

The Cincinnati

Wednesday evening, December 7, 1977

FBI held up

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Twenty days after John F. Kennedy was killed in Dallas, J. Edgar Hoover reported the FBI had letters written to Lee Harvey Oswald from Cuba "referring to the job he was going to do."

Hoover said he had not turned the letters over to the Warren Commission because he was not able to prove their veracity.

And less than four hours after Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1973—and two hours after Oswald's arrest—Hoover told Washington officials that Oswald "very probably" was the killer.

Hoover said he would classify Oswald "in the category of a nut

and the extremist pro-Castro crowd."

THESE DISCLOSURES were contained in 40,001 pages of raw FBI internal reports made public today under terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

Hoover's report did not state who wrote the letters from Cuba referring to Oswald.

In a memo to the FBI's top echelon, dated Dec. 12, 1963, Hoover wrote:

"... We have several letters, not in the report (to the Warren Commission) because we were not able to prove it, written to him (Oswald) from Cuba referring to the job he was going to do, his good

Hundreds of persons investigated, records show. Page 8.

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

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

"I personally believe Oswald was the assassin," he wrote, but he said he was greatly concerned as to "whether he was the only man."

HOOVER SAID this was the reason he "urged strongly" to Lee

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Rankin, special counsel to the Warren Commission, that no conclusion be reached that Oswald was the only person involved in the assassination.

Hoover also challenged speculation Oswald could not have acted alone, saying he told Rankin:

"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; that we also found the fingerprints and the bullets so conclusively fired from the gun; that we have all this and we have all the photographs."

Hoover told his aides the Justice Department wanted to issue a statement saying Oswald was the assassin; there were "no foreign or subversive elements involved in the killing; and there was no connection between Oswald and Jack Ruby who shot him dead two days after the assassination.

"I flatly disagreed," Hoover said, and new President Lyndon B. Johnson agreed with him no conclusions ought to be drawn at that time.

THE DEC. 12 MEMO left unclear how seriously Hoover regarded the "letters" indicating

(See JFK FILES, Page 9.)

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that Oswald had taken directions from Cuba.

In a separate memo on the same day, Hoover informed the State Department that two letters addressed to Oswald and postmarked from Havana a few days after the assassination appeared to represent "an attempted hoax."

These, apparently, were not the same letters to which Hoover referred in the memo to his staff.

The FBI files also shed some light on Ruby, 52, the nightclub owner who was an ardent admirer of the slain president.

THE REPORT SHOWED Ruby told the Dallas police after he killed Oswald that "no one else was involved" in that act and no one knew in advance what he was going to do.

The report said Ruby "indicat-

ed" he dwelled on the assassination "until he reached the point of insanity."

The mass of documents reflected the frantic atmosphere in the hours after the startling news from Dallas.

One memo from Hoover showed he broke the news to Robert F. Kennedy, the attorney general and brother of the president. He said he told Robert Kennedy 15 minutes after the shot was fired that, "The shot was believed to be fatal."

A MESSAGE written less than one hour after the shooting and labeled "urgent" came from James Walsh, otherwise unidentified, on a Department of Justice Communications Section letterhead.

"Get everyone involved in shooting the president and get them fast," it said.

The files contained a memo Hoover wrote at 5:15 p.m. EST on

the day of the murder. It made clear that even at that point he suspected Oswald was the marksman who killed the president.

Responding to a request from the Justice Department for information about the suspect to be included in a proclamation by the new president, Lyndon Johnson, Hoover said, "I thought very probably we had in custody the man who killed the president in Dallas but this had not definitely been established."

Another section of the files showed that shortly after the shooting Hoover in a Teletype message instructed FBI bureaus across the country to "immediately establish whereabouts of bombing suspects, all known Klan and hate group members, known racial extremists and any other individuals who, on the basis of information available

in your files, may possibly have been involved."

ONE DOCUMENT showed that eight days after the assassination Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin turned over to the State Department his embassy's file on the request by Oswald and his Russian-born wife to return to the Soviet Union.

Oswald, 24, was an ex-Marine who had gone to Russia and in 1959 tried to renounce his American citizenship. He had not completed the process and after living in Minsk for two years he married a Soviet citizen, Marina Nicholaevna, a pharmacist, and returned with her to the United States in 1962.

The Soviet documents showed the Oswalds wanted to return to Russia in 1963. They cited Marina's "homesickness and unemployment."

The request from Oswald to the Soviet Embassy was dated Nov. 9, 1963—just 13 days before the assassination. But as early as Feb. 17 Mrs. Oswald had inquired how she could go home. At that time, she said her husband would remain in the United States.