

The Archives notified me in mid-February of the release of some 2700 pages of CD's, mostly FBI reports. (See separate listing of CD's by category.) I ordered 655 pages: that is, FBI reports on 'Oswald' and miscellaneous topics, State Dept. CD's, and the small CIA CD's, but not the large CIA CD's, Ruby, Gemberling reports on other than Oswald, the Paines, the DeMohrenschildts, and Mark Lane.

There were 6 CD's (45 pages) which I got on a priority basis, because I expected them to be the most interesting. (CD's 442, 853, 1084, 1085 (cover letter and part c8), 1359, and 1539c.) CD 1084 is particularly interesting - it is the original internal FBI 'working paper,' finished within 5 days of the assassination and suppressed with a Secret stamp for 12 years. It served as a draft of parts of CD 1, and (most provocatively) as a briefing paper for Ambassador Mann in Mexico. Unlike CD 1, it plays up Oswald's FPCC activities and the FPCC's alleged links with the Cuban government. Mann was apparently involved with some very heavy telegrams (CD 442, still withheld) involving allegations about Castro, and this all may tie in with the recent disclosures about how the Castro-KGB hypothesis were handled by the Warren Commission and the Rockefeller Commission. I have done a separate memo on this, and have filled in most of the deletions in the cover letter as released by the FBI.

I have not yet had time to make notes on the 655 pages. The pages I found of more than routine interest at first glance are CD 6.482 (SCEF), 87.336 (gun running), 166.25 (Lynd & Minnis), 205.193, 205.563, 227.14 (Piedra - Camp St.), 449A; 470 (& 599, 735.370) (Martin incident - sex?), 653 (McDermid), 794A (?), 910 (?), 1085E3 (advance FBI knowledge of Alpha-66 raids), 1085E6 (Important - good FBI coverage of the FPCC mailing list), 1486 (Cuba), 1532 (Gestapo junk on Joesten).

One striking feature of these pages is the deletions. There are lots of them, often inconsistent. Many can be filled in using the indexes, previously released adjacent pages, the volumes, and pages accidentally given to researchers at the Archives.

I intend to order some more of the 2700 pages, probably no more than 100 pages. Also, Kevin Walsh is looking through this material and keeping me informed.

The Archives also told researchers about some non-CD material which has been released over the last couple of years. I already had most of this (much of it having been reviewed at my request), and can copy it for people. I will order some more.

Many of the copies sent to me by the Archives are of quite poor quality. The copies I am sending out are about the best that can be done. Sorry.

The 1460 pages just released by the CIA are, on the whole, much more interesting. I now have the whole thing. There is a fair amount of junk, and a lot of CD's (including the large CD's I omitted from my Archives order). There were some AP stories on this material, notably on the Rockefeller Commission, the WC, and the Castro-KGB hypothesis; Nosenko; and the use of Drew Pearson as a source. I haven't yet had time to do notes or a list by subject, but there are about 100 pages that strike me as particularly interesting. Using the numbering on the not-very-informative 26-page CIA list, they are items 1 (the original Mexico telegram), 154 (a confrontation with XXX (FBI?) re the KGB hypothesis), 250 (waiting out the WC re Mexico); 258 (CD 631, released earlier, but now with deletions!), 274 (someone in State thought Castro did it), 309 (~~Random House~~ CIA interest in Sauvage's book, which was delayed), 310 (Pearson); 319 (a Cuban defector), 337 (CD 1287 with deletions), 350 (draft of part of the WR), 399 (McCone wanted things locked up for 75 years), 416 (indicating a serious FBI-CIA investigation in 1967), 418 (no CIA link to Arcacha!), 414 & 420 (CIA concern about the release of the CD list), 433 (Gestapo on Joesten), 448 (reaction to my memo on the CIA by the Rockefeller Commission); 450 (NPIC study of Z film); 451 (Rocca memo to Belin on Castro hypothesis), 481 (CIA traces on Americans?), 485 (NYT investigation in 1966 turned off?), 497 (Nosenko). I can copy this stuff at 5¢/page also.