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Hoover's suspicions of conspiracy bared

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two weeks after John F. Kennedy's death, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was convinced Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin but he wondered whether Oswald had help from secret conspirators in Cuba, according to FBI files released Wednesday.

The documents show Hoover had concluded within hours after Kennedy's death Oswald fired the fatal bullets. But the agency later obtained letters written to Oswald from Cuba, and those messages raised the perplexing conspiracy questions that linger to this day.

The mountain of material offers fresh clues about Hoover's suspicions of a conspiracy, but does not reveal how he resolved them. It will take historians and researchers months or even years to evaluate this batch of FBI files and more to come.

Hoover, of course, was hardly alone in pondering the possibility of a Cuban connection. Oswald had spoken of his admiration for Cuban leader Fidel Castro and he had distributed pro-Castro leaflets in New Orleans.

Castro has denied Cuba was involved in the assassination. The Warren Commission concluded after its investigation of the case there was no evidence of any Cuban governmental role in Kennedy's death.

The files released Wednesday show Hoover was anxious to find out who had killed Kennedy and portray him as deeply concerned about protecting the FBI's image. The documents show Hoover went to great lengths to counteract criticism of the bureau.

The 40,001 pages of files, weighing almost a half ton, offer a rich tapestry of the tragedy and drama rippling from the gunfire in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963. The FBI released the documents, half of its file on the Kennedy assassination, to comply with requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The other 40,000 pages are due for release in January.

The memos include confidential

- FBI files probably will feed the fires of speculation, Page 18A.
- Doctors initially were "at a loss to explain" absence of bullets from body of the president, Page 18A.
- Hundreds of apparently worthless leads checked by FBI, Page 18A.
- FBI director J. Edgar Hoover told Abe Fortas opposed formation of commission looking into assassination, Page 19A.

reports passed among the highest governmental officials. And they include letters from ordinary citizens expressing outrage and sorrow and, in some cases, intense hatred of the Kennedy family. Some documents were censored to delete material classified secret or otherwise exempt from disclosure.

The material may be of greatest value for what it shows about the inside operations of the FBI as the bureau handled one of its most important missions ever. It is a picture that has emerged only in vague outline until now.

Two hours after Kennedy was pronounced dead in a Dallas hospital at 1 p.m. CST Nov. 22, Hoover wrote he had told the president's brother, Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy, Oswald was the assassin and he had been apprehended near the Texas School Book Depository, where the shots were fired.

But Dec. 12, Hoover confided to his chief aides he was troubled by the conspiracy questions and was unsure how to resolve them. Reporting on a conversation with a caller, Hoover wrote, "I said I personally believe Oswald was the assassin; that the second aspect as to whether he was the only man gives me great concern; that we have several letters . . . written to him from Cuba referring to the job he was going to do, his good marksmanship and stating

when it was all over, he would be brought back to Cuba and presented to the chief."

Hoover continued, "We do not know if the chief was Castro and cannot make an investigation because we have no intelligence operation in Cuba."

The FBI is restricted to domestic operations, and the CIA gathers intelligence abroad. It was unclear whether Hoover meant to imply the CIA, as well as the FBI, had no operations in Cuba. During this period, the FBI maintained liaison with the CIA although Hoover later severed the relationship.

The memo was Hoover's report of his discussion that day with Lee Rankin, the Warren Commission's general counsel, who called to make arrangements for dealing with the FBI during the commission probe.

Fortas reportedly opposed inquiry

WASHINGTON (UPI) — FBI director J. Edgar Hoover was told President Lyndon Johnson's close friend and adviser, Abe Fortas, opposed a presidential commission looking into the Kennedy assassination, according to a memo released Wednesday.

Fortas, who resigned his seat on the Supreme Court after he was accused of accepting \$20,000 in legal fees from the Alfred Parvin Foundation while still a justice, told UPI the memo was "an absolute fantasy . . . a total fabrication."

Five days after President Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 27, 1963, an office memorandum from FBI officer Courtney Evans to deputy director Allan Belmont said the deputy attorney general, Nicholas Katzenbach, "had learned on an extremely confidential basis that Abe Fortas, the Washington lawyer, had been in touch with President Johnson and had argued against the idea of having a presidential commission look into the Kennedy assassination."

