

The Assassination of President Kennedy — Declassification of Relevant Documents from the National Archives

"The people of the United States have a right to know, to find out the truth about the lies they have been told."

Richard E. Sprague
Hartsdale, N.Y.

The precedent-setting ruling on the Pentagon Papers by the U. S. Supreme Court produced the revelation that "Secret" and "Top Secret" government documents prove that the American people have been deceived and lied to about Vietnam and U. S. involvement for many years.

One of the immediate reactions of an American citizen is: "How many other lies have been told by our governing officials, which would be exposed by declassifying and publishing other classified documents?"

Resting in a special area in our National Archives are a group of Secret and Top Secret documents pertaining to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in November, 1963. Publication of these papers should reveal a great deal about that assassination. They may contain the facts about a conspiracy, the names of some of the conspirators, information about the planning for, and the backing of the conspiracy, and, most importantly, proof that the American public have been told many lies about the assassination by the Warren Commission and by others.

The documents fall into two categories: (1) Warren Commission executive session minutes; and (2) reports submitted to the Commission by government agencies. The former documents were classified top secret by the Warren Commission itself, and are listed partially in Reference 5. The latter category includes reports from the FBI, CIA, and Secret Service, classified Secret or Top Secret by each agency. The Commission did not actually see most of these documents because they were assembled in the Archives after the Commission disbanded. Reference 6 gives a list of the titles of these documents, the agency involved, and the document number. The classifications are all Top Secret, Secret, or Confidential.

How do we know the documents may be revealing?

As in any complex web of information about a subject, correlation of some data with other data, provides a value judgment of validity or significance. In the complex case of the assassination of President Kennedy, it is necessary to correlate the titles of the documents, dates, and names of the classifying agencies against a vast body of evidence about the assassination.

The National Committee to Investigate Assassinations¹ (NCTIA) has gathered together a vast amount of

evidence extant and has performed such a correlation against the classified documents. The sources for the evidence gathered are:

- Warren Report
- Twenty-Six Volumes of Hearings and Exhibits of the Warren Commission
- Warren Commission Documents in Archives (About 10 times the size of the 26 Volumes)
- Senate Investigation Files (Senator Ed Long, Subcommittee, 1967-68)
- NCTIA Investigations
- Books and articles

The work of correlating this vast amount of information is tedious; it requires many people and man-hours. Two computer systems are being developed to help researchers and committee members with the analysis.

Enough work has already been done to illustrate the probable significance of the classified papers. Here are a few examples:

Lee Harvey Oswald's Relation to the FBI

Thesis: Oswald was a paid FBI informer and the Warren Commission probably covered up this fact.

Many meetings of the Warren Commission are still classified Top Secret. (See Reference 5.) The dates of many of these sessions follow immediately after sessions described in a book² by Gerald Ford, one of the Commissioners.

At these sessions beginning January 21, 1964, Ford says the Warren Commission was concerned because Wagoner Carr, Texas Attorney General, told them that he had information about Oswald being a paid informer for the FBI. The classified sessions would, no doubt, be very revealing on this subject.

The Commission wound up merely asking J. Edgar Hoover whether Oswald was a paid informer or not. Hoover said no: that ended the matter as far as the public record (including Ford's book) is concerned.

The NCTIA however has developed several correlated pieces of evidence, including recent statements from one of the FBI agents Oswald reported to in his informer role. Collectively, this evidence shows that Oswald was indeed being paid by the FBI to infiltrate various pro-Castro and anti-Castro groups as well as the JFK assassination team. He reported his findings to three different FBI agents, two in New Orleans and one in Dallas. He attended several meetings in Mexico City where the assassination was planned. He reported to the FBI that President Kennedy was to be assassinated in Dallas just a few days before that happened.

On the day before the assassination and on the morning of the assassination, the special agent in Dallas that Oswald reported to, was trying to find him in order to obtain more information from him.

A record exists that the FBI received the information from Oswald about the forthcoming assassination, but the FBI did nothing about it except for the futile attempts of the agent to find Oswald. The record is in the form of a TWX message which appeared on November 17, 1963, on the FBI teleprinter in New Orleans relayed from Dallas via Washington, D. C. William S. Walters, FBI security clerk in New Orleans, retained a copy and gave it to District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans.

