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**Files Show FBI, CIA  
Hindered Kennedy Probe**

Reuters

New York

An investigation of Kennedy assassination files released last summer has found that the FBI and CIA withheld and destroyed evidence, as government officials focused more on protecting their agendas than getting at the truth.

In a lengthy report in its current issue, Newsweek said yesterday that the CIA withheld information from the Warren Commission regarding its own attempts to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro and that the FBI knew that Lee Harvey Oswald was dangerous.

Newsweek conducted an investigation with the Washington Post and CBS News of thousands of pages of secret cables, memorandums and phone records that were released by the National Archives in August.

The article reports that the Warren Commission was created to sell the lone-gunman theory — which holds that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing John F. Kennedy in November 1963 — rather than to determine the truth behind the assassination.

Nonetheless, the investigation concludes that it is unlikely that Kennedy was a victim of a Soviet or Cuban-sponsored conspiracy, and it says that despite the duplicity that permeated government channels in the weeks after the assassination, the Warren Commission's findings were probably correct.

Newsweek reports that the

commission was the brainchild of Deputy Attorney General Nick Katzenbach, who wrote in a memo that "the public trust must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin."

The files also quote FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, who opposed a federal commission, as telling President Lyndon Johnson days after the assassination, "The thing I am most concerned about . . . is having something issued so we can convince the public that Oswald is the real assassin."

Among incidents documented in the files is the destruction of a note from Oswald to an FBI agent demanding that the agency stop harassing his wife, Marina. The agent, who had been investigating Oswald before the assassination, had done nothing with the note, a potential embarrassment to Hoover and the agency.

After Oswald was killed on live television by Jack Ruby, a superior who had been holding the note told the agent that there could be no trial and "to get rid of this," whereupon the agent, James Hosty, flushed the note down a toilet. "Everybody was tying up loose ends," he said.

The report concludes that much of the skepticism that has pervaded the national psyche about the Kennedy assassination resulted from attempts by the CIA and FBI to cover their tracks. By withholding information and destroying evidence, both agencies lent credence to doubts about the government's findings, regardless of how accurate the findings might have been.