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A SPECIAL REPORT -

JFK FILES: WHAT FBI HID

(FULL PAGE HEADLINE)

W/ SMALL PHOTOS OF  
JFK, LHO, AUBY, JACKIE, CONNALLY

## Assassination secrets revealed

Released today under the Freedom of Information Act of the FBI's internal records on the Kennedy assassination revealed that:

□ FBI Director Hoover personally believed that Oswald was the assassin, but was troubled by the possibilities of conspiracy, and counseled President Johnson

to avoid a statement that there was no "foreign or subversive" support for Oswald.

□ There appeared to be nothing in the 40,000 pages to contradict the Warren Commission's finding that Oswald acted alone.

□ Provocative letters written to Oswald

from Cuba were withheld from the Warren inquiry by Hoover because their authenticity could not be proven.

□ Oswald shot at Maj. Gen. Edwin Walker and escaped by running fast and hopping a public bus a few months before he escaped from the scene of the Kennedy assassination the same way. Page 9.

## Hoover feared a Cuban plot but kept quiet

By David Nagy  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — J. Edgar Hoover was troubled by possibilities of a Cuban conspiracy in the John F. Kennedy assassination and suppressed an early finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, FBI documents released today disclose.

The first scrutiny of the 40,000 pages of raw FBI assassination files, released this morning, didn't indicate whether or when Hoover might have abandoned his conspiracy suspicions. Nor did they tell what became of some purported get-Kennedy letters he said were written to Oswald from Cuba.

And, although the other half of the JFK assassination file won't be released until early next year, there appeared to be nothing in the mass of documents to contradict the Warren Commission conclusion that Oswald acted alone.

But the files did show:

- That while Hoover believed immediately after the assassination that Oswald was the killer, and considered him "in the category of a nut and the extremist pro-Castro crowd," both Hoover and Secret Service chief James Rowley saw possibilities of a murder conspiracy from the outset.

- That the FBI had some provocative letters purportedly written to Oswald from Cuba, which it could not authenticate and which, for that reason, it apparently never gave to the Warren Commission.

And that Hoover persuaded President Johnson, 20 days after the Dallas murder, to withhold a tentative Justice Department finding that Oswald was the lone assassin — and had no ties to his own killer, Jack Ruby — until matters were investigated further.

Disclosure of Hoover's doubts was one tidbit in the avalanche of information — nearly half a ton of paper in a floor-to-ceiling stack — made public from the FBI's long-guarded Kennedy assassination files in response to a Freedom of

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# JFK files: Hoover feared Cuban plot but kept quiet

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Information suit.

The 25,000-odd internal memos and investigative reports are raw material, censored to delete sensitive sources. They include rumors and false leads. And they show that mass confusion at first reigned among investigative authorities after the Kennedy murder. But they show that Hoover immediately ordered the bureau to pour on its investigative resources and, within hours of the shooting, was able to describe Oswald as the probable killer and as "a nut from the extremist pro-Castro crowd."

Indication of Hoover's conspiracy suspicions occurs at more than one point in the material — including a memo written hours after the slaying. But it's most clearly stated in a staff memo he wrote Dec. 12, 1963.

In it, he described his meeting with President Johnson concerning a Justice Department proposal that an interim statement be issued identifying Oswald as the lone assassin, without "foreign or subversive" support and with no links to Ruby.

"I flatly disagreed," Hoover wrote, with the proposal to give those conclusions official government approval so quickly. He said Johnson sided with him.

"I said I personally believe Oswald was the assassin," Hoover wrote, but added: "The second aspect as to whether he was the only man gives me great concern."

He said he confided to Johnson "that we have letters, not in the (early FBI) report because we were not able to prove it, 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."

But he said he further advised Johnson, "that we do not know if 'the chief' was (Fidel) Castro and cannot make an investigation because we have no intelligence operation in Cuba; that I did not put this in the report because we did not have proof of it and did not want to put speculation in the report."

In conclusion, he said, "I urged strongly that we not reach the

## How Ruby got near Oswald

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Jack Ruby was able to get into the basement of Dallas police headquarters where he shot Lee Harvey Oswald because of a "series of unfortunate coincidences," a memo in FBI files from an internal police investigation said.

The investigation, in the form of a report to Police Chief J. E. Curry, concludes: "We are convinced that our investigation has established to a reasonable certainty that Jack Leon Ruby entered the basement from the Main Street ramp and that no collusion existed between him and any member of the press; that his entrance into the basement at this particular time was the result of a series of unfortunate coincidences which caused a momentary breakdown in the security measures adopted."

"Ruby was in the basement for a maximum of two minutes, with a strong possibility that it was only five to 10 seconds prior to the shooting."

