

# FBI files renew questions on JFK

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WASHINGTON — Shortly after FBI headquarters opened its doors today, the most unsettling thought about the assassination of President Kennedy once again arose in much the same way that the Warren Commission expressed it years ago.

"Because of the difficulty of proving negatives to a certainty," the commission said, "the possibility of others being involved with Oswald... cannot be rejected categorically. But if there is any such evidence, it has been beyond the reach of all of the investigative agencies and resources of the United States."

With the release of some 40,000 pages from the FBI's massive file on the slaying in Dallas, the central question still is whether Lee Harvey Oswald, the presumed assassin, acted in concert with still unknown conspirators. The new FBI material, rather than laying the controversy to rest, appears destined to deepen it.

Those convinced that the assassination was indeed part of a continuing conspiracy beyond the reach of the law will be examining the long-secret FBI papers for new clues and insights into the events of Nov. 22, 1963, and afterward, especially data on Oswald himself. The

Warren Commission concluded Oswald was the lone assassin.

Others who are familiar with the 80,000-page file, the second half of which will be released next month, claim it gives solid basis to the commission's findings in 1964, and the essence of the volume is reflected in those FBI papers made public during the official investigation at the time.

According to FBI officials, today's release included all material collected by the bureau on Oswald and Jack Ruby, Oswald's killer, as well as the first half of the main investigation into the circumstances surrounding the president's death. This is the most important phase of the case, they said.

As the new materials became public, a number of critical areas have become obvious targets of interest, chief of which may be Oswald's visit to Mexico City several weeks before the assassination.

The accused assassin is known to have visited the Soviet embassy and Cuban consulate during this trip. The commission concluded that the intent was to acquire a visa for travel to Cuba based on Oswald's past association with pro-Cuban groups and avowed Communist beliefs. The Central Intelligence Agency

See FBI on Page 20

## FBI releases 40,000

Continued from Page One

also had intercepted telephone calls from Oswald to the embassies during routine surveillance.

But the Mexico City trip has loomed as a dark mystery to others suspicious of the possible involvement of regular Cuban or anti-Castro exile elements in the president's murder. The FBI material may shed new light on the subject.

Another salient subject is the wide suspicion that Oswald had connections

with American intelligence agencies. After Oswald, who defected to Russia in 1959, returned to America he had several contacts with FBI agents, including an interview with John Guigley in New Orleans instigated by Oswald.

Virtually all of the contacts appear to have been the result of an FBI security case on Oswald, routine for all former defectors to Communist nations, but many view them as evidence of Oswald's alleged employment by either

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the FBI or CIA. The Warren Commission rejected the suggestions completely.

Perhaps the most enduring mystery of the Kennedy assassination is what motive Oswald would have had for committing such an act. Oswald, who earlier had shot at arch-conservative Gen. Edwin A. Walker in Dallas and talked of killing Richard Nixon, had evidenced no grudge against Kennedy.

The answer even eluded the Warren Commission, which reported that while "many factors were undoubtedly in-

involved in Oswald's motivation... the commission does not believe that it can ascribe any one motive or group of motives."

About 600 pages of the FBI material already has been released under the Freedom of Information Act to a private researcher, and while they revealed no explosive new aspects of the case they have raised a number of tantalizing questions which may be resolved in the additional disclosures.

For instance, the FBI noted in one

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memorandum that it had traced the bullets from Oswald's 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle to the Western Cartridge Co. of Alton, Ill. The company had manufactured four million rounds for the Marine Corps under contract in 1954, but agents later learned the shells did not fit any weapon then in use by the service.

"This gives rise to the obvious speculation that it is a contract for ammunition placed by CIA with Western under-

a USMC cover for concealment purposes," the Dec. 2, 1963 memorandum stated. The memo does not resolve the question, although the bullets could have been obtained from another batch produced later.

A number of persons feel the most intriguing of all the new FBI material may be those types of speculative memos, indicating the suspicions raised during the investigation and how they were handled.