

NEWS RELEASE

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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD RELEASES FBI
DOCUMENTS ON JACK RUBY SHOOTING OF OSWALD

The Assassination Records Review Board today released 11 FBI documents relating to Jack Ruby's shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald, the Communist Party, USA reaction to the assassination of President Kennedy, and Oswald's trip to Mexico City before the assassination.

"These documents involve three important parts of the assassination story," said John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. "The Ruby shooting of Oswald stunned the world for a second time in November 1963. The Communist Party, USA reaction to the assassination of President Kennedy was examined very carefully because of Oswald's background. Oswald's trip to Mexico City was the subject of much scrutiny because it preceded the assassination by only seven weeks. The release of these records now gives the American public a closer look at how the government responded to the assassination."

The Review Board originally voted on July 17, 1995, to open 10 of these

FBI documents (including duplicates) 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 Board voted to open the eleventh document in full and the FBI did not challenge that action. Redacted versions of these documents have been available.

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.

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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 the FBI documents released today are available at the Assassination Records Review Board, 600 E Street, 2nd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530