Over this paragraph was a handwritten notation: "Migawd."
"Fortas' argument to Johnson," Evans said, "was that for the president to announce the formation of such a commission would merely suggest that there was evidence of something other than Oswald alone killing Kennedy and thus build up public speculation."
"Fortas' second argument . . . was

that the formation of such a commission would cause a reflection on the FBI Fortas, of course, is no friend of the bureau and there would appear to be some obvious underhanded motive in his using us in his argument, although we don't know what this is."

Under that paragraph, Hoover wrote: "certainly something sinister here."
"That is absurd," Fortas told UPI. "I made no such recommendation and it's an absolute fantasy . . . a total fabrication. At no time did I make any such recommendation. The contrary is true, as a matter of fact. Never any doubt that an investigation had to be made."

Katzenbach, now a lawyer with IBM, told UPI in a telephone interview from Armonk, N.Y., he could not recall such a report.
"I certainly don't remember anything about that memo or about Mr. Fortas being opposed to it (the commission)," he said.

On the contrary, Katzenbach said, Fortas supported an investigative commission. "In point of fact," he said, "when the president decided to go ahead with the commission, Fortas was active in trying to help form it."
President Johnson's regard for Fortas was "so high" he couldn't conceive of the president misquoting Fortas. But Katzenbach paused, then added with a laugh, "LBJ was perfectly capable of telling someone something else."

FBI control of probe detailed in documents

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Immediately after the Kennedy assassination, J. Edgar Hoover moved to establish FBI control of the investigation and Dallas agents were warned "not to assume the police are going to handle this properly," documents showed Wednesday.

Hoover, in a memo to other FBI officials, said he telephoned Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy within 15 minutes of the shooting and informed him of the assassination attempt.

The attorney general asked that the FBI "do whatever we could" in connection with the shooting, Hoover said. It was the first word Robert Kennedy had received on his brother's death.

"That same day, memos show, Hoover talked by telephone with Secret Service Chief James Rowley and said his agency was willing to work with Rowley's. Several days later, however, Rowley made clear he understood the FBI was "completely handling" the investigation.

HOOPER ALSO made sure the job was not left to Dallas law officials.

Just hours after the shooting, one of Hoover's top aides told the FBI chief in Dallas he must "be sure and not assume that the police are going to handle this properly; that we must conduct a vigorous and thorough investigation to come up with the answer."

Four days after the assassination, Hoover spoke to CIA Chief John McCone. He said McCone sought reassurance his agents were doing all they could to help the FBI.

"I assured Mr. McCone we had the very best support we could possibly expect from CIA," Hoover said.

BESIDES GATHERING all the support he could for the FBI investigation, Hoover put together portraits of the chief figures in the probe.

Documents showed he was familiar with Lee Harvey Oswald's record and within hours of Oswald's arrest, Hoover had put him "in the category of a nut and the extremist pro-Castro crowd."

After Jack Ruby was arrested for shooting Oswald, Hoover described Ruby as "a shady character from the hoodlum element of Chicago." Ruby, he said, "has a poor background, runs a nightclub in Dallas, and is what would be called a police buff."

As the investigation progressed, the FBI received hundreds of documents, among them a letter from Nazi Party Commander George Lincoln Rockwell, who said the FBI should "keep a careful watch" on 27 of his associates during its investigation.

Rockwell denounced the assassination and admitted his organization attracted lunatic elements who "are very hard to get rid of."

On Nov. 29, Lyndon Johnson appointed Earl Warren to head an independent commission investigating the assassination and the FBI moved into the background.

But there were so many "leaks" from the panel that commission leaders asked the FBI to look into the situation.

Oswald fired at general, records say

WASHINGTON (UPI) — FBI records released Wednesday include a detailed account from Marina Oswald of how her "crazy" husband tried to shoot Maj. Gen. Edwin Walker in Dallas almost eight months before he assassinated John F. Kennedy.

The report showed Lee Harvey Oswald escaped from the Walker shooting scene on foot and by bus — the same transportation methods he used after the Kennedy killing — after deciding his skill as a fast runner would let him outwit police searching for someone in a car.

Agents reported Mrs. Oswald told them of the April 10, 1963, attempt to kill Walker when they questioned her about a farewell letter written in Russian by her husband at the time of the Walker incident but still in the Oswald house when Kennedy was shot.

