

Handwritten mark resembling 'X6' in the top left corner.

Warren Inquiry Data Secure for 75 Years

Herald Tribune News Service
Evidence and investigating reports used by the Warren Commission have been stored in a special vault in the National Archives Building, where they will remain inaccessible to the public for 75 years.

Only under extraordinary circumstances will off-the-record parts of the historic material be made available to the public.

Deputy Archivist Robert H. Bahmer said Thursday that each agency that furnished data may declassify its material, or parts of it, and grant permission for responsible persons to see it.

However, an outsider wishing to see all of the secret material would need the approval of all of the agencies involved in the investigation. These included the FBI, CIA, State Department and Immigration Service.

Public interest in the length of time required before the complete evidence became public was stirred by a remark by Chief Justice Earl Warren, the commission chairman.

Following testimony last February by Marina Oswald, widow of the presumed assassin, Warren told newsmen that some of the testimony might not be released "in your lifetime."

The next day the Chief Justice modified his statement, explaining that he was referring to matters involving the national security that conceivably could come up during the inquiry.

Bahmer said Thursday that,

barring any grants of special permission, the National Archives will follow its policy of keeping the material classified for 75 years. This, he said, is the policy concerning all historic investigations.

He said that 75 years was chosen because it was considered to be the life span of an individual. The period is intended to serve as protection for innocent persons who could otherwise be damaged because of their relationship with participants in the case,

such as Oswald's two infant daughters.

Bahmer said that the Kennedy assassination material will be stored in an inner vault equipped with highly-sensitive electronic detection devices to guard against fire and theft. The vault will have temperature and humidity controls to prevent deterioration of the material.

The combination to the vault will be known by only two or three persons, he said. The material will include

Physical exhibits
rifle used to kill
ident in Dallas No