

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - R. E. Lenihan

SECRET

REC 27 11/5 82535-3205

April 6, 1964

W. A. B. Branigan

Secret

EX-107
 Honorable J. Leo Rankin
 General Counsel
 The President's Commission
 200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
 Washington, D. C.

replaced

For review of [unclear] by

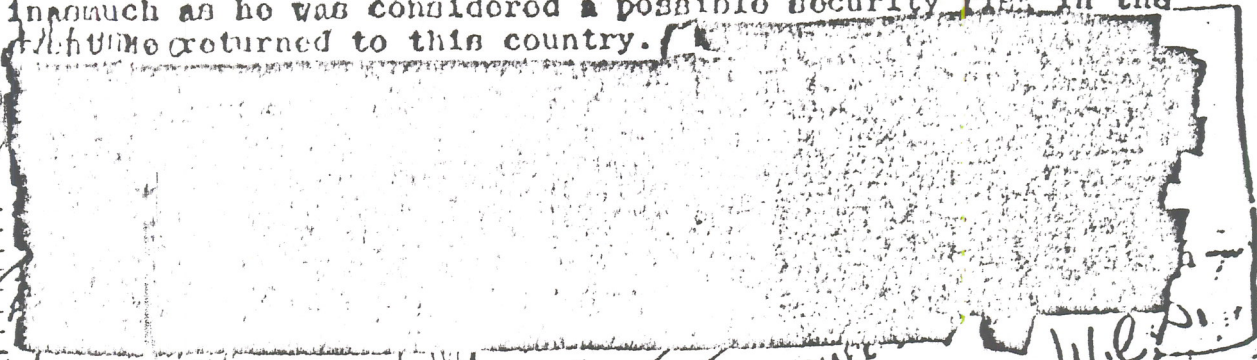
FOIA 5/1/77
 Deleted to Rankin
 4/13/64
 JRM

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Your letter dated March 26, 1964, transmitted specific questions pertaining to the investigation of Leo Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination of President Kennedy and requested a reasoned response to each question.

At the outset, I wish to emphasize that the facts available to the FBI concerning Leo Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination did not indicate in any way that he was or would be, a threat to President Kennedy; nor were they as to suggest that the FBI should inform the Secret Service his presence in Dallas or his employment at the Texas School Book Depository.

The Oswald case was one of many thousands of investigative matters handled by the FBI. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963, the FBI handled 630,371 investigative matters in the criminal, civil and security fields. The depth and urgency of each investigation necessarily are dependent on the available facts in the case. A file concerning Oswald was opened at the time newspapers reported his defection to Russia in 1959, for the purpose of correlating information inasmuch as he was considered a possible security risk in the event he returned to this country.



Exempt from GDS, Category [unclear]
 Date of Declassification Indefinite

APR 17 1964
 ENCLOSURE

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

REL:hc:klw

(11)

105-82555

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

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Reviewed by [unclear]

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REC'D - READ [unclear] APR 6 5 22 PM '64

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[REDACTED]

In short, Oswald had gone to the Soviet Union at the age of nineteen and attempted to renounce his American citizenship. He had recanted; his passport had been returned to him and he had been permitted by the Department of State to return to the United States as an American citizen. After his return, he had subscribed to "The Worker," had distributed pamphlets for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and had admitted publicly that he was a Marxist.

[REDACTED] (S)

As previously indicated, his activities as known at the time of the assassination did not suggest in any way that he was a dangerous subversive; that he was violating any Federal law; or that he represented a threat to the personal safety of the President. There was no basis for the FBI to keep him under observation. In the absence of any information showing Oswald to be a possible threat to the President, there was no basis to inform the Secret Service concerning Oswald's presence or employment in Dallas, Texas.

The answers to your specific questions are set forth in the attached memorandum.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

NOTE:

See memorandum Branigan to Sullivan, 4/3/64, captioned "Re Harvey Oswald, IS - R - 2 - Cuba," prepared by REL:hrt.

Secret