With this type of correlative evidence and the relationship of the Secret Executive Session dates to Waggoner Carr's visit, it is a fairly good bet that the sessions were classified because the Commission discovered some of the other evidence and did not want it known that Oswald was an FBI informer.

However, even if this is not the case, the public is entitled to know what went on in those sessions. The chances that declassifying them now and publishing them will endanger our national security after nearly eight years, are slimmer than "endangering national security" by publishing the Pentagon Papers has been.

One of the classified sessions worried the Commission so much they went to the extreme of forcing the stenographer to destroy his notes. (See Reference 5.)

In addition to the Commission's secret sessions, various classified FBI documents no doubt would reveal Oswald's informer status. Reference 6 includes document 941, "Telephone numbers on 47th page of Lee Harvey Oswald's address book/Washington, D. C." This document may reveal that Oswald had placed in his book the phone numbers of the three FBI agents to whom he reported as a paid informer.

There are a total of 40 documents classified by the FBI concerning Oswald. Most of them are labelled "Lee Harvey Oswald" and a city such as Chicago or Washington. This would tend to indicate either a series of reports about Oswald from various FBI offices, or perhaps multiple copies of an FBI directive to various offices. In any event, the FBI was certainly trying to keep something about Oswald from the public's eyes. To date the FBI has succeeded.

Oswald's Knowledge of the U2

Thesis: Oswald had access to knowledge about the U2 high flying planes.

Another subject the public is entitled to know about is document number 931, Reference 6, classified secret by the CIA.

The title is "Oswald's access to Information About the U2." This title takes on added significance when correlated with evidence about Oswald's training for espionage work while at Atsugi Air Force Base in Japan and statements by Francis Gary Powers in his new book.³

There is every indication from available evidence that Oswald and Powers met in Italy prior to the U2 overflight. There is also a heavy weight of evidence showing that Oswald was trained by the CIA for spy work before his trip to Russia.

The secret documents whose titles refer to the relation of Oswald and Russia, and which were classified by the CIA, undoubtedly would also be very revealing on this subject. See Table 1.

Table 1

List of Secret Documents Relating to Oswald and Russia

Comm. Doc.	Agency	Subject / Place
300	CIA	re Recent Soviet statements of Lee Harvey Oswald
321	CIA	Chronology of Lee Harvey Oswald in the USSR / Washington, DC
528	CIA	re allegation Lee Harvey Oswald interviewed by the CIA in the USSR
631	CIA	re CIA dissemination of information on Lee Harvey Oswald / Washington
680	CIA	Oswald chronology in Russia
691	CIA	Oswald chronology in Russia
692	CIA	Reproduction of CIA official dossier on Lee Harvey Oswald
698	CIA	Reports of travel and activities: Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina
844	CIA	re Lydia Dimytruk, Russian acquaintance of Marina Oswald / Washington, DC
871	CIA	Photos of Oswald in Russia / Washington, DC
928	CIA	Lev Setyayev and Lee Harvey Oswald contact with USSR citizens / Washington, DC
990	CIA	Khrushchev and Drew Pearson discussion re Lee Harvey Oswald / Washington, DC
1041	CIA	Allegations re Intelligence Training School in Minsk, USSR / Washington, DC
1216	CIA	Memorandum from Helms entitled "Lee Harvey Oswald" / Washington, DC
1552	CIA	Soviet use of kidnapping and assassination: Soviet press reaction

(Abstracted from Reference 6)

The Warren Commission may be off the hook on this problem, since they did not see most of those documents. They were filed in the Archives long after the Commission disbanded. On the other hand, it seems likely that

Allen Dulles, former CIA Director, and John J. McCloy, connected closely to intelligence forces in the past, would have been informed or would have taken pains to find out about Oswald's CIA connections.

Again, the public is certainly entitled to see those documents and to judge for themselves.

Mark Lane

Seven of the secret documents are all FBI reports on Mark Lane, author of the best seller, "Rush to Judgment". See Table 2.

