

Raffke

JFK and King assassination and its records appeals      Harold Weisberg 1/13/80  
Indemnity  
Robert Raffke  
Withholding of what is disclosed in Warren Commission records

While the records to which I refer below are of the JFK assassination investigation the principles apply to the King case and all relates to a PA appeal on which you have not acted.

There is no question about the right and need to protect authentically confidential informants, those who provide real information as distinguished from their own fabrications for their own purposes. You will, I am confident, recall that I have notified you and the FBI of what I believed to be inadvertent disclosure of informant identification so that nothing was copied could be released with those not making identification disclosure.

Serial 2042 is one of many 105-42225 records relating to Robert Raffke, an informant of the San Francisco police and the FBI. My earlier appeals relating to his initials records from other files. With respect to this Serial I also appeal the withholdings by omission.

Although I presumed that Raffke was an informant before locating FBI records in which it discloses this fact and I believe I then appealed, 2042 records do include his identification, by name but with redactions and confusion and concern has to others because of the withholdings of what the FBI itself discloses.

FBI's reason for disclosing Raffke's identification is stated in Serial 2042 "These questions the veracity, and in light of Raffke's expressions of sympathy for MARTIN LUTHER KING does not desire to protect his identity (substitution)"

FBI was correct in questioning Raffke's veracity when he reported that one Arnold Kessler had dined with Oswald in Mexico City long after Oswald had left there. The resulting investigation, which extended to South America, was quite costly and although this fairy tale had not been confirmed, it had been reported to the Warren Commission, which was influenced by it.

This parallels many situations in the King investigation, a number of which I have appealed. There the FBI made selective disclosure of the identification of informants, limiting it to those it wanted the House assassination committee to be deceived and misled by. This is what happened and now the Department's recent self-investigation is limited to this issue. Naturally enough there will be a self-issued clean bill of health.

In the King case the FBI also engaged in tricky filing, obscuring from its MEMO this those records most embarrassing to it, like its intrusions into the legal defenses of the Bay Brothers through informants of whom two are known, Johnson and Capote. Now it gets even trickier, with the Department's evasion of its common inspection of withholdings and the Department's selection of the records to be examined by the Court, which lacks knowledge of such matters as what has been disclosed, like the identifications of informants. The potential for deceiving and misleading the Court is increased by your failure to act on my appeals of long ago.

With regard to Kuttin, I filed a PA appeal in which I asked for a search of all relevant files to see if he informed on me, directly or indirectly, from his having been present at a study group I was asked to address and from his association with one who was then a friend of mine. I did file P A requests with H; and all field offices. And while holding me to be a public person the FBI did make selective disclosure of ~~files~~ and derogatory records relating to me in both King and JFK cases.

If the FBI can withhold or disclose on the basis of its liking or dislike of views or its opinion of veracity, I do not believe it can apply this standard inconsistently, arbitrarily and capriciously in historical cases.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 24 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI SAN FRAN

4-30 PM PST URGENT 3/24/64 SLS

TO DIRECTOR, (105-82555)

FROM SAN FRANCISCO (89-58)

*Handwritten signature*

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA IS - R - CUBA.

RE BUREAU LETTER, THREE, TWENTY-FOUR, SIXTY-FOUR.

*Handwritten notes and initials*

KAFFKE UNAVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW THIS DATE. MATTER

WILL BE CLOSELY FOLLOWED, KAFFKE WILL BE INTERVIEWED AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY, AND RESULTS SUBMITTED TO BUREAU BY TEL. 105-82555-274.

END

VACCH

FBI WASH DC

MAR 30 1964

*Handwritten signature*

REC-53

MAR 26 1964

EX-114

MAR 25 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI SAN FRAN

7-15PM PST URGENT 3--25--64 CRW

TO DIRECTOR, (105-82555)

FROM SAN FRANCISCO (89-58)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA, IS DASH R DASH CUBA.

REBUTEL AND SAN FRANCISCO TELETYPE MARCH TWO FOUR LAST.

KAFFKE CONTACTED MARCH TWO FIVE INSTANT. ADVISES BELIEVED MET ARNOLD AT CASA DE LOS AMIGOS, MEXICO CITY, FEBRUARY TWO FOUR OR TWO FIVE LAST. STATED FORGOT TO MENTION THIS CONTACT WHEN VISTING AMERICAN EMBASSY, MEXICO CITY, EXPLAINING THAT AT THE TIME OF SAID VISIT HE WAS UNDER GREAT STRAIN AND IN ACTUAL FEAR OF HIS LIFE.

