

The day before the 10/10 twin memos were created, Gheesling took Oswald off the security watch list after talking with Lambert Anderson. Both Gheesling and Anderson had signed off on a watch list document placed in Oswald's file on August 13 after Oswald was arrested in New Orleans for breach of the peace while leafleting for the FPCC. Gheesling wrote that once he learned that Oswald was arrested, he told Anderson that Oswald should be taken off the security watch list because he had inadvertently forgot to remove his name after Oswald's return from the Soviet Union.[38] Anderson confirmed that someone had told him that the security flash had been removed because it was no longer necessary once Oswald had returned to the United States.

One immediate problem with both of their stories is that their boss Bill Branigan wrote on 11/22/63 that the very reason Oswald was put on the watch list was to ensure that "any subsequent arrest in the U.S. was brought to our attention". So why take him off the list after he was arrested?

An even more intriguing problem, with Gheesling's story in particular, is that he wrote that he removed Oswald's name from the security watch list on October 9 right after he learned about Oswald's arrest. Gheesling's explanation flies in the face of the aforementioned watch list document showing that both Gheesling and Anderson knew about Oswald's arrest around August 13. Gheesling's name and initials "wmg" are also on other memos discussing Oswald and his arrest dated August 21 and August 23.

The probable solution is that Anderson got wind of a tip. On October 8 Anderson received a Sept. 24 report of Oswald's arrest, which revealed Oswald's request to speak with an FBI agent and share quite a bit of information while in jail.[39] My conclusion is that on the 9th the two men came to some kind of mutual understanding that Oswald was helpful to the FBI, and saw no reason to keep him on the security watch list. "Anderson" or "Nat. Int." is written on the watch list file, underneath the date of October 10. As a result, no alarms went off at the FBI when the 10/8/63 memo about Oswald being in Mexico City and trying to contact Kostikov arrived on the 10th. Any alarm that might have sounded about Oswald being a security risk appears to have been deliberately turned off by Gheesling and Anderson.

The intriguing question is whether Gheesling and Anderson took Oswald off the security watch list based solely on the report about Oswald's cooperation with the FBI, or whether they had also been tipped off that a molehunt was about to begin with Oswald's file. The timing would suggest that both factors were in play.

If the officers in the Cuban division had received a copy of either one of the twin 10/10 memos, they would now know that the Cuban angle on the Oswald story had been methodically erased from the paper trail between CIA HQ and Mexico City. That would have been a key tipoff that an investigation had begun.

Although none of the officers in the CIA's Cuban division got a copy of either of the 10/10 memos, it does appear that Anderson got a copy of one of them. Anderson could have easily told Tilton. If that happened, then the CIA's Cuban division officers could have learned about the 10/10 memo from Tilton. These officers had a number of ways to obtain this confirmation, but the Tilton route would have been one of the simplest. The only problem with this aspect is that it seems unlikely that Tilton would be willing to be a conduit to any organizers of a plan to kill the President, given that his role in the anti-FPCC operation was a matter of record within the Agency.



Patch worn by John S. Tilton when he was running the assassination-driven Phoenix Program in Vietnam.

There is also no sign that anyone at the CIA or the FBI was seriously concerned that Soviet consul Valeriy Kostikov was part of the KGB's "assassination bureau" known as Department 13 prior to the assassination, as was claimed by Angleton's colleague Golitsyn and by the Soviet Union section right after the assassination. This was because Angleton had told the FBI as recently as June 1963 that the CIA had no information that Kostikov had anything to do with Department 13. Both the FBI and CIA had been tracking Kostikov's double agent (FBI code name TUMBLEWEED; CIA code name AEBURBLE) for months, and the FBI relied on Angleton's reassurance that there was no evidence that Kostikov was a member of Department 13. If there was any genuine concern, CIA counterintelligence would have kept Kostikov firmly in their sights after Mexico City mentioned Oswald's call to Kostikov on October 8.

Now that the paper trail was created and the molehunt was under way, the Sept/Oct callers were in position to spring the trap. Look at the situation.

1. Goodpasture at the Mexico City station had made up a fake story that a probable KGB agent – the “Mystery Man” - was actually Lee Oswald.
2. CIA HQ then sent out a memo to the FBI and other security agencies providing Goodpasture’s false and misleading description of Oswald as “6 foot, athletically built, 35 years old”, with the insinuation that there was no longer any reason for Oswald to be considered as security risk because he had “matured”.
3. Simultaneously, CIA HQ sent out a second memo to its Mexico City station providing a second subtle but false and misleading description of Oswald as “5 foot 10, 165 pounds”. If Oswald was in the middle of an assassination, both the CIA and the FBI would be disgraced if the extent of their prior knowledge of Oswald was discovered.