Table 2

List of Secret Documents Relating to Mark Lane

Comm. Doc.	Agency	Subject / Place
489	FBI	Mark Lane, Buffalo appearance / Buffalo
694	FBI	Various Mark Lane appearances
763	FBI	Mark Lane appearances / Los Angeles
1380	FBI	Mark Lane / New York
1457	FBI	Mark Lane and his trip to Europe / Washington, DC
1487	FBI	Memo entitled Mark Lane, James Delaney Garst / Washington, DC
1522	FBI	Mark Lane

(Abstracted from Reference 6)

All these documents are classified by the FBI. It is extremely difficult to see why any report about Mark Lane should be classified. The usual excuse given for classifying information about an individual is that it is for his own protection. Mark Lane needs no protection now, and never did with respect to anything the FBI may have discovered. He was attacked so ferociously on every score by every government agency and many researchers or spokesmen for the Warren Commission (Charles W. Roberts and Lawrence Schiller⁴ are two examples) that there could have been nothing at all left to protect by the time the Warren Commission issued its report, and certainly nothing left at this date.

There can be absolutely no reason for classifying any document pertaining to Mark Lane. He would be the first to agree that this is the case. Again, the public is entitled to know.

Harold R. Isaacs and Marylyn Murrett

Document 1080 is titled "Information on Harold R. Isaacs and Marylyn D. Murrett / Boston," classified by the FBI. Harold R. Isaacs is a well known author, World War II reporter in Asia for Newsweek, and for several years now, an MIT professor working on political projects funded by the CIA.

Marylyn Murrett is Oswald's cousin. Evidence gathered by the NCTIA indicates she was involved in espionage activities in Russia and Asia.

In this case it is essential that no implication be made that Isaacs was involved in the assassination plot.

Exhibit A

Excerpt from "The Kennedy Conspiracy"
Paris Hammonde, New York,
Meredith Press, 1969, p 29

The Winnipeg Free Press reported that an FBI man, Merryl Nelson, had checked out a story told by a local businessman whose name was withheld for "security reasons" until November, 1967. At that time Maclean's, a leading Canadian magazine, ran a more complete coverage of the fascinating incident.

The informant, an obviously sincere and sensible Mennonite, and father of four, named Richard Giesbrecht, related a conversation he overheard on Feb. 13, 1964, in the Horizon Room, a cocktail lounge in the sweepingly modern Winnipeg International Airport. The nature of the conversation led the thirty-five year old businessman, who was at the flight terminal to meet a client, to quickly conclude the two participants had knowledge regarding the assassination of the President. The more he listened, the more he became certain of his suspicions.

He described one of the men as having "the oddest hair and eyebrows I'd ever seen. The eyebrows were wide and sort of streaky. The hair was very shiny and it started quite far back on his head." Giesbrecht thought this one of the pair resembled Stan Laurel "when he gets that look as if he's going to cry," and he recalls he wore heavy rimmed glasses. Giesbrecht now says this man was David W. Ferrie.

Ferrie indicated he was concerned over how much Oswald had told his wife about the plot to kill Kennedy. Additionally, they discussed a man named Isaacs, his relationship with Oswald, and how curious it was that he would have gotten himself involved with a "psycho" like Oswald.

Isaacs seemed to have allowed himself to be caught on television film near the President when Kennedy arrived in Dallas, and, at the time the conversation was taking place, was under the surveillance of a man named Hoffman, or Hochman, who was to "relieve" him and destroy a 1958 model automobile in Isaacs' possession.

However, in order to clear Mr. Isaacs completely, it is desirable to prove that he was not the Isaacs referred to by David Ferrie in a conversation with another assassination plotter at the Winnipeg airport in 1964. This conversation was overheard by Richard Giesbrecht, a Canadian, reported at the time to Canadian newsmen, and later to Jim Garrison. See Exhibit A.

The Winnipeg Isaacs was deeply involved in the assassination according to Ferrie, who was also involved. Isaacs was at Love Field when JFK's airplane landed, and furnished a car for use in the assassination escape plan. He appeared on TV at the airport and this worried Ferrie for fear he might have been recognized

Document 729, FBI: "Allegation that Oswald was in Montreal, summer, 1963 / Washington, DC." The reader is struck by the fact that an allegation about Oswald if unfounded, would seem to have no reason to be classified Confidential. This document becomes interesting when coupled with several airline, hotel, and other records showing that David Ferrie and Clay Shaw took several trips to Montreal together during the summer of 1963. Indications are that they were arranging for a form of financial and intelligence support for the assassination.

