



1. NOV. 22, 1963: President Kennedy and First Lady, Jacqueline, rode in triumph past Dallas' Texas School Book Depository only seconds before the fateful bullets were fired.

# KGB HIT JFK,





2. JACKIE LUNGED toward her husband moments after he was struck.



3. SECRET SERVICE MAN and First Lady react as Presidential limousine takes off.

# DEFECTOR HINTED

## Gov't opens papers on prez slay



Nearly 1 million pages of government documents on the assassination of John F. Kennedy were released yesterday in Washington, but a quick review disclosed only one tenuous link to any of the dozen or so conspiracy theories that sprang up like mushrooms after the 1963 shooting of the President.

That link, in a memo written by a KGB defector employed by the CIA — five days after JFK's assassination in Dallas, while he and wife Jacqueline were making a political campaign visit — speculated that the Soviet intelligence agency instigated the hit.

But there was nothing in the papers — some previously stamped "secret" — that definitely linked Lee Harvey Oswald, the President's accused killer, or anyone else with any kind of conspiracy.

Conspiracy buffs immediately accused the CIA yesterday of holding back documents — the private Assassination Archives and Research Center put the number at 180,000 pages. The CIA, said it had withheld about 47,000 pages for security reasons.

The KGB defector, Peter Deryabin, speculated that his former bosses had instigated JFK's murder to relieve internal pressures on Nikita Khrushchev, then leader of the Soviet Union.

**Eight pages**

In an eight-page, single-spaced memo written five days after Kennedy's assassination, on Nov. 22, 1963, Deryabin wrote:

"Our President's death effectively diverts the Soviets' attention from their internal problems. It directly affects Khrushchev's longevity."



Deryabin was a KGB agent who defected to the West in 1954. He served as a consultant to the U.S. government, including the CIA, and wrote several books. He died about a year ago.

His memo, stamped "secret," contained no factual basis for his theory.

**Nearly a million**

It was among the documents — somewhere between 900,000 and 1 million — the government released under a requirement of a law President George Bush signed last

year.

Almost all the material was previously available under the Freedom of Information Act, but Tilley said the difference now was that researchers and the public could browse among the files without asking for specific papers.

Librarians sprinkled through the files were large red cards notifying researchers that certain items were "withdrawn" because they contained classified or "otherwise restricted" information.

But James Lesar, president of the Assassination Archives and Research Center, said that in many cases even the released material had been heavily "blacked out."

He also faulted President Clinton for not appointing the five required members of a JFK files Review Board, which would have the authority to override the CIA on the release of documents.

**Assorted sources**

The released documents came from the CIA and FBI,



LEE HARVEY OSWALD met executioner — without trial — in police station as a TV audience watched in shock on Sunday morning.

The Warren Commission that originally investigated the assassination, the followup Rockefeller Commission of 1975, State and Defense departments, congressional committees and presidential libraries.

Over the years, the CIA had given official commissions access to its files.

The Warren Commission concluded in 1964 that Oswald, acting alone, shot Kennedy with a rifle from a perch in a sixth-floor window at the Texas School Book Depository in downtown Dallas.

However, numerous conspiracy theories have surfaced over the years, most revolving around a theory that Oswald was a fall guy or was

acting on orders from the CIA, FBI, organized crime or any of another dozen groups.

**Quick response**

The National Archives staff was swamped with telephone calls from TV shows, asking about Oliver Stone, director of the hit film "JFK," which theorized there was a vast conspiracy involving the military-industrial complex, defanged homosexuals, Cubans and the Mafia.

The Deryabin memo, signed "Peter" over his typewritten name, was written at a time when U.S. investigators were speculating about Oswald's possible motive for

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# Theories abounding

*It seemed so unlikely to many Americans that one man, acting alone, could kill JFK that they suspected or assumed something much bigger than Lee Harvey Oswald was behind the assassination.*

*And so the conspiracy theories took root. Among them:*

■ **THE MAFIA.** This theory was that organized crime killed Kennedy as payback for the war waged on it by his brother, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

One spin-off was that Robert Kennedy himself was part of the cover-up, because to reveal the mob's involvement would mean disclosure of JFK's liaison with mob moll Judith Exner.