The report, released today, said Ruby apparently ducked into the building when a policeman guarding the entrance to the ramp stepped out into the street to stop traffic so a police car could leave the building.

The report quotes a detective who interviewed Ruby as having heard the killer say: "Y'll won't believe this, but I didn't have this planned. I couldn't have timed it so perfect."

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

Years later, however, congressional investigation showed that the CIA had never told the Warren Commission there had been U.S.-backed plots against Castro's life.

The documents released today seemed to offer no particular supporting evidence for any conspiracy theories.

Hoover also moved fast to rebut claims that Oswald didn't have the marksmanship expertise to have shot Kennedy from the sixth floor of the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building as the president's open limousine moved past.

In the Dec. 12 memo, he said he advised the Warren Commission that Oswald had performed well in Marine Corps rifle training, and hitting Kennedy "wasn't anything he could not do."

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

One memo also said Hoover wanted no statement connecting Jack Ruby and Oswald because "we have no proof they were ever together," but he didn't want the report to be "100 per cent sure on that."

He said he told Rankin that Ruby "is a shady character from the hoodlum element of Chicago, has a poor background, runs a nightclub in Dallas, and is what would be called a police buff ..."

More than 1,300 pages were devoted to apparently worthless leads that were investigated anyway.

There were reports of hundreds of people who had been overheard making some threatening remark like "Kennedy will get his" about the time of the assassination.

One man called the FBI and said he had stopped at a gas station in Scottsdale, Ariz., six months after the assassination and in a telephone book in a phone booth he found "John Wilks Booth" and "John F. Kennedy" written on the front page.

After questioning the gas station owner and others, the FBI concluded that "no one had noticed any questionable persons in the

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But he said he further advised Johnson, "that we do not know if 'the chief' was (Fidel) Castro and cannot make an investigation because we have no intelligence operation in Cuba, that I did not put this in the report because we did not have proof of it and did not want to put speculation in the report."

In conclusion, he said, "I urged strongly that we not reach the conclusion Oswald was the only man."

Early examination of the files did not indicate whether the bureau was ever able to develop more information on these matters, or what Hoover may have told the Warren Commission about them before that presidential body published its own voluminous report — naming Oswald the lone assassin — nearly a year later.

Hoover also said he, too, believed that Oswald had never known Ruby, but said the government couldn't yet say so positively.

Some conspiracy theorists have argued that Castro had Kennedy killed in retaliation for CIA plots against the Cuban leader's own life. Other theories accuse anti-Castro Cubans, other right-wing forces, the Soviets, the South Vietnamese, the CIA and the FBI itself as the conspirators.

Addressing lingering questions over whether the CIA had cooperated fully in the investigation, Hoover noted in a memo written four days after the killing that CIA Director John McCone had called "to be sure I am satisfied the CIA is giving all the help they possibly can

for a maximum of two minutes, with a strong possibility that it was only five to 10 seconds prior to the shooting."

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But they do show that Hoover and Rowley, the Secret Service chief, began thinking conspiracy immediately.

In a staff memo he sent one hour and 51 minutes after the Kennedy shooting, Hoover summed up a phone conversation in which he and Rowley discussed conspirators ranging from the Cubans to the Ku Klux Klan.

"Mr. Rowley stated he was also thinking of subversive elements — Mexico, Cuba," Hoover wrote. "I then mentioned the Klan element."

Nonetheless, Hoover never apparently entertained any doubts that Oswald had pulled the trigger — regardless of who may have put him up to it — and stated, in his first progress report written less than four hours after the killing:

"I thought very probably we had in custody the man who killed the president in Dallas, but this had not definitely been established."

Summarizing Oswald's background as a former defector to the Soviet Union from 1959 to 1962 and his creation of a "Fair Play For Cuba Committee," Hoover concluded that Oswald "would be in the category of a nut and the extremist pro-Castro crowd."

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Another 40,000 pages, the rest of the FBI file on the Kennedy assassination, is due to be made public soon, probably next month.

The files may shed light on what Oswald told police and FBI men when he underwent intermittent questioning during two days in custody before he was murdered.

The FBI said at the time that Oswald denied shooting Kennedy. NO stenographic record of the interrogation was kept.

Much has been excised from the released materials, however.

Parts of the documents are inked out under the provision of the law permitting government agencies to keep secret information that would tend to reveal investigatory sources or methods or to needlessly violate privacy.

The first FBI records released in the present batch, on Dec. 2, showed that the FBI lost track of Oswald in September and October of 1963, tracked his wife to Texas in early November, but did not attempt to get in contact with him between that time and Nov. 22.