KAFFKE ELABORATED BY SAYING PRIMARY REASON FOR HIS VISIT TO EMBASSY WAS NOT FURNISH INFORMATION BUT TO SECURE FUNDS WITH WHICH TO DEPART MEXICO SINCE HIS OPEN PRO-CASTRO SENTIMENTS WHILE IN MEXICO HAS RESULTED IN HIS BEING FOLLOWED BY WHAT HE BELIEVED WERE MEXICAN POLICE, THE SEARCHING OF HIS HOTEL ROOM, HIS EXPULSION FROM HIS HOTEL, AND HIS BEING THREATENED WITH A KNIFE BY A GROUP OF MEXICANS.

END PAGE ONE

*CRW*

*Le Pel*  
*S. J.*

*re*

105-82555-2842

MAR 31 1964

*5/6-2*

*Re Kaffke Section 115*

PAGE TWO

SF 89-58

KAFFKE ADVISES HE HAS NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
REGARDING HIS ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO OR CONCERNING CAPTIONED  
MATTER NOT PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED EITHER TO UNITED STATES  
EMBASSY, MEXICO CITY, OR SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.

END

VA---RL

FBI WASH DC

P

J C Stokes

3/27/64

CODE

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

TO LEGAT MEXICO CITY (105-3702)

FROM DIRECTOR (105-2555) — 2842

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, IS - R - CUBA

ON MARCH TWO ZERO, LAST ROBERT KAFFKE WHO IS KNOWN TO YOUR OFFICE PAREN SEE YOUR MARCH THREE, LAST LETTER THIS CASE PAREN ADVISED SAN FRANCISCO AS FOLLOWS:

WHEN IN MEXICO CITY VISITING AT THE CASA DE LOS AMIGOS OPERATED BY AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE HE MET ONE ARNOLD, LAST NAME UNKNOWN, WHO WAS RESIDING AT CASA DE LOS AMIGOS. ARNOLD DESCRIBED AS W, M, AMERICAN, TWO ZERO DASH TWO FOUR YEARS OF AGE, FIVE FEET TEN, ONE SIX ZERO POUNDS, BLOND HAIR, RUDDY COMPLEXION, FULL MUSTACHE, CLAIMED TO BE FROM BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA. ARNOLD HAD IN POSSESSION PRESS CARD WHICH IDENTIFIED HIM AS EMPLOYEE OF THE QUOTE MEXICO CITY TIMES AND QUOTE BUT HE WAS NOT EMPLOYED WHEN HE MET KAFFKE. ARNOLD SAID HE HAD BEEN IN MEXICO CITY APPROXIMATELY FOUR MONTHS AND COMMENTED HE HAD HAD DINNER WITH OSWALD ON THE OCCASION OF OSWALD'S

SAN FRANCISCO (9 50)

DALLAS (100-10441)

VIA CABLEGRAM

San Liaison Unit (Route through for review)

*File on mtg*

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE  
SEE NOTE FOR SAC, SAN FRANCISCO PAGE

THREE

MAR ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

CABLEGRAM TO LEGAT MEXICO CITY  
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
105-22555

VISIT TO MEXICO CITY PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION. ARNOLD DID NOT STATE WHERE DINNER ENGAGEMENT TOOK PLACE NOR DID HE MENTION DETAILS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH OSWALD. NOTE KAFFKE WAS INTERVIEWED BY YOUR OFFICE FEBRUARY TWO SEVEN, LAST. ON MARCH TWO FIVE, LAST KAFFKE ADVISED MEETING WITH ARNOLD IN MEXICO CITY OCCURRED ON FEBRUARY TWO FOUR OR TWO FIVE, LAST. SAID HE FORGOT TO MENTION THIS CONTACT WHEN VISITING AMERICAN EMBASSY, MEXICO CITY, FEBRUARY TWO SEVEN LAST, BECAUSE AT TIME OF VISIT HE WAS UNDER GREAT STRAIN AND IN FEAR OF HIS LIFE. HE SAID PRIMARY REASON FOR VISIT TO EMBASSY WAS NOT TO FURNISH INFORMATION BUT TO SECURE FUNDS WITH WHICH TO DEPART MEXICO SINCE HIS OPEN PRO-CASTRO SENTIMENTS WHILE IN MEXICO RESULTED IN HIS BEING FOLLOWED, THE SEARCHING OF HIS HOTEL ROOM, HIS EXPULSION FROM HOTEL AND HIS BEING THREATENED WITH KNIFE BY GROUP OF MEXICANS. HIS LATTER REPRESENTATIONS APPEAR TO BE AT CONSIDERABLE VARIANCE WITH HIS REVELATIONS TO YOU AS REPORTED IN YOUR MARCH THREE LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM.