She said Oswald left their Dallas home April 10, telling her he was going to a night school typing class but rushed home about midnight "and immediately turned on the radio and lay on the bed in a very agitated condition."

When Mrs. Oswald asked what was wrong, the report said, Oswald replied he had tried to kill Walker by shooting him with a rifle and did not know whether he had succeeded.

"She became angry at him for doing this," the report said. Oswald tried to justify his action, it said, by saying Walker was "the leader of the fascists here and it was best to remove him."

Radio reports told Oswald he had missed hitting Walker, the report said.

Mrs. Oswald told agents she did not see her husband take a rifle with him when he left the evening of April 10 and he did not bring the weapon home. She said he told her he had hidden it in some bushes.

"She asked him how he had gotten away from the Walker house, and he replied that he could run very fast, and that he had come home on the bus," the report said. "He said the police thought that the would-be assassin had an automobile."

The report said Mrs. Oswald told agents she kept her husband's farewell letter to use against him if he ever had another "crazy scheme." The report said when she saw the report on television that Kennedy had been shot, she feared her "crazy" husband was the sniper.

IRA threat reported on Dallas 'mayhem'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — An anonymous caller told the FBI 10 days after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy the outlawed Irish Republican Army planned on sending "a company" to Dallas "to commit mayhem on that city."

The FBI's Los Angeles office sent an urgent Teletype message to Washington headquarters saying a county detective captain had received a call from a man who said he had a brother in the IRA in Ireland.

Frantic attempts of doctors to save president described

WASHINGTON (UPI) — John Kennedy's heart was beating, but doctors found no sign of pulse or blood pressure in his body when it arrived at Dallas' Parkland Memorial Hospital on Nov. 22, 1963, FBI documents showed Wednesday.

Two hours later, there was "electrical silence of the president's heart."

A medical summary prepared for the White House a day after the assassination outlined the frantic efforts doctors had made in the interim.

Kennedy was connected to a respirator and later an anesthesia machine. He underwent an emergency tracheotomy, was given blood transfusions and was injected in the ankle with a solution to correct dehydration.

ACCORDING to a summary prepared by Dr. Kemp Clark, director of neurological surgery, Kennedy arrived in the hospital emergency room at 12:43 p.m. The first doctor to examine his head wounds was resident surgeon James Carrico, who "noted the president to have slow, agonal respiratory efforts."

The report said Carrico "could hear a heartbeat but found no pulse or blood pressure to be present."

It said, "Two external wounds, one in the lower third of the anterior neck, the other in the occipital region of the

skull, were noted. Through the head wound, blood and brain were extruding."

Clark said Kennedy was given pure oxygen while doctors tried to improve his dehydrated state.

HE SAID THREE surgeons, Drs. Robert McLelland, Malcolm Perry and Charles Baxter, began a tracheotomy to clear blood from the president's neck wound.

"Neurological examination revealed the president's pupils to be widely dilated and fixed to light," Clark said. "His eyes were divergent, being deviated outward ... no deep tendon reflexes or spontaneous movements were found."

The report said "profuse bleeding was occurring" from Kennedy's head wound and "1500 cc (cubic centimeters) of blood were estimated on the drapes and floor of the emergency operating room."

At that point, Clark said, Kennedy suffered a cardiac arrest and he personally began a closed chest massage that drew a pulse.

As doctors began connecting a cardiograph, Clark said, "There was electrical silence of the president's heart."

Clark pronounced Kennedy dead at 3 p.m.

Records show Oswald possibly wanted radio job

WASHINGTON (UPI) — FBI records released Wednesday showed Lee Harvey Oswald may have tried to get a job as an Alice, Texas, radio announcer after returning from Mexico two months before John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas.

The report from the FBI office in Houston, dated Nov. 25, 1963, two days after the assassination, said two managers at station KIPY recognized Oswald's picture and said he looked identical to a man who had stopped by the station and unsuccessfully sought work.

Laymon Stewart, the station general manager, and Robert Janca, the traffic manager, reported their visitor dropped into the South Texas station on a Friday afternoon — either Sept. 28 or Oct. 4 — and "mentioned he had just come from Mexico."

"He made no previous appointment and had no previous communication with this station," the report said. "He inquired as to (a) job as radio announcer but no such job was available at this station and no background information (was) taken from him."

