

REVELATIONS FROM JFK FILES

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FBI releases documents on assassination

WASHINGTON (UPD) — The FBI made public today masses of information it gathered in the investigation that led the Warren Commission to conclude that Lee Harvey Oswald killed President Kennedy "alone and without advice or assistance."

It was released under terms of the Freedom of Information Act. There were 49,601 pages of internal reports the bureau gathered while conducting 25,000 interviews to determine whether Oswald had killed Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, whether he had acted alone and what motivated him.

One document was a message labeled urgent from James Walsh, otherwise unidentified, on Department of Justice communication-section letterhead. It was written less than an hour after the shooting and said, "Get everyone involved in shooting the President and get them fast."

An urgent teletype message from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover instructed all agents to "immediately establish whereabouts of bombing suspects, all known Ku Klux Klan and hate group members, known racial extremists and any other individuals who on the basis of information available in your files may possibly have been involved."

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On Dec. 2, 1963, the U.S. Embassy in Rome sent Hoover a memo that an American newspaper columnist in Rome — his identity was censored by the FBI — said Sanchez Bella, Spanish ambassador to Italy, had shown him a report prepared by the Spanish intelligence service alleging that Kennedy's assassination was brought about by Fidel Castro.

"(censored)" stated that, as he understood the report, Fidel Castro was very much disturbed by the deaths of the Diem brothers in Vietnam and felt certain that these deaths had been caused by the CIA."

(South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, chief of South Vietnamese secret police, were killed Nov. 1, 1963, in a military coup.)

Castro, according to the Spanish intelligence report, "has been most upset by the apparent rapport established between President Kennedy and Premier (Nikita) Khrushchev ... and felt that some dire

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JFK's death: FBI reveals first papers

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act was needed to destroy this report."

Four days later, the FBI cabled the U.S. Embassy in Madrid asking it to check if Spanish intelligence knew if Oswald "was acting as a Cuban agent."

More than 1,300 pages were devoted to apparently worthless leads that were investigated anyway.

There were reports of hundreds of people who had been overheard making some threatening remark like "Kennedy will get his" about the time of the assassination.

The FBI investigated someone who wanted to send a telegram to Andrei Gromyko; an anonymous phone call the New York State Police got from Baton Rouge, La., and an obscene letter sent to Margaret Oswald, the assassin's mother threatening, "Us Nazis'll kill ya."

One man called the FBI and said he had stopped at a gas station in Scottsdale, Ariz., six months after the assassination and in a telephone book in a phone booth he found "John Wilks Booth" and "John F. Kennedy" written on the front page.

After questioning the gas station owner and others, the FBI concluded that "no one had noticed any questionable persons in the telephone booth."

Another file showed that the shooting of Oswald by Dallas nightclub operator Jack Ruby, 52, two days after the assassination touched off a frantic search into Ruby's background and his possible past connections in Havana.

FBI officials in Dallas asked Hoover's office to check records of the State Department passport of-



UPI Photo.
THE FBI DOCUMENTS—AND THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST HALF
UPI newsmen read 40,000 pages of assassination papers

office, the former U.S. Embassy in Havana and the CIA.

"CIA records do not contain any records identifiable with Ruby," Hoover wired back. "Passport division, State Department advised unable to locate record of passport for Ruby based on available data."

The FBI apparently was deluged with phone calls after Kennedy's assassination, offering theories or claiming information. Many were hoaxes.

A caller on Dec. 9 from Logan, Utah, urged that Hoover be immediately informed "that President Kennedy was not dead, and the apparent assassination was a gigantic hoax engineered by the FBI to trap the Mafia."

Another 40,000 pages, the rest

of the FBI file on the Kennedy assassination, is due to be made public soon, probably next month.

The files may shed light on what Oswald told police and FBI men when he underwent intermittent questioning during two days in custody before he was murdered.

The FBI said at the time that Oswald denied shooting Kennedy. No stenographic record of the interrogation was kept.

Much has been excised from the released materials, however.

Parts of the documents are inked out under the provision of the law permitting government agencies to keep secret information that would tend to reveal investigatory sources or methods or to needlessly violate privacy.

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A book on skills —