CABLEGRAM TO LEGAT MEXICO CITY  
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
105-2555

ENDEAVOR TO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW ARNOLD AND SUBMIT RESULTS  
INCLUDING REVELATIONS OF KAFFKE IN LETTERHEAD TO DISSEMINATE.  
SHOULD ARNOLD ADMIT ASSOCIATION WITH OSWALD IN MEXICO, BEAR IN  
MIND THE FACETS OF THIS CASE CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION DEALING  
WITH OSWALD'S ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO AND HIS MEANS OF TRAVEL LEAVING  
ON OCTOBER THREE AND PRESS ARNOLD FOR ALL INFORMATION HE MAY HAVE  
TOUCHING ON THESE ASPECTS. IDENTIFY KAFFKE AS SOURCE AND POINT OUT  
INCONSISTENCY NOTED HEREIN. COPY SAN FRANCISCO AND DALLAS BY MAIL.

NOTE FOR SAC, SAN FRANCISCO:

Reurairtel 3/20/64 teletype 3/25/64 and Buairtel to Dallas  
copy to your office dated 3/11/64. Note that information in Legat's  
3/3/64 letterhead concerning Kaffke has been disseminated to Presi-  
dent's Commission. In view of inconsistencies in Kaffke's statements  
reported in your 3/25/64 teletype and his representations to Legat and  
as Kaffke, in fact, discussed Oswald with Legat on 2/27/64 and failed  
to mention Arnold incident. Bureau questions the veracity of his  
3/20/64 statements concerning Arnold. In view of this and in light  
of Kaffke's expressions of sympathy for Castro. Bureau does not desire to  
protect his identity [REDACTED]  
and unless sound reason exists to protect his identity this will not  
be done. San Francisco suairtel your observations and recommendations  
this point. In addition, in event investigation re Arnold results  
negatively, consider advisability of affording Kaffke polygraph  
examination. Subm't recommendations in this regard.

NOTE:

Kaffke on interview by Legat admitted sympathy for Castro and  
commun'ist regime in China. He said he had been to Cuba with student  
group in 1963 and was in Mexico attempting to obtain visa to go  
to Cuba or to travel to China. He also told Legat he was in Mexico

3 - CONTINUANCE OF NOTE PAGE FOUR



CABLEGRAM TO LEGAT MEXICO CITY.  
RE: LEE HARVY OSWALD  
105-82555

CONTINUANCE OF NOTE:

Inquiring about Oswald to develop an angle to enable him to write salable magazine articles. He now belatedly tells San Francisco about the [redacted] episode. He is probably a faker and if so we should not hide his identity from Commission. In any event when results of inquiry are known we will carefully consider this aspect before making discrimination.

NR.	14
ENC.	RTR
CK.	
APPROVED BY	[Signature]
TYPED BY	

1 - Branigan  
1 - Lenihan  
1 - Stokes  
4-2-64

PLAIN TEXT

1 - Anderson

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SAC DETROIT

REC-11

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (105-82555)

2895

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, (IS - R - CUBA.

INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED ALLEGING ARNOLD PARENTHESIS LNU END PARENTHESIS WHILE VISITING CASA DE LOS AMIGOS RUN BY AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE IN MEXICO CITY AROUND FEBRUARY TWENTY FOUR, TWENTY FIVE LAST MADE STATEMENT HE HAD DINNER WITH OSWALD IN MEXICO CITY PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, HAVING BEEN IN MEXICO FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR MONTHS.

ARNOLD DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE AMERICAN, TWENTY DASH TWENTY FOUR YEARS OF AGE, FIVE FEET TEN, ONE SIXTY POUNDS, BLOND HAIR, RUDDY COMPLEXION, FULL MUSTACHE, CLAIMED TO BE FROM BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, AND IN POSSESSION OF PRESS CARD IDENTIFYING HIM AS EMPLOYEE OF QUOTE MEXICO CITY TIMES UNQUOTE BUT UNEMPLOYED AT TIME OF MEETING WITH SOURCE IN MEXICO.