Memo details politics during investigation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Politics went on as usual even at the height of the FBI investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, according to documents released Wednesday.

A Dec. 6, 1963, FBI memo said that Deputy Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach told an FBI official that Waggoner Carr, Texas' attorney general, was in town and "would like very much to see the director" (J. Edgar Hoover) that day.

"He (Katzenbach) stated that Carr had no particular motive in mind other than to indicate to the press later on that he had discussed matters with the director," the memo said.

The deputy attorney general was told there was "no percentage" in the meeting, but the memo continued, "Katzenbach indicated that the White House might think otherwise. He stated that the President (Johnson) was most anxious for Carr to be given attention in Washington inasmuch as Carr was running for office next year."

At the bottom was Hoover's scrawl: "If he calls, I will see him."

Highlights of JFK files

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Some highlights of the FBI files on John F. Kennedy's assassination released Wednesday:

• Marina Oswald wrote the embassy Feb. 17, 1973 — before the assassination: "I beg your assistance to help me to return to the homeland in the USSR where I will again feel myself a full fledged citizen . . . My husband remains here, since he is an American by nationality."

In July 1973, she wrote she wanted to go back to Russia because she was "homesick." She said Oswald had decided to go back to Russia with her and she asked the embassy: "I earnestly beg you to help him in this."

Oswald wrote to the embassy July 1, 1973, urging his wife's visa be expedited and his request be considered separately so as not to delay hers. Two weeks before the assassination, Oswald wrote the embassy asking he be informed at once when their visas arrived.

• There was confusion at FBI headquarters immediately after the shooting. Hoover wrote a memo relating a telephone call with Secret Service Chief James J. Rowley.

"I mentioned that one of the Secret Service agents reportedly had been killed, and he (Rowley) stated he did not know this."

"I told Mr. Rowley that apparently the shooting came from the fourth floor of a building and shells had been found in the building, that these were Winchester shells."

"I then mentioned the Klan element. I advised Mr. Rowley that one witness stated he saw a Negro man lean out of a window but later this was not confirmed and they do not know whether he was a white or a black."

"No agent was killed, Oswald was on the sixth floor; the rifle was Italian and not a Winchester, there was no 'Klan element,' nor was a black man involved."

• In a memo on Dec. 12, 1963, Hoover said:

"I personally believe Oswald was the assassin." But he was concerned as to whether he was the only man."

Hoover said he wanted no statement connecting Jack Ruby and Oswald because "we have no proof they were ever together," but he did not want the report to be "100 percent sure on that."

Hoover also challenged reports Oswald could not have performed the assassination alone, saying he told the commission: "He was a marksman and it wasn't anything he could not do; that we have tested it on our rifle range and were able to get shots off even faster than he did; that there is no question in my mind about it."

• Fifteen minutes after the shooting, a Hoover memo said he telephoned the slain president's brother, Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, telling him, "The shot was believed to be fatal. The attorney general had not previously been advised of this."

Then, at 4:15 p.m. CST — about four hours after the shooting and two hours after Oswald was arrested — Hoover dictated a memo telling what he knew at that point.

"I thought very probably we had in custody the man who killed the president in Dallas, but this had not definitely been established. Lee Harvey Oswald spent some years in Russia, although he was born in America; that he tried unsuccessfully to renounce his American citizenship, and then came back here."

He said Oswald "would be in the category of a nut and the extremist pro-Castro crowd."

• Within days of the Kennedy assassination, the Secret Service made clear it understood the FBI was in charge of the investigation.

FBI liaison agent O.H. Bartlett wrote headquarters that he had conferred with Secret Service chief Rowley, who "stated that there is no question but that the FBI is completely handling the Oswald investigation and his service is ready to assist in any way."

Rowley also was quoted as saying "during the heat of battle" immediately after the Kennedy assassination, "his service may have covered some leads which should have been given to the bureau" but "this was not done in any attempt to take away the bureau's jurisdiction."

FBI files to feed fires of speculation

By JOHN GEDDIE

Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON — The 40,001 pages freed Wednesday from the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation probably will feed the fires of speculation for a hundred years.

The first glance at the raw files from the investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy — the first of two huge deliveries of information to the public — indicates there is enough for dozens of new plots based on mysterious travels, obscure links between characters, international intrigue and power politics.

