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April 6, 1984

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
Central Council
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter dated March 23, 1963, which transmitted certain questions pertaining to the investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination of President Kennedy and requested a reasoned response to these questions. Our response to these questions which do not involve classified information is being furnished to you by separate communication. Those questions which involve classified information are answered below: (u)

QUESTION: What was the FBI reaction to the CIA report of October 10, regarding Oswald's visit to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City? Why did the FBI not request additional information or follow-up information by the CIA? What was the FBI evaluation of Oswald in view of the CIA report? (S)u

ANSWER: The investigation of Oswald in 1963 prior to receipt of the Central Intelligence Agency communication dated October 10, was directed toward the primary objective of ascertaining the nature of Oswald's sympathies for, and connection with, the Fair Play for Cuba Committee or other subversive elements. The Central Intelligence Agency communication which reported that a man, tentatively identified as Oswald, had inquired at the Soviet Embassy concerning a telegram which had been sent to Washington, did not specify the nature of the telegram. This contact with the Soviet Embassy interjected a new aspect into the investigation and raised the obvious questions of why he was in Mexico and exactly what were his

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REASON FOR EXTENSION 2.3
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~~GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification~~

Pg 3 Para 1 declass per DRC memo 107181 + 6383 URT/DP
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relations with the Soviets. However, the information available was not such that any additional conclusions could be drawn as to Oswald's sympathies, intentions or activities at that time. Thus, one of the objectives of the continuing investigation was to ascertain the nature of his relations with the Soviets considering the possibility that he could have been recruited by the Soviet Intelligence Services. The Central Intelligence Agency communication dated October 10, 1963, stated that any further information received concerning Oswald would be furnished and that our Liaison representatives in Mexico City were being advised. On October 18, 1963, one of our FBI Liaison representatives in Mexico City was furnished this information by Central Intelligence Agency and he arranged follow-up with Central Intelligence Agency in Mexico City for further information and started a check to establish Oswald's entry into Mexico. Subsequent to the assassination, Central Intelligence Agency also advised us of Oswald's contact with the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City at the time of his visit there. (S) u

28. QUESTION: What was the FBI evaluation of confidential information received on November 18, 1963 regarding Oswald's letter to the Soviet Embassy in Washington? (S) u

ANSWER: The information received on November 18, 1963, concerning Oswald's contact with the Soviet Embassy tended to confirm his contact with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City as reported by the Central Intelligence Agency and to indicate the reason for such contact, namely to secure visas to the Soviet Union. (S) u

29. QUESTION: Did SA Hosty state to anyone on November 22, 1963 that Oswald had contacted two known subversive agents about 15 days before the assassination, but that the entire information was Top Secret? If so, to what did SA Hosty refer? (u)

ANSWER: SA Hosty does not recall making such a statement on November 22, 1963, or at any other time, inasmuch as he was not in possession of any information to the effect that Oswald had been in touch with two subversives within 15 days prior to the President's assassination. (u)

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SA Mosty does recall that he advised Mr. Sorrels of Secret Service on November 22, 1963, that the FBI had information on Oswald which he was not free to furnish Sorrels, as it was Top Secret but Secret Service Headquarters could obtain the information from FBI Headquarters in Washington. In this connection, Mosty had in mind the information that Oswald had been in touch with the Soviet Embassies in Washington and Mexico City. (S)U

Sincerely yours,

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