■ **THE CIA.** This theory argued that renegade agents shot JFK, in some scenarios with the help of the mob and/or right-wingers who were afraid the President would curb the intelligence agency's controversial projects.

■ **RIGHT-WINGERS,** especially Texans. This theory holds that rabid rich men, egged on by segregationists, anti-Catholics and others, and fearful that JFK would promote anti-business policies and raise taxes, ordered the hit.

■ **FIDEL CASTRO.** This theory is that the Cuban dictator ordered the murder in retaliation for a Kennedy-approved plot to kill him and overthrow his regime.

■ **ANTI-CASTRO CUBANS.** JFK was killed in revenge for his refusal to give all-out support for the Bay of Pigs invasion.

■ **HAWKS.** JFK was killed to prevent him from scaling back American involvement in Vietnam before total victory.

■ **KGB.** Contends that the KGB needed something to distract Soviet attention from a crisis at home and strengthen Nikita Khrushchev in dealing with dissidents.

■ **MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.** A variation on the theory blaming right-wing businessmen and their allies.

■ **LBJ.** This theory holds that Vice President Lyndon Johnson was so ambitious that he conspired with right-wing industrialists to kill Kennedy and become President.

— Bill Bell

# Conspiracy mill gets more grist

By **DICK SHERIDAN**

Daily News Staff Writer

Will yesterday's release of nearly 1 million pages of previously secret government documents finally clear up the mystery of that tragic November day in 1963?

Not according to most assassination buffs. To them, the gush of documents is too little, too late.

"This case is not closed," director Oliver Stone, whose film "JFK" explored conspiracy theories surrounding the killing, said in a statement. "It cannot be closed until all the files are opened and all the facts are known."

"Who's going to go down there (to Washington) and go through all those pages?" asked Prof. Gerald McKnight, a historian at Hood College in Maryland, who has written extensively on the assassination and does not believe that Oswald killed Kennedy. "The way it's being handled, it's a good way to mute the impact, to censor it."

"It's impossible to say that nothing that is relevant will emerge," said Edward Jay Epstein, author of "Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald."

## 'Oh, we killed Kennedy'

"Much of what's being released comes from the Warren Commission," he said. "It's unlikely the CIA gave the Warren Commission a paper that said, 'Oh, we killed Kennedy, but don't tell anybody for 25 years.'"

Zach Sklar, who wrote the screenplay for "JFK," said that much more significant than the papers released yesterday are "the 47,000 pages that are being kept secret by the CIA and the 150,000 micro-filmed pages that are still awaiting release."

"We know from our experience with Oliver North that what's significant gets shredded," said Sklar.

John Davis, author of "Mafia Kingfish: Carlos Marcello and the Assassination of John F. Kennedy," blasted President Clinton for failing to name members to a high-level review panel that under law is supposed to oversee the release of the JFK

shooting Kennedy.

Deryabin's memo listed reasons why the assassination would benefit Moscow and advanced the notion that the KGB, the secret Soviet intelligence agency, might have instigated such an act while Oswald lived in the Soviet Union.

A former Marine, Oswald defected to Moscow, then returned to the U.S.

"The very real possibility also exists that Oswald was sent here (to the United States) on another mission by the KGB and subsequently accomplished the deed on his own initiative," Deryabin wrote.

"However, such a possibility does not make the KGB less culpable as the seeds for Oswald's act must have been planted while he was trained in the USSR for his other mission."

In the memo, Deryabin listed nine reasons why Kennedy's killing would

benefit Moscow

His first was that Western pressure, led by the U.S., "would automatically ease up," adding, "witness President (Lyndon) Johnson's immediate conciliatory telegram to Khrushchev after the murder."

