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FBI Unveiling JFK Slaying Documents

Half Ton of Raw Files Likely To Revive Old Controversies

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Will public access to 40,000 pages of raw FBI files on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy finally end the speculation that has gone on for more than a decade? Observers are divided.

The nearly half-ton of FBI papers, investigative reports and other documents are being made available by the bureau today under a Freedom of Information Act request. More than 60 organizations and individuals had asked for access to the documents.

Officials emphasized that the FBI files contain all sorts of reports, with various levels of accuracy or lack of it, about the Kennedy assassination. They said the material is the raw data that flows into the hands of investigators at every stage of an investigation and that much of the material is uncorroborated or single-source information.

This raw information is said to include numerous rumors and unverified reports as well as information that was checked out and became part of the official Warren Commission report.

THE FBI HAS eliminated the names of any witnesses or informants whose identities they think must be kept secret, as is often done to protect persons named in CIA and FBI documents being made public.

Some officials said they hoped release of the documents would help put an end to speculations about unproven conspiracies in connection with Kennedy's murder. Others acknowledged that the nature of the documents, sometimes unchecked and often unverifiable, is more likely to set off a new wave of conspiracy theories rather than to dispose of them.

*false postulate:
conspiracy theories
false premise: The FBI
did its job
Angled lead - leads
away from the FBI
& how well it did its
job*

"This is the raw, unchecked stuff, just as we got it at the time of the president's murder 14 years ago," one official said. "Most of the documents aren't going to show you anything you haven't heard or read before. And some of it is probably pretty far-fetched, but it's all there so people can see what we had to wade through when we were hot on the case."

The documents will include reports of anonymous callers, letters written to authorities, memorandums of field agents at every stage of the investigation and the instructions they were getting from their supervisors.

See FBI, A-8.

CAPITAL SPECIAL

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*Why need it now also now
not check it after 14 years?*

FBI

Continued From A-1

IT IS GENERALLY accepted that the 40,000 documents, plus 40,000 more to be released next month, will give more of the flavor of the era than the substance of a solution to the Kennedy murder and the mysteries surrounding it.

Among the major questions that still excite controversy are:

- Is the conclusion of the Warren Commission valid that Oswald, the ex-Marine who once lived in Russia, acted alone and was not part of a conspiracy when he planned and carried out the assassination of Kennedy?
- How many shots were fired at Kennedy and was Oswald the only gunman? There were reports of gunshot sounds and smoke puffs from the grass and witnesses who contended they saw shadows and silhouettes of other possible gunmen on the grassy knoll in front of the president's limousine. Did some shots come from the front as the sharp backward movement of Kennedy's head suggests to some critics?
- What is the explanation for discovery of the unmarked bullet that was found on the stretcher of Kennedy after he arrived at the Parkland Hospital where he was pronounced dead?
- Why did nightclub owner Jack Ruby, a peripheral mob figure, wait until Sunday morning to shoot Oswald when he could even more easily have shot the suspected assassin in Dallas police headquarters during the previous two days as the suspect was paraded through the halls repeatedly?
- Did Ruby arrive at the police station just in time to shoot Oswald by coincidence or by careful advance planning, and was he acting alone? There have been conflicting reports about whether Oswald and Ruby knew one another and some assassination buffs claim Ruby's role was that of co-conspirator assigned to silence Oswald.
- Why did Oswald shoot a Dallas policeman, J.D. Tippitt, shortly after he had slain Kennedy?
- Is there any substance to recurrent rumors that Kennedy's death had been ordered by Fidel Castro, angered at learning that the Kennedys were plotting through the CIA to have the Cuban leader assassinated?
- Was Oswald ever an informant or tool of the FBI or CIA, and did either agency have advance knowledge that Oswald was a threat to the president's life?
- Was the Mafia involved in the assassination as some critics contend on the grounds that it had both the motive and means. The motive would be the hope that a more hawkish president than Kennedy would overthrow Castro and reopen Cuba to organized crime.
- Were there one or more imposters of Oswald as some contend on the basis of photographs that purportedly show a man of different size than Oswald and conflicting evidence as to his whereabouts at different times?
- Was Oswald granted his hardship discharge from the Marine Corps in an unusually short time and was he granted permission to return to the United States from Russia in an unusually short time and not properly debriefed? These questions suggest CIA or other federal governmental intervention.
- Did Oswald or Ruby have Mafia ties as suggested by reports that he was seen in Havana with mobster Meyer Lansky?
- Was his shooting of Oswald a professional job as some observers of hit-man techniques contend?

LHO presumed guilty

ditto

ditto

ditto