

Mr. David Marwell, ARMB
600 E St., NW, 2d floor
Washington, DC 20530

4/1/95

Dear Mr. Marwell,

You may not have liked how I responded to your so long delayed and so entirely an inadequate response to what I wrote the board but yesterday's Washington Post story reporting the FBI release of 149 pages of "previously classified" documents is a minor illustration of what I see no indication at all of the board preparing itself for so that it can meet its mandate. I believe there is little doubt but that there will be thousands of similar illustrations.

Then there is the added fact that the FBI, as can the CIA and other agencies, has already converted this into propaganda that in itself misleads the record for history you are supposed to make clear.

The name of the informer is withheld by the FBI. But it disclosed his name and his code name years ago. And you let it get away with filing only this deceptive series of records.

From recollection, because it is not either possible or necessary for my work to establish individual files on all disclosed informants, that man was one of the Child or Childs brothers and his code name was "Solo."

Now on the impossibility of the shooting the record states Castro established himself and with Cuban sharpshooters, I heard an FBI statement in a radio broadcast to the effect that it had proven Castro and those sharpshooters wrong. I am confident the statement will not be worded as I give the broadcast meaning of it, a meaning that may be in the print press I do not see and the meaning intended by the statement. But it is a deliberate FBI lie.

The FBI never even tried to duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald, who was officially evaluated by the Marines as a "rather poor 'shot'."

The closest the FBI came to anything that can be called an effort to duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald is not at all equivalent to it. It was by a Lab ballistics expert, Robert Frazier. After the rifle was overhauled, after they discovered that the sight would not work with repeated firings, after they could adjust to that and there is no record of Oswald having ever fired that weapon to learn how to adjust - firing in the FBI range, from the prone of best position for firing a rifle, at on the level, rather than steeply downhill, and at the short distance of 25 feet, Frazier one was able to fire as rapidly as 2.3 seconds between shots. And that was when he had no obstructions, like the wall, those double-pages of glass, trees and the requirement that he be prepared to fire the first shot on less than a second's notice.

Nobody, and this includes the Maryland expert Howard Donahue in the White Lab tests for CBS, whose boasts to the contrary, has even duplicated the impossible shooting

attributed

to the lousy shot Oswald, who could not even hit a rabbit with a shotgun when he hunted while living in Minsk.

Donahue may well have fired once rapidly enough but the other conditions were not met. He and his fellow shooters had plenty of time to prepare, fired from a lower elevation, and their target was double lifesize and rather than moving in other than a straight line was on a cart on straight tracks.

As published in 1965 from the Commission's own testimony the best shots in the country, all rated as masters by the NRA, were not able to duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald from a platform half as high and with no obstructions at all, no emotions or distractions, with the rifle overhauled, with all the time in the world for the first shot (and timing begins after it is fired), with shims under the sight to make it useable. I add considerably to this in my coming NEVER AGAIN!

And so the FBI has converted disclosure into disinformation for the record for our history, and the board can or at least has not done anything to prevent the conversion of disclosure into disinformation.

The same is true about the Post's language that Solo was "told by a high Soviet functionary that his government was turning over 'its entire file on Oswald' to the U.S. government...." It never happened!

Worse, and I do not take time for all the details, the CIA was able to contrive a situation in which neither the State Department nor the Commission asking the State Department would even ask for the full disclosure of the USSR's Oswald records.

As governments work, this means that our government was telling the USSR's government that it did not want full disclosure, with witness the little asked for.

The USSR government was not about to embarrass our government by forcing on it records reflecting that it suspected Oswald of being a "sleeper" agent or an "agent in place" of our government. And when the very afternoon of the assassination it was reported by an agency of our government that Oswald as allegedly a Communist, the USSR government was not about to force its records reflecting that Oswald as so anti-Communist he was openly anti-USSR within the USSR.

Or that as a shooter he could not hit the ^a side of a barn.

None of this is secret. I published it from FBI records in 1975, 20 years ago.

And once again disclosure is converted into disinformation.

You can, of course, ask the FBI for its records proving that the shooting attributed to Oswald was duplicated by it.

You can also ask the FBI why it did not disclose even redacted copies of these records in its 1977-8 general releases or in response to my lawsuits which sought such information.

And for any records reflecting the dependability of "Solo" reports. It was not good.

Then there is the added disinformation, that before the assassination Oswald threatened it at the Cuban embassy in Mexico City. Another version is that he did that at the Russian embassy there. Both were covered thoroughly by the CIA with wiretaps that picked nothing up at all like that.

But still again, the conversion of disclosure into disinformation to corrupt the history the board is supposed to see to it is fully disclosed. The conversion of disclosure into confirmation of the official mythology.