The anonymous report of a shooter who was 5 foot 10 and 165 pounds

On 11/22/63, at 12:30 pm Central Time, President Kennedy was fatally struck by rifle fire to the head. At 12:43 pm, a sighting was alleged by a “white man” to Inspector Herbert Sawyer, and it immediately went out over the police radio. The description was similar to the “Robert Webster description” in the 10/10 memo sent to the Mexico City station: A man who was “5 foot 10 and 165 pounds” was seen firing from the Texas School Book Depository.

The witness had no description of his clothing, which makes no sense. When a witness sees a man firing prone from a window ledge at waist height, the most important details would be provided from his clothing. How could anyone estimate the shooter’s height or weight, when his entire body was not even visible?

Sawyer turned the witness over to an unknown sheriff’s deputy on the scene. Neither the supposed witness or the deputy were ever heard from again. A man named Howard Brennan claimed to be the witness, but even J. Edgar Hoover agreed that Brennan was not the man and the witness remained unidentified. Brennan did not remember the details recalled by Sawyer’s witness. We’ll come back to this story in greater detail in the next chapter.

This extraordinary sighting was a signal to the hierarchy of the CIA and the FBI. How were they going to explain the paper trail with the phony descriptions of Oswald? Or why Oswald’s hunt for visas was hidden from the record? Or Oswald’s background with the communist-friendly FPCC? Or Oswald’s multiple visits to the Cuban consulate?

If any of the information above had been revealed to the public in the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination, heads were going to roll. Officers would be fired, families would be disgraced, even the agencies themselves might be dismantled. The domestic upheaval in the United States would be enormous, even unprecedented. Would there be war against Cuba? Or the Soviet Union? Or would conflict erupt within the United States itself, aimed at those whose actions had resulted in the death of a popular President? One thing I just can't find is anyone at the CIA or FBI standing up and saying, "Gosh, that 5 foot 10, 165 pound description for the shooter that came over the police radio in the first minutes after the shooting is the exact same description we used for Oswald for the last three years". It had to be covered up.

Angleton’s team did not provide both of the twin 10/10 memos to either J. Edgar Hoover or the Warren Commission, which would have revealed the two descriptions of Oswald and his background to different individuals in different agencies. Goodpasture hid their dual existence in an in-house chronology she prepared for her own boss during the late sixties. Intelligence writer David Wise complained in 1968 that the Warren Commission only got one of these documents in paraphrased form – and now we can see why. The CIA insisted on only providing paraphrased copies, with the actual documents not released to the public for many years.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations received a full version of one memo and a partially-redacted version of the second memo in the late 70s. A comparison of the two revealed the two Oswald descriptions, but not the deceptive manner that these two descriptions were disseminated among the headquarters and the field offices of these agencies which reveals the existence of the molehunt. The twin 10/10 memos, the rest of the paper trail of the molehunt, the Oswald tapes, and the impersonation of

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The "two State documents" are Despatch 809 of 5/26/61, referring to "Lee Harvey Oswald", and another document of 10/13/61, referring to "Lee Harvey Oswald".

The Navy document is DNA-1624 of 4/25/62, referring to "Lee Harvey Oswald":

It seems pretty evident which were the two FBI files that remained in the 201 file: The two Fain reports from 1960 and 1961: See Newman, *Oswald and the CIA*, pp. 493-494. See the 1960 Fain report – DBA 49478 Routing and Record Sheet, 5/25/60, re DBF-49478, Oswald 201 File, Vol 1, p. 137, and p. 139, referring to "Lee Harvey Oswald":

And the 1961 Fain report – DBF 82181.

The Church Committee thought that the August 1962 Fain memo was in the file. "Preliminary Report into the Investigation of the Assassination of President Kennedy", p. 30, Church Committee Boxed Files/NARA Record Number: 157-10014-10141.

Their information was incomplete – they did not know that the Hosty, Quigley and De Brueys memos were missing.

31 *Paul Hartman, formidable in his knowledge on how to bird-dog documents, claimed that these 37 documents were removed because they dealt with "sensitive matters such as wiretaps and surveillance":* If Hartman's analysis is right, we have a pretty close guess as to which were the two FBI files that remained in the 201 file: Unless CIAHQ was lying to Mexico City about the 201 file not going any further than May 1962, they would have to be the two Fain reports from 1960 and 1961.

32 *Jeff Morley recounts a footrace between Egarter and Bustos to retrieve the 201 file after CIA HQ learned that JFK had been shot:* Jefferson Morley, *Our Man in Mexico*, p. 205.

33 *It seems pretty evident which were the two FBI files that remained in the 201 file:* The two Fain reports from 1960 and 1961: See Newman, *Oswald and the CIA*, pp. 493-494. See endnote 30, above.

