

*Classification, withholding of the public domain*

JFK assassination records appeals

Harold Weisberg 9/22/79

Classification - withholding of the public domain

Pre-assassination files on Oswald - separate request

As provided to me and as attached 105-82555-1902 had two second pages.

It appears that initial classification was long after my request, was by 2040 and was not in accord with the E.O.

The withheld information, supposedly, was released by the CIA, first to the Commission and then in its own FOIA releases. There is no reason not to believe that what is withheld is within the public domain. In context there does not now appear to be any possibility of any authentic national security question relating the Oswald before the assassination. Of course there is the possibility that the withheld information might be officially embarrassing.

The information not withheld, what went upward within the FBI, is under-informative to the point of being misleading if not actually false. It is quite relevant that Oswald had a security clearance in the Marines. This is not the only FBI record not to include that. One of its first post-assassination checking also has the same omission.

Yet the Marine Corps records, as provided to and published by the Commission, make it clear that the so-called "red", Oswald, had a "Confidential" clearance. In fact Oswald had Top Secret and Crypto clearances in the Marines. This alone makes the represented official tranquility after his reported defection not easy to credit.

And, of course, there is the continued withholding of the fact of his high security clearance.

This is the subject of a separate FOIA request the appeal on which has not been acted upon.

If by any remote chance there is what is still reasonably classifiable pre-assassination information relating to the only official-approved assassin of a President I believe that withholding of it today is not in accord with historical-case standards.