The Basic Lie

The declassification and publication of the classified assassination documents is essential for the American public. The Warren Commission, the FBI, the CIA, and the Dallas Police fabricated and expanded upon a basic lie to the extent that it became necessary to stamp Secret or Top Secret on over 200 documents to cover up the fact that they were lying.

The basic lie is as follows: Lee Harvey Oswald killed John F. Kennedy and Patrolman J. D. Tippitt on November 22, 1963 using his own rifle to fire three shots at the President, from a sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository Building. Two of the shots struck the President and Governor Connally and one shot missed, striking the south curb of Main St. in Dealey Plaza. Oswald used his own pistol to kill Tippitt in Oak Cliff, several miles away from Dealey Plaza.

The mountain of evidence gathered to date including photographic as well as ballistics, medical, and eye-witness testimony proves the above conclusions reached successively by the Dallas Police, the FBI, and the Warren Commission to be lies. Oswald can be shown to have fired no shots that day. Photographic evidence alone, proves that no shots were fired from the sixth floor window on that day, and that certain members of the police faked evidence in the window, on the sixth floor, and elsewhere, in order to frame Oswald as the lone killer. (See Reference 7.)

Evidence proves that Kennedy was killed by a shot from the grassy knoll in front of him, and that other shots were fired from the Dal Tex Building and the grassy knoll. Evidence shows that two other men shot Tippitt and not Oswald.

The classified documents may or may not reveal all of this, but it is highly likely that they will support the evidence showing conspiracy.

These documents are not needed to prove conspiracy; but nevertheless, the public has a right to know. If the documents reveal nothing at all about Oswald's innocence, his informer role, or the conspiracy, then why should they remain classified? If they do reveal something, then there is all the more necessity for declassification.

The people of the United States have a right to know, to find out the truth about the lies they have been told.

References and Notes

1. National Committee to Investigate Assassinations, 927 15th St. NW. Washington, D. C. 20005
2. Gerald R. Ford, "Portrait of the Assassin". New York, Simon & Schuster, 1965.
3. Francis Gary Powers, "Operation Overflight", New York, Holt Rinehart & Winston, 1970, pp. 357-8.
4. Charles W. Roberts, "The Truth About the Assassination". New York, Grosset & Dunlap, 1967; also, Lawrence Schiller, "The Scavengers and Critics of the Warren Report", New York, Dell Books, 1967.
5. "Original facsimile record of bills charged to the Warren Commission to pay for the stenographic reporting of sessions of the Commission", stamped Top Secret, published as Exhibit 2, in "The Second Conspiracy", by Richard E. Sprague, Computers and Automation, July 1970, pp. 35-36.
This exhibit was photographically reproduced. The second line-space of this record shows that on January 22, 1964, the Warren Commission held a meeting in "D. C.", and then the line is crossed through by another line and the handwritten notation appears "no write-up — reporter's steno notes confiscated by the Commission".
6. "Confidential and Secret Documents of the Warren Commission Deposited in the U. S. Archives", by Neil Macdonald, Computers and Automation, November 1970; list, pp. 45-47; introduction, p. 44.
7. "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: The Application of Computers to the Photographic Evidence", by Richard E. Sprague, Computers and Automation, May 1970, pp. 29-60.

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JUST PUBLISHED!

"TWO FLIGHTPATHS — EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY",
by R. B. Cutler, Architect, Manchester, MA 01944, 1971, 81 pp

The two flightpaths are the paths of two bullets. The occasion was the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas, on November 23, 1963, while riding in a limousine with Governor John B. Connally of Texas — now the Secretary of the Treasury in the administration of President R. M. Nixon. One bullet is the bullet which was alleged by the Warren Commission to have wounded both the president and the governor (Commission Exhibit 399). The other bullet is the bullet which actually struck Governor Connally in the back.

"To an architecturally trained eye, neither bullet lined up correctly with the southeasternmost sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository, the alleged firing nest of Lee Harvey Oswald."

Order from the author. Price, \$7. Returnable in 10 days for full refund if not satisfactory (if in salable condition). To avoid bookkeeping problems, please send money order or check (not cash) with order.

By DOUG LAURIE

The attorney for Senator Robert F. Kennedy's convicted killer says new evidence unearthed by a private investigator, and supported by a noted ballistics expert, "makes it appear quite likely that Sen. Kennedy was not killed by a bullet from the gun of Sirhan Sirhan."