34 *Bustos said that after she wrote the rough draft...* Interview by Dan Hardway and Betsy Wolf with Charlotte Bustos "Elsie Scaletti". 3/30/78, p. 8, HSCA Segregated CIA Collection (staff notes)/NARA Record Number: 180-10140-10190.

Also see her deposition on 5/19/78, p. 32.

35 *Jane Roman admitted that "naturally, Oswald was the subject of great interest to both the CIA and the FBI even before the assassination, CIA would have explored every available asset abroad to establish his motives and activities":* Jane Roman letter, undated but sometime in 1994, see final two pages. The Jane Roman letter is in the possession of the author.

36 *Morales worked with Harvey in the Langley basement and in Miami:* Bayard Stockton, *Flawed Patriot*, p. 179.

37 *Halpern said, "I'll tell you one thing, I didn't know that word busy-ness. It was never mentioned by Des [Fit-Gerald] when he came back from that meeting, and it was a good thing he didn't because you might have had a Seven Days in May at that point.":* Jefferson Morley recounts his interview with Sam Halpern, in Morley's book *Our Man in Mexico*, p. 166.

38 *Gheesling wrote that once he learned that Oswald was arrested, he told Anderson that Oswald should be taken off the security watch list because he had inadvertently forgot to remove his name after Oswald's return from the Soviet Union:* Gheesling claims he asked Anderson if he should take Oswald off the watchlist on October 9, 1963, and Anderson told him yes. Memo from W. Marvin Gheesling to James H. Gale, "Lee Harvey Oswald, Internal Security –R", 11/26/63. (no electronic version available)

Here's the relevant text in Gheesling's letter: Gheesling is writing to James Gale, Hoover's enforcer who disciplined Gheesling, Anderson, and sixteen other FBI officers for dropping the ball on Oswald's case:

"The Security Flash...was removed by routing slip from me to the Identification Division 10-9-63 and Mr. Gale inquired as to why this Flash was removed since Subject was known to have been arrested by local authorities at New Orleans, La. for distributing "Fair Play for Cuba" pamphlets.

"This stop was placed 11-10-59 to assist in the Bureau's being notified in the event subject returned to the U.S. under assumed name. When information was received that subject had returned to the U.S., the

purpose of the stop had been accomplished. When case was closed by me on 9-7-62, I inadvertently did not remove the stop.

"I did remove the stop after receipt of the Identification Record 10-8-63 showing subject's arrest by the New Orleans Police Department. At the time I removed the stop I advised SA Lambert L. Anderson, who was then handling the case, of the existence of the stop, the purpose for which it was placed, and that I was removing it. He had no objections to such action."

Gheesling's memo also addresses to some degree the debriefing issue. He says he "instructed Dallas to be alert to subject's return to the U.S. and immediately upon his arrival he should be thoroughly interviewed to determine if he was recruited by Soviet Intelligence or made any deals with the Soviets in order to obtain permission to return to the U.S...(after two interviews) case was closed on 9-7-62 and an administrative tickler was set to review the case after one year to consider at that time whether additional investigation was warranted."

Anderson's story supports Gheesling: "I was orally advised (date not recalled) that the security flash placed by Soviet section (my note: Gheesling) regarding subject had been removed inasmuch as subject was now in the US and subject flash no longer necessary." Memo from Lambert L. Anderson to Inspector J. H. Gale, 11/29/63.

FBI 105-82555 Oswald HQ File, Section 44, p. 32.

Gale wrote that one of the reasons for Gheesling's punishment was "stop placed against subject in Identification Section which was removed by (Gheesling) on 10/9/63 after subject arrested in New Orleans for Fair Play for Cuba Committee on 8/9/63. (Gheesling) advised stop was placed in event subject returned from Russia under an assumed name and was inadvertently not removed by him on 9/7/62 when case closed. Inspector feels (Gheesling) in error in removing stop on Subject in Ident on 10/9/63, particularly after arrest for Fair Play for Cuba Committee activity in New Orleans. We might have missed further arrests without stop in Ident. Inspector also feels (Gheesling) erred in not having additional investigation conducted when subject returned to the United States and (Gheesling) wrong in not having subject placed on SI (Author's note: SI is FBI shorthand for Security Index)." NARA Record Number: 124-10369-10042.

39 On October 8 Anderson received a Sept. 24 report of Oswald's arrest, which revealed Oswald's request to speak with an FBI agent and share quite a bit of information while in jail: Austin Horn, the Special Affairs Staff (SAS) liaison with the FBI, also got his copy of the September 24 report on October 8. The routing sheet indicates that Horn's copy was signed for by "LD", SAS/CI L. Demos. This document was passed on to SAS/CI/CONTROL, then Egerter, and then CI/IC Cal Tenney. Austin Horn was also known as Rufus A. Horn, and was active on the Cubela case at its end in 1965. The relationship between Horn and Demos merits further exploration.