And he offered one more possible reason.

"Finally, the death of President Kennedy, whether a planned operation or not, will serve the most obvious purpose of providing proof of the power and omniscience of the KGB," he said.

Deryabin said laymen might think that Oswald "was a nut" and that the KGB would not trust such an operation to him. "However, the KGB properly knows that, historically, most assassins have been unbalanced, maladjusted types."

## **BUFFS**

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assassination papers.

"It's a serious matter," he said. "You have to get to the bottom of the censorship process."

Still, yesterday's release may tell something about the assassination, said several experts.

"There may be some gaps — say,

someone who in previous documents seemed okay but here may be shown to be connected to the CIA, the KGB, the mob," said Epstein.

What the latest stack of papers may reveal, he said, "is a piece in a jigsaw that will now fit with another piece."

Gerald Posner, author of the soon-to-be-released "Case Closed," which tries to put an end to the debate, said, "There are no surprises that will change the conclusion that Oswald did it alone."





**RESEARCHERS** pore over files yesterday at National Archives. **KAT**

## It's information overload

It's like trying to read everything Tom Clancy ever wrote — with enough pages left over for everything John Grisham and Danielle Steel have written. And Michael Crichton and Stephen King.

Or 840 volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

It's so many pages that not even Steve Tilley, the JFK files liaison for the National Archives in Washington, is sure of the number — it's somewhere, he said, between 900,000 and 1 million pages.

Every page deals with the assassination 30 years ago of President John F. Kennedy, and starting yesterday every page is available for browsers, serious scholars and anyone else willing to go through the 900 boxes of documents.

Tilley said it would take a tractor-trailer to haul away the documents.

Not that anyone can check them out. They are for reading on premises only.

And speedreaders should note: If they can read a page a minute, they'll finish in 347 days — that's 24 hours a day without breaks or sleep. Give or take a couple of minutes.

— **Bill Bell**

# 8 new books for fans who can't get enough Camelot

By **SHERRYL CONNELLY**

Daily News Staff Writer

Gerald Posner may successfully debunk the various conspiracy theories in "Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK" (Random House), but he will not have the last word. This fall, marking the 30th anniversary of the assassination, several new titles capture the President's life and death.

■ "President Kennedy: A Profile in Power," coming from Simon & Schuster in October, is journalist Richard Heeves' authoritative profile, which reveals the young President to be far more interested in maintaining the status quo and less interested in liberal reform, than legend would lead us to believe.

■ Of a commemorative nature is "JFK Remembered: An Intimate Portrait by His Personal Photographer" (Random House, due in November), which features 150 of Jacques Lowe's behind-the-scenes photographs.

■ "The Killing of a President" (Viking, due in November) by Robert J. Gordon, author of "JFK: The Case for Conspiracy" and "High Treason," contains what he says is evidence refuting the "single-bullet theory."

■ "In Killing the Truth: Deceit and

Deception in the JFK Case" (Carroll & Graf, due in November), Harrison Edward Livingston, co-author of "High Treason," accuses high-profile assassination researchers of fraud and attempts to further discredit the Warren Commission report.

■ "Passport to Assassination: The Never Before Told Story of Lee Harvey Oswald by The KGB Colonel Who Knew Him" (Carol Publishing, due in November). Col. Oleg Maximovich Nchiporenko, who fielded Oswald's appeal to return to the Soviet Union, promises previously unpublished material from the KGB files on Oswald.

■ "Who's Who in the JFK Assassination: An A to Z Encyclopedia" (Carol Publishing, due in October) by Michael Benson includes 1,400 entries covering all the conspiracy theories and all the players.

■ Out now is "The Kennedy Contract" (Harper Paperbacks), in which author John Davis sets out to convince the reading public that the mob figured in the assassination.

■ In November, Random House will reprint in paperback "JFK: Reckless Youth," Nigel Hamilton's in-depth biography of Kennedy as a young man, which included salacious details on the sex lives of JFK and his father, Joseph.