Equally as important to many researchers is discovering what was omitted — information still held by other agencies or deleted from FBI documents. And there are dozens of seemingly "crank" reports — each a target for still more checking.

A major area of first-day interest was in J. Edgar Hoover's attitude toward the speculation immediately following the assassination that Oswald did not act alone and there might have been an international conspiracy.

THE FILES confirmed there was

testimony before the commission did. Leon Jaworski, the Houston lawyer, was among those who said he had no knowledge of the leak.

Another section outlines interviews attempting to discover who leaked Ruby's polygraph examination. In this case, two defense attorneys pointed to a Dallas assistant district attorney, but Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said the assistant did not have the full transcript as released.

Several documents outlined crank reports, some marked with stipulations such as "nutty, but an intellectual nut."

B'NAI B'RITH received an anonymous letter warning a Texan known only as "Sarge" was a dangerous rightwinger who had once threatened Jimmy Hoffa. Sarge claimed to have a "Q" security clearance. The FBI tried to find him through palmprints on the letter.

A picture of Lyndon Johnson was found on a park bench shortly after the assassination. Across the paper was written "next" and "kill." The report became a part of the file.

A Bell captain named Danny in Florida was overheard to say the FBI

great pressure from President Lyndon Johnson for a report dispelling allegations Oswald may have been involved in a conspiracy.

An internal FBI memo reported Deputy Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach had called the FBI for a public report.

"He noted that a tremendous responsibility had been placed on the FBI, in this instance, by President Johnson, because the report, which is to be publicized, is for the purpose of assuring the American public and the world as to what the facts are in President Kennedy's assassination . . ."

Katzenbach noted the "many, many rumors" around the world and conceded the FBI had the difficult job of having to "prove the negative."

AN FBI OFFICIAL noted on the bottom of the Katzenbach memo that "while neither the White House nor the Department (Justice) should be able to contend that our report does not meet the required purpose, we must be factual and recognize that a matter of this magnitude cannot be fully investigated in a week's time."

and the State Department knew about Oswald and did nothing.

Neighbors reported the Oswald couple "quarreled loudly, and on occasion their quarrels occurred in the presence of an unknown male visitor, who utilized back stairs to visit Oswalds."

Two drunks wrote "Farewell to the president" and "We are happy" in shoe polish on a car in Annapolis, Md., apparently to irritate the owner.

THE FBI attempted to contact anyone who crossed into Mexico after the assassination. Many reported they had not seen Lee Harvey Oswald. One, Harvey M. Campbell Sr., a retired employee of the Dallas News, said although he had not seen Oswald, he knew George Senator, Ruby's former roommate. Each lead was checked in detail and the FBI source at Southwestern Bell Telephone released dozens of telephone numbers.

Another FBI source claimed attorney Melvin Belli was compiling an "immense film library" on Jack Ruby by having him filmed in jail. The question was whether to pass along the information to the Ameri-

But handwritten under this, in apparent reply, was, "Just how long do you estimate it will take? It seems to me we have the basic facts now." The note was initialed "H" — the usual signature for Hoover.

Later, however, Hoover seemed suspicious and said President Johnson agreed with him that there might be more to the story.

Still later in the investigation, FBI officials in Washington indicated they were not impressed by some leads being examined by the Warren Commission. At one point, a headquarters message to the Dallas FBI office passed along the directive from the Warren Commission to continue to pursue a rumored link between Oswald and Jack Ruby.

THE WASHINGTON office noted dryly the lead to the commission was furnished by a person "who has engaged in perverted sexual acts and is closely associated with Communist-dominated organizations." The well-known person is named in the file.

A full volume of information traces an unsuccessful attempt to determine how Dorothy Kilgallen, the late columnist, obtained Ruby's

can Bar Association, which had been sued by Belli.

The ruling in Washington was negative because the release of information to an ABA official "would be meat for the news media."

Although critics are expected to continue to point out weaknesses in the FBI operation, the newly released information shows agents in the field attempted to cover a vast area of leads in great depth.

Dozens of detailed conversations with car wash attendants, strippers and eye-witnesses were contacted. Ruby's Chicago connections filled hundreds of pages. Oswald's history carefully was recorded.

NEWSPAPER stories also are part of the file.

