



Assassination Information Bureau

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Review and Analysis of Soon to be Released

FBI/JFK Assassination Documents

INTRODUCTION-

On December 7, 1977, the FBI will make available to the public for the first time 40,000 pages of documents from their file on the JFK assassination. Another 40,000 pages will be released in January.

Preliminary releases of this material in private circulation indicate that there will be significant new revelations. Because of the massive amount to be released, and its tremendous potential significance to the press, research community, and the current Congressional investigation, it is imperative that the new information be analyzed and reported.

The initial news stories are likely to be superficial, if the experience with previous CIA releases of even smaller size is any indication. The media--that is, the AP, UPI, and the TV networks--will be under immediate pressure to produce stories based on a hasty and unscholarly reading of small parts of the material. In order to generate and sustain interest in the material beyond the release dates themselves, the documents, in their entirety, must be subjected to careful analysis and checked against what is already known about the FBI's role in the investigation and their pre-assassination knowledge of Oswald and Ruby.

AIB PROPOSAL-

The AIB is proposing to coordinate an effort in Washington to accomplish this goal. In doing so we are responding to the consensus among qualified researchers, reporters, academics, and ordinary citizens who recognize the need for such an effort. No one else has the ability or means to carry out such a project.

The AIB will microfilm and/or copy the entire set of documents and distribute them to a small group of prominent experts across the country who have volunteered to cooperate with the AIB. This group includes: Sylvia Meagher (author of Accessories After the Fact and the Subject Index to the Warren Report), Professor Peter Dale Scott (co-editor of The Assassinations: Dallas and Beyond and author of Crime and Cover-up), and Dr. Paul Hoch (co-editor of The Assassinations: Dallas and Beyond and author of The FBI and the Warren Commission). Dr. Hoch is perhaps the foremost expert outside the government on the FBI's role in the investigation of the assassination. Jim Kostman, Research Director of the AIB, will coordinate the project in Washington with the aid of the AIB staff.

In the past, in the case of some releases (such as those by the CIA in 1976-77) of previously withheld documents, a mechanism existed for making those documents available to qualified researchers. But in one particular case, when a large amount of Secret Service documents were released to Mark Lane's Citizen's Commission of Inquiry in 1975, the documents remained unread in Washington, while valuable time was lost and important leads were not recognized. Recently, the AIB called the attention of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) to some of the more significant of these documents.

Because of the masive size of the pending FBI release, the AIB will distribute portions of the 80,000 pages to various researchers to facilitate the analysis of the material. In those cases where a researcher has expertise in a special area (e.g., the FBI's interactions with other agencies, the FBI's knowledge of CIA assassination plots against Castro, etc.), documents concerning those areas will be forwarded to that researcher.

OBJECTIVE-

The project's objective is to produce an analysis of all 80,000 pages within 60 to 90 days of the final release. The AIB will collect the work of the researchers and provide its own analysis. If possible, the AIB will confer with the researchers in Washington. A report will be written by the AIB including:

- 1- A summary of the most important documents in the release.
- 2- An annotated list of the set of documents (this will not be supplied by the FBI.
- 3- Recommendations for possible news stories.
- 4- An analysis of material still being withheld by the FBI.

CONTENT OF THE FBI RELEASES-

The following is a specific characterization of the nature of the evidence which is likely to emerge from the documents:

A- Some significant new investigative leads to the assassination itself: For example, one lead we have already found is contained in Document #89H (dated Dec. 2, 1963--Dr. Paul Hoch's numbering system). It shows that the FBI, in the aftermath of the assassination, considered the possibility that the 6.5 mm ammunition allegedly used by Oswald was manufactured for the CIA under the cover of Marine Corps contract. It is not known yet how the FBI investigated this possibility. (See accompanying document.)

B- Confirmation and expansion of the Schweiker-Hart Report (Vol. 5, Final Report, Church Committee, issued June 1976) finding that the FBI covered up information from the Warren Commission: The FBI is now known to have destroyed evidence extremely crucial to the investigation of the assassination ("the Oswald-Hosty note"). The Schweiker-Hart Report shows that the intelligence agencies in general withheld important information from the Warren Commission which significantly affected the whole direction of the investigation. The FBI focused on Oswald exclusively, almost as soon as he was killed. The case was handled primarily as a criminal investigation; only certain political connections were explored and these only superficially. Evidence pointing to Cuban involvement, according to the Schweiker-Hart Report, was ignored. The Schweiker-Hart Report reached these conclusions partly on the basis of documents which are to be included in the forthcoming release. The AIB will examine what additional evidence concerning these conclusions can be gotten from the documents themselves.

C- The immediate post-assassination reaction of the FBI: Some of the early post-assassination documents in the release will have to do with the FBI's initial reluctance to go along with the White House and Justice Department line that Oswald was the lone assassin and its eventual acceptance of this line.

D- Specification of materials withheld; analysis of possibilities for further requests for documents: Some of the material in the release, perhaps only in the initial portions, contains parts of the FBI's pre-assassination file on Oswald which have not yet been available. This material needs to be studied especially carefully. This study has already been commenced by Dr. Hoch, who has some of the material that will shortly be released to the public. His preliminary study indicates that the FBI may still be withholding pre-assassination Oswald material from the files of several of its field offices.

E- Recommendations for the HSCA: A final focus of the project will be a set of recommendations to the HSCA for obtaining evidence from the FBI. This section may or may not be made public. If not in the report, it will be in the form of a separate report to the HSCA, indicating which of the withheld documents they should pay attention to and/or subpoena and which of the released documents need further investigation.

BUDGET-

--Microfilming of documents (6 copies) *	\$2,500.
--Xeroxing of documents (6 copies of the most important 2,000 pages)	500.
--Microfilm readers (6) **	1,000.
--Telephone and Postage	500.
--Printing of Final Report and Index (1,000 copies)	1,800.
--Air/Train Fare to Washington	1,000.
--AIB Coordination Personnel	2,500.
Total--	<u>\$9,800.</u>

* The FBI is charging 10¢ per page for these documents--\$8,000 for the set. By photographing the set ourselves and microfilming them we can make 6 copies of the entire set for \$2,500 (one for each researcher involved in the project), instead of a cost of upwards of \$20,000.

** It is important for each individual researcher to have his/her own microfilm reader at his/her office, so that personal files can be consulted. The FBI reading room will only be open from 9-5:30 on weekdays; individual copies of the sets at the offices of each researcher will allow for longer and more convenient working hours.