

NEWS RELEASE

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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD VOTES TO RELEASE MORE CIA AND FBI DOCUMENTS ON OSWALD AND JACK RUBY

The Assassination Records Review Board announced today that it has *voted to release 71 additional classified CIA and FBI documents relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.*

The Review Board voted to release 61 CIA documents, 56 in full and 5 in part. These documents relate primarily to Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City in the fall of 1963, only weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy. The Board has focused much of its attention to date on this part of the CIA files.

The Board also voted to release 10 FBI documents (including duplicates) which relate to Jack Ruby's shooting of Oswald and the Communist Party, USA reaction to the assassination. Originally, the Review Board voted on July 17, 1995, to open these documents in full. Upon reconsideration, after receiving additional information from the FBI, the Board voted again to open the entire documents, except for the numerical portion of informant symbol numbers. The Board's position is that the release of the numerical

portion of the informant symbol numbers would provide little, if any, useful information related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board is still awaiting additional information on 5 other FBI documents which the Board voted to open in full on July 17, 1995, but later voted to reconsider because they contain foreign government information. These documents relate to the FBI investigation of Oswald while he was in the Soviet Union in 1960 and 1961.

“Each document that the Review Board votes to release will build a firmer understanding of the events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy,” said John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. “The American public has a right to know as much information as possible about this tragic event in our history.”

Notification of the Board's determinations on these 71 documents has been sent to President Clinton. Both the FBI and the CIA have indicated that they will not be

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appealing the Board's decisions on these documents.

The Review Board voted to release 304 of the 321 redactions in this group of 71 documents. The Board agreed with the CIA and the FBI that in some instances information relating to intelligence sources and methods, and informants should not be released at this time. In these instances, the Board proposed substitute language 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 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.

4

-30-