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CIA set to release JFK assassination files
By Jim Wolf

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - The CIA said Wednesday it was releasing about 23,000 pages of previously secret documents related to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy as part of a major government disclosure.

But the relatively small amount being made available by the Central Intelligence Agency, which is believed to have as many as 300,000 pages on the case, was a disappointment to researchers.

"It means that they have released about 10 percent of what they have," said James Lesar, a Washington attorney who heads the non-profit Assassination Archives and Research Center. "They're stalling, clean and simple."

"Why do they have to hold back?," he added in a telephone interview. "It just makes everybody more and more suspicious of their actions."

The document disclosure is mandated by the 1992 JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, which requires that virtually all relevant material in the government's possession be sent to the National Archives, custodian of federal records, for release to the public by Monday.

Under the act, release of certain documents may be postponed for specified reasons. The law sets up a five-member presidential review board with the power to require government offices to release additional records.

Creation of this panel is seven months overdue. The records act, which then-President George Bush signed into law last Oct. 26, required the president to appoint the board within 90 days. That would have been Jan. 25, five days after Clinton took office.

By law, the review panel would grant "postponements" only when, for example, disclosure would uncloak "an intelligence agent whose identity currently requires protection," or confidential sources who would face "substantial risk of harm" if their identities were made public.

Daniel Alcorn, a lawyer who is a board member of the Assassination Archives and Research Center, said the amount of material being withheld by the CIA reinforced the need for Clinton to appoint the review panel.

"It's very much overdue and I don't understand why they haven't done it," he said in a telephone interview. The White House did not return a phone call seeking comment.

Apart from the material being held back for the review board when it is finally created, most of the 23,000 pages of CIA documents sent to the National Archives have been redacted to protect intelligence sources, methods and personal privacy.

In most cases, this involved blacking out "just a few words that that don't really bear on the thrust of the evidence," David Christian, a CIA spokesman, said.

The CIA has already released about 12,000 pages of assassination-related documents through its own historical review program as part of an "openness" policy inaugurated by the agency's former director, Robert Gates.

Christian said the previously disclosed CIA material will be re-released Monday under the record act's guidelines, which



standardize identification aids to facilitate research.

Also being released are records from other government agencies and from the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The commission concluded in 1964 that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone when he shot Kennedy in a Dallas motorcade Nov. 22, 1963. The House panel said in its 1979 report that there was evidence that organized crime was involved and raised doubt about the one-gunman theory.

Other previously secret documents being opened Monday at the National Archives come from the Kennedy, Johnson and Ford presidential libraries, including records from the Rockefeller Commission that reported in 1975 on improper CIA activities in the United States.

The records bill was enacted after renewed controversy stirred by Oliver Stone's 1992 film "JFK," which suggested Kennedy was the victim of a government conspiracy involving the CIA and Pentagon, among others.

Oklahoma Democrat Sen. David Boren, then chairman of the Senate Intelligence committee and one of the sponsors of the original legislation, predicted last year that "99.99 percent" of government records on the assassination would be released pursuant to the act.

REUTERS

C.I.A. to Release '63 Kennedy Assassination Data

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18 (Reuters) — The Central Intelligence Agency said today that it would make public only about 23,000 pages of documents related to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, less than 10 percent of the secret assassination documents the agency is believed to have. The relatively small size of the release disappointed researchers.

"They're stalling, clean and simple," James Lesar, a Washington lawyer who heads the nonprofit Assassination Archives and Research Center, said in a telephone interview. "Why do they have to hold back? It just makes everybody more and more suspicious of their actions."

The document disclosure is mandat-

ed by the J.F.K. Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, which requires that virtually all relevant material in the Government's possession be sent to the National Archives, to be made public by Monday.

Lacking a Review Panel

Under the act, the release of certain documents may be postponed for specified reasons. The law sets up a five-member review board with the power to require Government offices to release additional records.

Creation of the panel is long overdue. The records act, which President George Bush signed into law last Oct. 26, required the President to appoint the board within 90 days. That would have been Jan. 25, five days after Pres-

ident Clinton took office.

By law, the review panel would grant "postponements" only when, for example, disclosure would uncloak "an intelligence agent whose identity currently requires protection," or confidential sources who might be harmed if their identities were made public.

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Boston Globe

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1993

Judge in King beating case defends officers' sentences

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES - US District Judge John G. Davies, whose 2½-year prison sentences for Officer Laurence M. Powell and Sgt. Stacey C. Koon have come under sharp criticism in some quarters, defended his sentences in a rare interview yesterday.

"The application of the guidelines is a very complicated process, and the search for a just result was my entire mission," Davies said. "I did my best to be fair."

Davies, who has turned down dozens of requests for interviews about the case, said he agreed to discuss the matter only because he believes many people have misunderstood his rationale for the sentences he imposed. He spoke to the Los Angeles Times and to The Sentinel, a Los Angeles publication distributed primarily in the African-American community.

Much of the Sentinel interview was devoted to issues related to federal sentencing guidelines, but Davies did briefly address the subject of police brutality. "It think it needs to be abhorred," Davies told the Sentinel in an interview to be published today. "It needs to be eliminated, and the system has to do everything possible to eliminate it."

In both interviews, Davies declined to discuss details of the sentences he handed down against the two Los Angeles police officers, referring instead to the 54-page written memorandum that explained his reasoning. But he said one issue has been widely misunderstood: how the actions of the victim, Rodney G. King, affected the sentence.

It was Davies' sharp criticisms of King's behavior on the night of the incident - King had been drinking and had resisted arrest - that sparked much of the heated reaction to his sentences.

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Sheik Abdel-Rahman would go to two other countries, but in.

proceeding, the government of deportation. We have government whether he leave for Afghanistan and answer," she said at the

that two of his sons were hidden Muslim resistance nation of Afghanistan div.

munists in Afghanistan, but both he and the CIA have denied it.

Immigration authorities said deportees are usually sent to the country from which they entered the United States.

Sheik Abdel-Rahman came from Sudan in 1990. But since he is an Egyptian citizen, authorities say he might be sent there, where he faces almost certain imprisonment.

The Egyptian government has asked the United States to extradite Sheik Abdel-Rahman.

Nelson said she is concerned for her client because of his poor health. He suffers from diabetes.

Sheik Abdel-Rahman is being held at...

National Briefs

CIA to release JFK death data

WASHINGTON - The CIA said yesterday that it was releasing about 23,000 pages of previously secret documents related to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy as part of a major government disclosure. The amount being made available by the Central Intelligence Agency, which is believed to have as many as 300,000 pages on the case, was a disappointment to researchers. (Reuters)

21 are injured in factory blast

INSTITUTE, W.Va. - An explosion and fire at a pesticide factory injured 21 people yesterday and forced thousands to stay indoors. The fire at the Rhone Poulenc Ag Co. was brought under control within two hours, company spokeswoman Janet Victorson said. The blast occurred in a unit of the plant that produces the pesticide Larvin, company spokeswoman Bonnie McCarthy said. The 460-acre plant also produces methyl isocyanate, the chemical that killed 3,000 people in 1984 after a leak in Bhopal, India. That chemical is produced elsewhere in the plant and was not involved in yesterday's fire, company officials said. (AP)

Sex abuse alleged