INQUIRY AT CASA DE LOS AMIGOS REVEALS ARNOLD KESSLER, ONE EIGHT TWO SIX SIX, PINEHURST, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, RESIDED AT CASA

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

1 - Dallas (100-10461) L.H.S.  
1 - San Francisco

COPIES DESTROYED

1 - Foreign Affairs 9041t

SEE NOTE PAGE TELETYPE

LLA:MRW (9)  
FEB 20 1973

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

Station 118

TELETYPE TO SAC DETROIT  
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
IS - R - CUBA

FROM FEBRUARY TWELVE UNTIL TWENTY NINE LAST, DEPARTING WITH  
ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF HITCHHIKING TO PANAMA VIA CENTRAL AMERICA  
AND ULTIMATELY TRAVELING TO BRAZIL BY FREIGHTER. HE CLAIMED  
EMPLOYMENT WITH MEXICO CITY ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER AND WAS  
SEEKING ADVENTURE AND EXPERIENCES WHICH WOULD ASSIST HIM TO  
BECOME JOURNALIST.

DETROIT REQUESTED TO IMMEDIATELY VERIFY KESSLER RESIDENCE AND  
DETERMINE IF HE MEETS ABOVE DESCRIPTION. IF SO, ASCERTAIN CURRENT  
WHEREABOUTS SO THAT APPROPRIATE INTERVIEW MAY BE ARRANGED. IF  
DETERMINED TO BE IN U.S., ADVISE BUREAU AND INTERESTED OFFICE SO  
THAT PERTINENT BACKGROUND DATA MAY BE FURNISHED INTERESTED OFFICE  
AND APPROPRIATE INTERVIEW CONDUCTED. SUTEL RESULTS.

COPIES MAILED DALLAS AND SAN FRANCISCO.

NOTE: [REDACTED] a San Francisco PD informant, who traveled  
to Cuba with student group in 1963 and who was later in Mexico  
attempting to obtain visa to go to Cuba or China, has advised  
San Francisco Office that when in Mexico City he met with Arnold  
(LNU) who told him he dined with Oswald in Mexico City during  
Oswald's visit to Mexico.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 2 1964

TELETYPE

4-6-64

CODE

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan
- 1 - Mr. Anderson

TO LEGAT MEXICO CITY (105-3702)  
 FROM DIRECTOR FBI (105-82555)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, IS - R - CUBA.

REBUCAB MARCH TWENTY-SEVEN LAST AND URCAB NUMBER FIVE  
 ZERO NINE, RE STATEMENTS OF ROBERT KAFFKE.

INVESTIGATION IN SAN FRANCISCO <sup>AND DETROIT</sup> REVEALS ARNOLD KESSLER,  
 ONE EIGHT TWO SIX SIX PINEHURST, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APPEARS  
 TO BE IDENTICAL WITH ARNOLD (LNU). KESSLER, BORN SEPTEMBER  
 TWENTY-EIGHT, ONE NINE FOUR TWO, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, ADMITTED  
 TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY, SPRING, ONE NINE SIX  
 TWO, BUT WITHDREW SEPTEMBER, ONE NINE SIX THREE DUE TO LACK  
 OF FUNDS. REPORTEDLY, HE IS CURRENTLY VISITING IN BRAZIL AND  
 DOES NOT PLAN TO RETURN TO UNITED STATES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

ALSO REFER TO YOUR JANUARY TWENTY-THREE LAST LETTER WITH  
 LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM CONCERNING REVELATIONS OF ALCAZAR AND  
 WHICH MAY RELATE TO THIS MATTER.

REC-24 105-82555-2995

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND [REDACTED] DATA RE KESSLER

BEING FURNISHED MEXICO CITY, SAN FRANCISCO AND WFO BY SEPARATE

AIRTEL WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION.

LLA:MGP (6)  
 1 - Foreign Liaison

VIA CABLEGRAM  
 APR 6 1964  
 7:32 AM PL

NR.  
 ENC.  
 CK.  
 APPR.  
 SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Bishop
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

8 APR 10 1964 TELETYPE UNIT

Section 103

CABLEGRAM TO LEGAT MEXICO CITY  
RE LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
105-82555

NOTE:

A confidential source, San Francisco, advised he met one "Arnold" in Mexico City 2-24-25-64 who told him he dined with Oswald in Mexico City when Oswald was there in 9 - 10/63. We now believe "Arnold" is Arnold Kessler, identified above. Mexico being advised of above by cablegram as previous information indicated Kessler may be traveling in Central America.