

9/12/69 HW

The Commission's correspondence files should show who drafted this letter from Rankin. If the written initials are those of Howard Willens (he was contact with Justice, but I do not know whether CIA), or whoever wrote it, why did they wait until so late for formal acknowledgement the CIA had gotten the State docs listed? Why should there have ever been any doubt? And what did all the earlier contact with CIA yield if at this late date the Commission did not know even the contents of the CIA files on Oswald? Some investigation!

Does someone on the Commission suspect State? CIA?

Can it be that in March CIA supplied the Commission a memo in "Information in CIA's Possession Regarding Lee Harvey Oswald Prior to November 22, 1963" and is so supersecret that it hid from the Commission what it obtained from other federal agencies? Or that it failed to tell the Commission all that it had from other federal agencies?

This is strange and should be suspected of indicating something.

The lists PH sent me do not include withholding on CD 632, the identification of the March memo. My own biblio is at the Archives. However, if the CIA had nothing but what came from other agencies, which is what they say, it would be fascinating if this had been withheld.

But page 12 indicates Stern's examination of the CIA file at the CIA turned up (3/27) more than what the CIA had earlier reported to the Commission, including cables from the Mexico City Station after, immediately after, the assassination, on CD 237 (Odum 1). If these messages said anything, did not Stern recall it? If they did contain anything, why did Liebelar have and never get any answer to his questions about the picture? Why did Stern not immediately have these same questions? If they are accurately paraphrased in CD 674 and questions remained, basic questions, then the CIA sent itself pointless cables from Mexico City, which seems unlikely. This page also indicates the CIA did not give the Commission its 10/10 cable indicating Oswald had been to the Soviet Embassy (did they not know he had been to the Cubans?). Why did Stern not "review any materials later than 11/23? Again, some investigators! His review of earlier than 11/23 revealed nothing, not even that the CIA had held out on the Commission. If the printout included "no item listed which we have not been given" - the word listed is his and can be taken to indicate a suspicion there were some not listed, why the September question, did they get the listed docs from State? What did Stern do there is he made no list or got none from CIA of what they had?

Taken together, these three pages inspire suspicion of known CIA withholding.

S.A. Stern/av/3-27-64  
cc: Mr. Rankin  
Mr. Stern  
Files ✓

March 27, 1964

C

MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Rankin  
FROM : S. A. Stern  
SUBJECT: CIA File on Oswald

Today, Friday, March 27, 1964, I met at CIA headquarters with Mr. Rocca to review the CIA file on Lee Harvey Oswald. The file contains those materials furnished to us previously by CIA. In addition, it contains the following materials:

a. Cable reports from the CIA station in Mexico of November 22 and 23, 1963 relating to photographs of a person who had visited the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City during October and November 1963; and reports on these cables furnished on November 23 by CIA to the Secret Service. These messages are accurately paraphrased in the attachments to the CIA memorandum of March 24, 1964 (Commission Document #674).

b. Cable of October 10 from CIA Mexico City station to CIA headquarters reporting on Oswald contact at Soviet Embassy, and October 10, 1963 message from CIA headquarters to Mexico City station of background information on Oswald. These messages are accurately reported in the CIA memorandum of January 31, 1964.

I did not review any materials later than November 23, 1963.

Mr. Rocca also showed me the "printout" of the references to Oswald documents in the CIA electronic data storage system. There was no item listed which we have not been given either in full text or paraphrased.

When I evidenced an interest in the CIA electronic data processing system, Mr. Rocca said that he would arrange a detailed explanation at a future visit.

S

D.A.  
C.I.A

S

September 11, 1964

Mr. Richard Helms  
Deputy Director for Plans  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

WAD

Dear Mr. Helms:

Reference is made to your memorandum to me dated March 6, 1964, Subject: Information in CIA's Possession Regarding Lee Harvey Oswald Prior to November 22, 1963 (Classification Document 612). The Commission would appreciate a letter or memorandum from the Central Intelligence Agency acknowledging that it received the following communications from the Department of State, copies of which are included in the aforementioned memorandum dated March 6, 1964:

Copy of message dated March 3, 1962 - Foreign Service Dispatch No. 236 of 2 Nov 1959, re Lee Harvey Oswald

Copy of Foreign Service Dispatch dated October 12, 1961, Subject: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS - Lee Harvey Oswald

Copy of Foreign Service Dispatch dated July 11, 1961, Subject: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Lee Harvey Oswald

Copy of Department of State Instruction A-273, April 13, 1961 re CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Lee Harvey Oswald

Copy of Memorandum of Conversation dated January 26, 1961 Subject: Lee Oswald

Copy of telegram dated November 9, 1959, No: 1358

Copy of Foreign Service Dispatch dated November 2, 1959, REF Control 1274, October 31, 1959 re CITIZENSHIP: Lee Harvey Oswald

Copy of telegram dated October 11, 1959, No. 1374.

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9/11/64  
L.R.P.

2-Richard Helms, 9/11/63

We would appreciate receiving your acknowledgment at your earliest convenience. Thank you again for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel

cc: Mr. Rankin  
Mr. Willens  
Mr. Liebler  
Mr. Slawson

(The reply from Mr. Helms should be cited in footnotes 37, 40, and 252 of Appendix 15. The reply has already been given Commission Exhibit No. 2752).

WDS:slawson:MAS 9-11-63