

CIA- Commission; Oswald 201 file

HW 5/12/79

#590-252 is Helm's response to Rankin's 2/12/64 request for "all information" the CIA had about Oswald before 11/22/79. The date is written on as 3/6/64.

There can be evasiveness in Helm's response, which does not say it and what had been given to the Commission are all such information. Rather does he say that he provides "an exact reproduction of the Agency's official dossier on Oswald..."

He also refers to the CIA's memo to the Commission of 1/31/64. This does not appear to be in the records provided to me.

Attached is an inventory of 30 items sent. It is hand dated 3/6, but a typed note is added referring to a 3/4 inventory "attached for all but addresses." Rankin is the addresses. This seems to say there was a different inventory, not provided, because there is no typed date on the attachment and the written in date is two days later. And it was given to Rankin.

It does not list a 201 file. It lists a request for one to be opened.

From other records I know the CIA gave the Commission a copy of the 201 file. I do not know if it told the Commission that by then its 201 file had been decimated. As of the HSCA testimony some 37 items of it were missing. They had to have been missing in what was given to the Commission or the CIA could have obtained replacements from the Archives for HSCA.

There is no reason to believe that the 201 file contained only copies or even originals. There is reason to believe it was made up of copies of other existing records.

It should have been possible to reconstruct the 201 file unless the CIA was determined not to reconstruct it, that it remain gutted.

If either the Commission or the committee had desired to get to the bottom of this gutting of the file either could have.

The memo is captioned to say that it is all the information the CIA had on LHO before 11/22/63. But this is added to the end of the caption, by hand: "As Transmitted to Warren Commission."

This also suggests that the CIA did not transmit all to the Commission.

6 Mar 64

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

SUBJECT: Information in CIA's Possession
Regarding Lee Harvey OSWALD
Prior to November 22, 1963 as Transmitted
to Warren Commission

1. This refers to your letter of February 12, 1964 addressed to the Director of Central Intelligence which has been passed to me for reply.
2. Paragraph three of your letter requested the Agency to supply the Commission with a report on information in the Agency's possession regarding Lee Harvey OSWALD prior to November 22, 1963. The request was predicated upon the footnote on page two of CIA's report to the Commission dated 31 January 1964, entitled: "Information Developed by CIA on the Activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico City, 28 September - 3 October 1963".
3. There is attached an exact reproduction of the Agency's official dossier on Lee Harvey OSWALD beginning with the opening sheet dated 9 December 1960. The entire dossier carries the security classification of Secret and consists of thirty documents arranged in chronological order. On the basis of clearances from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of State, the Department of Navy, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, who were queried by us after the receipt of your letter, we are able to make available exact copies of all materials in the file up to early October 1963. These include:

Document Number 590-252

for FOIA Review on JUN 1975

1 ATT.

CS-CUPT

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Inventory of Documents Contained in CSWALD Dossier Forwarded
to the Commission

- X ✓ 1. State Telegram No. 1304, October 31, 1959 (Confidential) ✓
- X ✓ 2. Newspaper Article from the Washington Post, November 1, 1959
- X ✓ 3. Internal Note dated 2 November 1959 (oral FBI name check request) and NR reply dated 4 November 1959 (Confidential)
- X ✓ 4. Foreign Service Despatch 234, November 2, 1959 (Confidential) ✓
- X ✓ 5. State Telegram 1359, November 9, 1959 (Confidential) ✓
- X ✓ 6. State Telegram 1448, November 9, 1959 (Confidential) ✓
- X ✓ 7. Newspaper Clipping from Washington Post, November 16, 1959
- X ✓ 8. Newspaper Clipping from Evening Star, November 26, 1959
- X ✓ 9. FBI REPORT ; 25 May 1960 (Confidential)
- X ✓ 10. Internal CIA Biographic Profile dated circa ^{late} May 1960 (Confidential)
- X ✓ 11. Letter from the Department of State (Cumming) to DDP/
dated October 25, 1960/ - Secret)
- X ✓ 12. DDP Response to State, dated 21 November 1960/
(Included interim response)
Secret)
- X ✓ 13. Internal CIA Request for Opening of 201 file, 9 December 1960
(Secret)
- X ✓ 14. State Memorandum of Conversation dated January 26, 1961 (OUO) ✓
- X ✓ 15. State Instruction A-273, April 13, 1961 (OUO) ✓
- X ✓ 16. Foreign Service Despatch 806, May 26, 1961 (OUO)
- X ✓ 17. Foreign Service Despatch 29, July 11, 1961 (OUO) ✓
- X ✓ 18. FBI REPORT, July 13, 1961 (Confidential) -

ATT. 1 |

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- *✓19. Internal CIA Memo for the Record, 28 September 1961 (Secret)
- *✓20. Foreign Service Despatch 317, October 12, 1961 (OUO) ✓
- *✓21. I&NS Name Check Request, December 5, 1961
- ✓22. Navy Message 20197/RB/3, 3 March 1962 (Confidential)
- ✓23. DNA 1624, 26 April 1962
- *✓24. Newspaper Clipping from Washington Post, June 9, 1962.
- ✓25. FBI REPORT; September 7, 1962 (Confidential)
- *✓26. FBI REPORT, 10 September 1963
- *✓27. FBI REPORT, 24 September 1963
- *✓28. FBI REPORT (number unclear), November 7, 1963
- *✓29. FBI REPORT, November 8, 1963
- *✓30. CIA Summary Report on Activities of OSWALD in Mexico City, dated 31 January 1964.

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