Attorney Godfrey Isaac of Los Angeles told The ENQUIRER in an exclusive interview that he will cite much of the new evidence in "an extraordinary writ" to try to get his client, Sirhan, a new trial. He said he would file the writ as soon as he finished work on it.

The new evidence was gathered by Ted Charach, a 41-year-old Canadian-born broadcast journalist, during a three-year investigation into the circumstances of Sen. Kennedy's death.

Kennedy was shot down early on the morning of June 5, 1968, in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles just moments after winning the California Democratic Presidential primary. Five others were wounded.

Some 150 persons witnessed the horror-filled event. Many of them actually saw Sirhan firing his .22 caliber pistol as the 42-year-old Presidential hopeful walked toward him.

Even Isaac admits there is no question that the 26-year-old Jordanian was "there and shooting."

But the mass of evidence gathered by Charach, who claims he was the first newsman to enter the hotel pantry after Kennedy was shot, makes it "improbable that Senator Kennedy was shot by Sirhan's gun," Isaac said.

Two key experts support Charach's claim that Sirhan isn't the killer — former Los Angeles coroner Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi and nationally-recognized ballistics expert, William W. Harper. Both say that Kennedy was shot from behind and from a distance of within 3 inches.

At no time was Sirhan ever closer than 4 feet to Kennedy, nor was he ever behind him, Isaac says.

Harper, a noted criminologist who has qualified as a ballistics expert in the courts of seven states, said in an affidavit filed by Charach with the Los Angeles Superior Court last June 25:

"During the past seven months I have made a careful review and study of the physical circumstances of the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. In this connection I have examined the physical evidence introduced at the trial, including the Sirhan weapon, the bullets and shell casing. I have also studied the autopsy report, the autopsy photographs, and pertinent portions of the trial testimony."

From that study, Harper concluded:

"1. Two .22-caliber guns were involved in the assassination.
"2. Senator Kennedy was killed by one of the shots fired from Firing Position B, fired by a second gunman. Firing Position B was located close to the senator, immediately to his right and rear.

"3. The five bystanders that were wounded were shot by Sirhan from Firing Position A, located directly in front of the senator.

"4. It is extremely unlikely that any of the bullets fired by the Sirhan gun ever struck the body of Senator Kennedy.

"It is self-evident," Harper said in his affidavit, "that within the brief time of the shooting (roughly 14 seconds) Sirhan could not have been in both firing positions at the same time.

"No eyewitness saw Sirhan at any position other than the firing position A (in front of the senator) where he was quickly restrained by citizens."

He also stated that the fatal shot was fired 1 to 3 inches from the sena-

tor's head. Noguchi, who performed the autopsy on Kennedy, testified at the Sirhan trial that the senator died as a result of a gunshot wound behind his right ear.
Two other bullets entered under Kennedy's right armpit, Dr. Noguchi testified.
The former coroner told the court that all the bullets were fired into Kennedy from back to front, right to left and upward.

ENQUIRER: "From the various tests we conducted as to powder burn patterns, etc., we had determined that the shot behind the ear was fired within the muzzle distance 3 inches away. But further study showed that it could have been fired from only 1 inch away."
The following question was then put to Dr. Noguchi by The ENQUIRER: Q. "Senator Kennedy was then shot from the back?"
A. "It was the only way, since he

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lets go in a straight line. Bullets do not curve and go around. They can only go straight. The bullets went from back to front."
Charach told The ENQUIRER: "I have talked to many witnesses of the actual slaying and they are certain that the senator did not turn his head during the firing in such a way so he could have been shot upwards and from the rear by Sirhan."
Sirhan's attorney, Isaac, who has represented him only since the trial, not during it, remarked to The ENQUIRER:

"We are now in the unusual situation of finding that Senator Kennedy was shot — including the one (shot) through his clothes — four times from the rear."
And Sirhan, according to various witnesses, was 4 to 11 feet in front of him.

Does a man get shot in the back by a man that is that distance in front of him? This is a question the average people will want to know the answer to."

The attorney said he has directed Charach's investigative findings with Sirhan at San Quentin Prison's death row.

"Mr. Sirhan has interest in them, may recall that serious recollection. And his interest is seen in these facts because he would like to know — as many of the readers of the paper would — exactly what occurred that night at the Ambassador Hotel."