Early in the investigation, FBI agents learned that Kent Biffle, a Dallas News reporter then employed by the Fort Worth Press, had written stories about Oswald's stay in Russia by interviewing his mother.

The stories were reviewed at length and Biffle was interviewed. The reporter claimed he had written everything he knew about Oswald.

No bullets in body

Doctors initially 'at a loss'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Doctors initially were "at a loss to explain" why they could not find a bullet in the body of John F. Kennedy or a wound where a bullet had left the body, according to the official FBI report on the autopsy released Wednesday.

But evidence turned up in Dallas while the autopsy was under way at Bethesda Naval Hospital explained the missing bullets, the report said.

The fact no intact bullet was found in Kennedy's body has been used by assassination conspiracy advocates as evidence there could have been a second assassin, since no bullet causing death could be traced to Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle.

X-rays of Kennedy's head taken at Bethesda during the autopsy showed approximately 40 particles of disintegrated bullet but no exit wound for the remainder of the disintegrated bullet.

Then a search was made of the rest of the body for other wounds and a complete bullet.

"Inasmuch as no complete bullet of any size could be located in the brain area and likewise no bullet could be located in the back or any other area of the body and inspection revealed no point of exit, the individuals performing the autopsy were at a loss to explain why they could find no bullets," the report said.

The report said a bullet reportedly had been found on a stretcher in the emergency room at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, where Kennedy died.

When the doctors were informed a bullet had been found in the Dallas

hospital, they concluded it could have "worked its way back out" of Kennedy's body via the point of entry when cardiac massage had been performed.

But the report said the FBI could not prove Kennedy was ever on the stretcher on which the bullet was found.

Later, part of Kennedy's skull was found in Kennedy's car in Dallas and was delivered to Bethesda while the autopsy already was in progress. This section contained metal fragments which could be an indication of an exit point, doctors said.

Fragments of bullets also were found on the car's floor.

Based on these "later developments" the doctors concluded:

"One bullet had entered the president's back and had worked its way out of the body during external cardiac massage and that a second high velocity bullet had entered the rear of the skull and had fragmented prior to exit through the top of the skull."

Leak source apparently not found

WASHINGTON (UPI) — FBI investigators looking into the source of leaks from the Warren Commission found chaotic record-keeping within the commission and five possible sources of one leak, including Gerald R. Ford, according to FBI documents released Wednesday.

Subsequently, the agency cleared Ford and no source of the leak apparently was ever pinpointed.

Investigators said they found "a complete lack of organization within the commission concerning the handling of records. There was found to be no document control whatever and no accountability for documents, classified or not."

The commission asked for the investigation on Sept. 10, 1964, after Oswald's

diary, Ruby's lie detector test and Ruby's interview with Chief Justice Warren all were leaked to the press.

THE REPORT said the late Dorothy Kilgallen, then a reporter for the old New York Journal-American, had been leaked a copy of Ruby's interview with Warren. They said in one report they talked to Miss Kilgallen and found the transcript she obtained was stamped "confidential."

"The five copies bearing the 'confidential' notation were distributed within the commission to Norman Redlich, legal consultant; Sen. Richard B. Russell, commission member; Burt W. Griffin, legal consultant; retained for use of commission staff; and Con-

gressman Gerald R. Ford, a commission member," the FBI report said.

Agents said Miss Kilgallen refused to tell them the source of her copy.

Another document reports FBI investigators looked into another allegation that Ford was responsible for leaking Oswald's diary.

"THIS ALLEGATION was completely erroneous," the report said.

Investigators subsequently said the copy obtained by Miss Kilgallen did not appear to be from Ford, Redlich, Russell, or was the original transcript itself. They said they could reach no conclusion as to whether it might have come from one of four copies held by the staff or by Joe Tonahill, one of Ruby's Dallas lawyers.

Many leads checked in assassination probe

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The FBI dutifully investigated hundreds of apparently worthless leads and bizarre theories in the slaying of John F. Kennedy, according to documents released Wednesday.

The pope and Fidel Castro figured in theories volunteered to the FBI which also looked into such unlikely suspects as a group of Jews in Winnipeg, Canada, and the minister of the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times.

More than 1,300 pages of the documents were made up of reports on hundreds of people who been heard about the time of the assassination making some threatening remark like "Kennedy will get his."

