

A F F I D A V I T

Paul L. Hoch, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

(1) I am a private researcher who has been studying the assassination of President Kennedy since 1964.

(2) I am a graduate of the University of California, with a Ph. D. in physics. I am employed by the University of California as a computer programmer and reside at 1525 Acton Street, Berkeley CA 94702.

(3) In 1975, I wrote a 25-page memo entitled "CIA Activities and the Warren Commission Investigation," which I submitted to the Rockefeller Commission investigating the CIA. The Commission turned this memo over to the CIA for analysis.

(4) This memo is published in the anthology "The Assassinations: Dallas and Beyond," which I edited along with two other researchers. I have also co-authored three magazine articles on the Kennedy assassination.

(5) In September 1977, I was one of ten Warren Commission critics who participated, by invitation, in a two-day conference with staff members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations [HSCA].

(6) I submitted various memos to the HSCA, including a detailed Mexico chronology. In it, I tried to piece together what the CIA and the FBI knew before the assassination about Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico, and how that information reached the Warren Commission, in bits and pieces.

(7) I have known Mark Allen for over five years. I consider him one of the most careful and responsible students of the Kennedy assassination. I am familiar with the detailed memos on Oswald in Mexico which he submitted to the HSCA. In

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[Exhibit 19]

this specific area, I believe that he knows and understands the available documentary record as well as any nongovernmental person.

(8) In the course of my own research, I have developed a special interest in Warren Commission Document [CD] 347, also known as CIA Document 509-803. This is the 14-page CIA report of January 31, 1964 to the Warren Commission, covering Oswald's activities in Mexico.

(9) In 1975, I submitted a request for CD 347 under the Freedom of Information Act. I noted that previously released CIA and Warren Commission records provided considerable information about the contents of CD 347.

(10) For example, pages 1-3 deal with Oswald's visit to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City. Some details about what was known about this visit appear in a released FBI document, CD 1084D. The information apparently originated with intercepts of certain conversations of Embassy personnel.

(11) A Warren Commission staff member noted that a large part of CD 347 is a summation of what the Mexican Police learned from Silvia Duran, an employee of the Cuban Consulate. Other documents about the Duran interrogations, including transcripts, have been released.

(12) Pages 11-14 of CD 347 deal with Gilberto Alvarado Ugarte, also known as "D." A sanitized version was published by the Warren Commission in Commission Exhibit [CE] 3152.

(13) The CIA has admitted that "most of the substantive information in this document is available in other [,] unclassified

documents. In this particular document, it is inextricably mixed with operational details which, if exposed, would compromise" sensitive sources and methods. [Document Disposition Index, p. 127]

(14) In fact, the CIA has released many internal documents relating to Oswald in Mexico with operational details deleted. In some instances, little doubt was left about the nature of the sensitive sources involved (such as intercepts of conversations).

(15) The CIA has, for example, sometimes deleted the word "City" from references to its "Mexico City station." It may be necessary for the CIA not to admit formally where its Mexico station is; my point is that deletions have in fact been made of details which are "inextricably entwined" with non-withholdable information. The possibility that some of the deleted material can be guessed from the context quite properly has not prevented the CIA from releasing sanitized versions of the documents on this important subject.

(16) In general, CIA documents submitted to the Warren Commission seem to contain fewer details about sources and methods than the purely internal CIA documents which have been released. Therefore, the continued withholding of all of CD 347 is striking. Of the roughly 58 CD's which came from the CIA, only four were withheld in full as of 1977.

(17) Prior to the submission of CD 347, a CIA cable to the Mexico station noted that a report was being prepared for the Warren Commission on Oswald's activities in Mexico, "presented so as to protect your sources and techniques." [CIA Document 498-204]

(18) According to a staff report of the HSCA, much of the information in CD 347 "was based on sensitive sources and methods, identification of which had been deleted completely from the report." [11 HSCA 485]

(19) In fact, this staff report noted that "it may be argued ... that the CIA's reluctance to provide the Warren Commission with its original source material may have hampered the efficiency of the Commission's investigation of Oswald's Mexico City activities." [11 HSCA 490]

(20) The CIA obtained several photographs of an unidentified man, whose description was erroneously attributed to Oswald in a CIA document of October 10, 1963. (Most of the photos and the relevant documents are no longer withheld.) CD 347 is known to include a reference to the erroneous description, but it evidently does not explain the photograph. It is clear from the Warren Commission's records that it did not learn some of the most basic facts about the photograph until March 1964, over a month after a request for an explanation and long after CD 347 was received from the CIA.

(21) It is my belief that CD 347 is sensitive because it documents what the CIA did not tell the Warren Commission. I believe that the release of CD 347 will confirm that the CIA did not disclose, in a timely fashion, the full story of its reaction to Oswald's Mexico trip.

(22) It is my opinion that the continued withholding of CD 347 in full is not justified.

(23) The above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Paul L. Hoch

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Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of January, 1980.

Robert T. Grange

Notary Public