Mr. Tunheim has been quoted as saying that when the time comes the board will make full use of its authority. He was not quoted as saying when that time would be. And it is not in the third year since the Congress decided that there should be full and complete disclosure and that your board should see to that.

When will that time come? And how with what here cite as illustration will the board be in a position to see to it that disclosure is not misused to further deceive the people and the record for our history?

Has it even given thought to how it may try to prevent these things that the agencies have so long and public a career of getting away with?

Are you beginning to get a glimmer of what I was trying to tell you? Or of the opportunity I gave the board with, had it the intention and the guts, it could have started doing something about last year?

When your so long delayed supposed answer to me did not even make mention of the most dramatic of those opportunities?

And when you asked me, knowing in addition my physical limitations, for what you should have asked the agencies for?

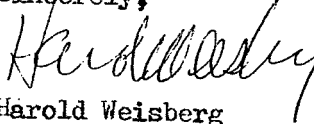
The only reporter who asked me anything at all about this story is employed by our local papers. They get no attention outside this area.

But suppose that Pincus had asked me? Or the wire-service reporters?

I would not have spelled out that on the record you are a bunch of buckling nin-compoops. That would have been clear.

All of you, board and employees alike, have accepted certain personal and professional responsibilities. I think you would be wise to begin to think of the records you are making for yourselves and your families as well as for our history in what you have done, are doing and have not done and are not doing so long after accepting those responsibilities and of how permanent that history will be, your personal histories and that of your board and how it has and has not made an effort to meet the obligations all accepted.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

cc: Jack Tunheim

One Man Could Not Shoot JFK, Documents

3/31/95

By Walter Pincus
Washington Post Staff Writer

Shortly after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, Cuban President Fidel Castro along with several Cuban sharpshooters carried out a test in Havana with similar rifles to see if one man could have shot the president, according to FBI documents released yesterday.

As Castro described the test six months later to a visiting American Communist Party official, who was also secretly an FBI informer, "their timing showed that it was impossible for them to have shot three times the same target with the same rifle."

Castro's story is one of several disclosed in 149 pages of previously classified FBI documents released yesterday relating to Cuba, the Soviet Union and the Kennedy assassina-

tion. They provided some interesting new details but do not contain information likely to change anyone's current belief as to whether Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone or as part of a conspiracy.

The American informer, who was an official of the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA), said he had a long, late night meeting with Castro on June 10, 1964, during which the Cuban leader raised the question of whether Oswald killed Kennedy.

"He could not have done it alone," the informer reported Castro as saying. "It was at least two or three men who did it."

As reported in 1976, the informer also quoted Castro as saying he had been told that Oswald had threatened to kill Kennedy about seven weeks before the assassination. Oswald allegedly made the threat as he was leaving the Cuban consulate in Mexico City,

visibly angry after being denied a visa to visit Cuba.

That same CPUSA official had by chance also been in Moscow the preceding Nov. 22, the day Kennedy was shot. A week later, when he returned to the United States, he disclosed to the FBI that within hours after Oswald was identified as the possible assassin, Soviet leaders worried that the act could be utilized to "stop negotiations with the Soviet Union, attack Cuba, and thereafter spread the war.

"As a result of these feelings," the report went on, "the USSR immediately went into a state of national alert."

Two days after Kennedy's death, the FBI informer went on, he was told by a high Soviet functionary that his government was turning over "its entire file on Oswald" to the U.S. government to prove "that Oswald was

Say Castro Told FBI Informer

no responsibility of theirs," according to the documents.

The American party member reported to the bureau that Soviet officials told him they were "taking a very definite risk" in turning the Oswald material over because there were "few greater sins in the Communist world" than "to cooperate with the intelligence services of an imperialist country."

The informer told the FBI that the Soviets said they were willing to face abuse from then-arch rival Red China because "so great is their necessity to disassociate themselves from the assassin of President Kennedy."

Back in the United States, according to the released files, allegations on the day of the shooting that Oswald was a Communist "created panic among members of the national board of CPUSA," according to another FBI informer who had just met with the

organization's legislative secretary. This second top-level FBI source inside the CPUSA told the FBI that Oswald had written letters to CPUSA leaders "requesting advice regarding whether the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans should go underground," according to the documents.

The FBI then requested its informer to find the letters, a task that could not immediately be performed, the documents show. Eventually, the CPUSA turned the letters over to the FBI.

Then-FBI Director John Edgar Hoover apparently was interested in Castro's rifle test because the CPUSA informer was interviewed by FBI agents when he returned to the United States. The subsequent report to Hoover said that "Castro was not under the influence of liquor at the time he made the statements."