One letter written Nov. 26, 1963 by a woman in Anderson, S.C., said the Kennedy assassination was a plot by England and Italy following a visit "some years ago" by President Kennedy and Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy to Pope Pius VIII — presumably she meant John XXIII or Pius VI who succeeded him in 1963.

THE KENNEDYS, she said, "intended to clear up some reports they had found about England's Queen Elizabeth II being the daughter of a former president of the United States, a Democrat, Woodrow Wilson."

The Secret Service, she said, exchanged Elizabeth for two other princesses who were taken to South Carolina.

The vague tale continued for pages. The FBI investigated a person who wanted to send a telegram to Andrei Gromyko and an obscene letter sent to Marguerite Oswald, the assassin's mother, threatening "Us Nazis!! Kill ya!"

ON DEC. 2, 1963 the U.S. embassy in Rome reported an American newspa-

per columnist there — his identity was censored from the FBI report — said the Spanish ambassador to Italy had shown him a report from the Spanish Intelligence Service alleging Kennedy's assassination was brought about by Fidel Castro.

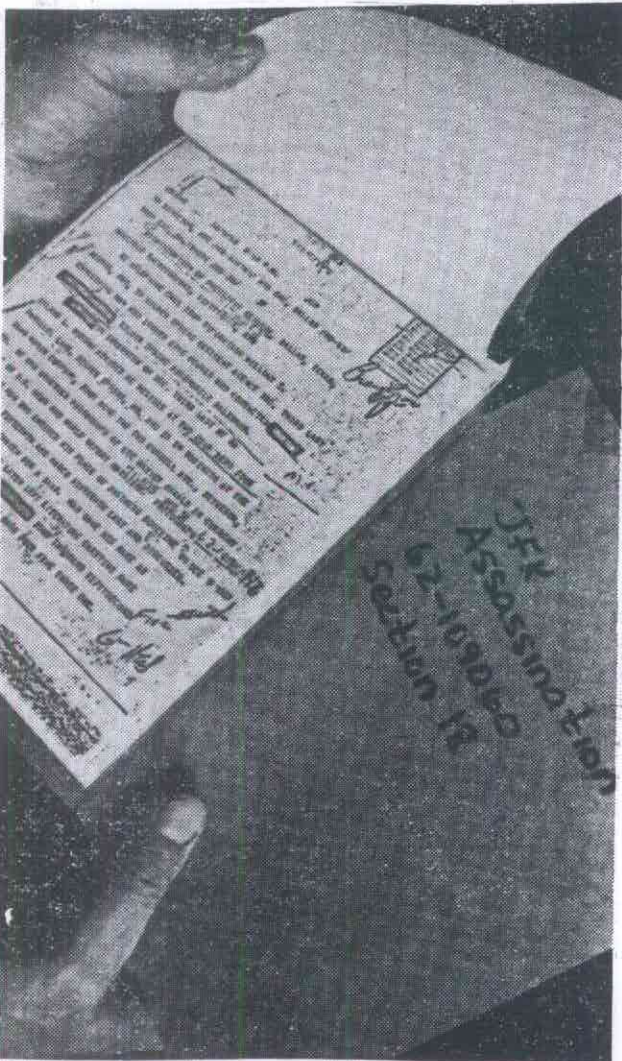
Castro, according to the alleged Spanish intelligence report, "has been most upset by the apparent rapport established between President Kennedy and Premier (Nikita) Khrushchev... and felt that some dire act was needed to destroy this rapport."

The FBI sought to check with Spanish Intelligence if Oswald "was acting as a Cuban agent" but no reply was recorded.

On a tip, the FBI found a telephone book at a gas station in Scottsdale, Ariz., six months after the assassination. Written on the front page was "John Wilks Booth" and under it "115 Death Row." The middle name of Abraham Lincoln's killer had been spelled incorrectly.

UNDER "JOHN F. Kennedy" was written "PXJ 00050, Arlington Cemetery" — again an incorrect spelling.

After questioning the gas station owner and other people, the FBI concluded "no one had noticed any questionable persons in the telephone booth."



Pictured are two packets of more than 40,000 pages of the FBI's investigation into the assassination of John F. Kennedy, released in Washington, D.C. Associated Press wirephoto.