

Hoover soon named Oswald as JFK killer FBI files show

Toronto 12/8/77
Special to The Star

WASHINGTON — Shortly after Lee Harvey Oswald's arrest and just two hours after John F. Kennedy was assassinated, the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, told then Attorney-General Robert F. Kennedy that Oswald was the assassin.

Hoover's memo to his files on Nov. 22, 1963 was one of the few new pieces of information contained in a half-ton of documents released by the FBI yesterday.

In the memo, Hoover said he had just told Robert Kennedy that Oswald was "a mean-minded individual . . . in the category of a nut."

The 40,001 pages of reports, memos and investigative files made available under the Freedom of Information Act revealed nothing to alter the Warren Commission's principal finding — that Oswald was Kennedy's lone assassin.

REMAINED CAUTIOUS

Oswald was shot to death two days later in the basement of a Dallas police station by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

Hoover, however, remained cautious on the question of whether Oswald had accomplices.

Nineteen days after Oswald's death the FBI

director persuaded President Lyndon B. Johnson to keep the justice department from announcing a preliminary finding that Oswald had acted alone. Hoover felt the question should be probed further, the documents showed.

In his Dec. 12, 1963, memo, Hoover said the FBI has several letters "written to him (Oswald) from Cuba referring to the job he was going to do, his good marksmanship and stating (that) when it was all over, he would be brought back to Cuba and presented to the chief."

RAISE DOUBTS

The files may provide material for doubters as well as for supporters of the Warren Commission's findings. The documents contained no evidence of a conspiracy, but the fact that the FBI revealed unsuccessful efforts to verify hundreds of tips may raise additional doubts among those clinging to the conspiracy theory.

The files will be kept in a special FBI reading room for scholars, researchers and other interested persons, and may be photo-copied for 10-cents-a-page. Another 40,000 pages covering the remainder of the FBI's investigation will be released in January.

Los Angeles Times

Ho-hum files on JFK killing

Toronto Star
12/8/77

WASHINGTON (Special) — It's a treasure of trivia for history buffs, but there's no radical information in the long-awaited FBI documents, released yesterday, on the 1963 assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy.

The files do show that director J. Edgar Hoover himself questioned whether Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed Kennedy and that he ordered agents to check vague, tantalizing evidence of a Cuban conspiracy.

But the Cuban leads apparently proved uncheckable, and there seemed to be nothing else in the 40,000 pages of FBI files that would invalidate the Warren Commission's finding that Oswald was the lone assassin. The files were released following suits under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.

The documents also disclosed no evidence of any link between Oswald and Jack Ruby.