

Assassination Records Review Board

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NEWS RELEASE

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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD RELEASES PREVIOUSLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION FROM CIA'S OSWALD FILES

The Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal agency overseeing the review and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, announced today that it is releasing in full sixteen documents from the CIA's Oswald files which contain information that the Agency had previously kept classified. The announcement follows President Clinton's decision to accept the determinations made by the Review Board to release these documents in their entirety.

"We are pleased that the law is working and that the American public is seeing the positive results of a citizen board in action," said John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. "Our mandate is to ensure that all the records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy are disclosed. Each document adds another piece to the puzzle and contributes to our knowledge of the history surrounding this tragedy. The Board has dealt with some difficult issues in this group of records which are relevant to many other documents that will now be released much faster in the future."

The sixteen CIA documents which the Review Board is releasing in full were previously publicly available in redacted form. The documents principally relate to the opening of Lee Harvey Oswald's "201 file" and to certain issues connected with his visit to Mexico City in the fall of 1963, only weeks before President Kennedy was assassinated. The "secret" information which has been opened up includes the names of intelligence agents or reveals intelligence sources or methods, which the CIA had previously protected. After careful review of the documents and the evidence supplied by the CIA, the Review Board voted unanimously to release the records in their entirety without redaction. The CIA chose not to appeal the Board's determinations to the President.

The Board formally voted to release the CIA records on June 7, 1995 and notified the President of its determinations on June 21, 1995. Under The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (JFK Act), the President has 30 days to agree or disagree with Board determinations. These are the first records released by the Board under the JFK Act.

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The sixteen original CIA documents which the Board has released will be transferred to the National Archives today for inclusion in The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection, which is housed at the National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland.

The Assassination Records Review Board was established by the JFK 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.