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City in the fall of 1963, before the assassination of President Kennedy.

Portions of a report written by the staff of the HSCA entitled Oswald in Mexico City (commonly identified as the Lopez Report) were released by the Review Board. The Report was largely declassified in 1993, but contained many redactions. The Board opened up an additional 95 pages in full. The remaining pages of the Report that still contain redactions will be reviewed by the Board at an upcoming meeting.

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The Review Board agreed with the CIA and the FBI that some information relating to sensitive intelligence sources and methods, and informants should not be publicly released at this time. The Board determined that some redacted parts of the documents still need to be protected, but also noted they contain no information about the assassination of President Kennedy or about Lee Harvey Oswald. Substitute language was provided which gives some relevant information in place of the redactions, while not revealing sensitive intelligence information.

The Assassination Records Review Board was established by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.

The Review Board consists of the following members:

John R. Tunheim, Chair; Minnesota Chief Deputy Attorney General.

Dr. Henry F. Graff; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.

Dr. Kermit L. Hall; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.

Dr. William L. Joyce; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.

Dr. Anna K. Nelson; Adjunct Professor of History at American University.

The Review Board has until October 1, 1996 to fulfill its mandate, plus an additional year at the Board's discretion to complete its responsibilities.

NOTE: Copies of documents are available through the National Archives.