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SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

Files over custody files on Oswald

in publicly available.

This procedure they are finding out is very troubling to she said. "It's very hard to find any real national security considerations for withholding documents from the American public."

While officials said there is no date when the public might see material, Leavy said the White House expects ultimately to make documents public.

Our approach would be to declassify and make public as much as possible," he said. He could not say how long it would take.

About 85 papers, all in Russian, were turned over by Yeltsin on key when he met with Clinton at the Group of Eight summit. Oswald, a former Marine, defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 and renounced his American citizenship. That attracted the attention of the KGB, which bugged his apartment in the Belarus capital of Minsk, paid neighbors to spy on him and kept Oswald and his Russian wife Marina under constant surveillance.

The KGB amassed a six-volume file on Oswald's activities in Minsk. It was sent to Moscow after the assassination but returned to the Soviet Union after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

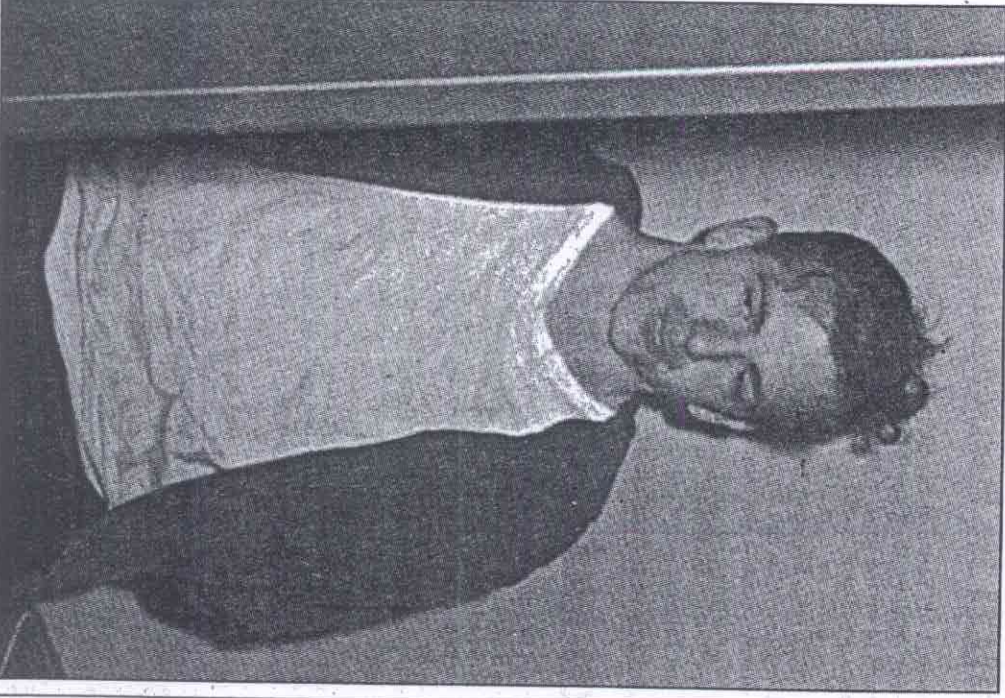
The documents handed over by Yeltsin are thought to be the KGB files compiled in Moscow, said John Tunheim, former chairman of the government's Assassination Records Review Board.

The board, which went out of business last year, was created to locate, gather and eventually make public all known assassination records.

Tunheim said the documents could shed light on what the KGB knew about Oswald and how top-ranking Soviet officials reacted when they learned that Oswald was the suspected gunman.

"The KGB had sophisticated intelligence at the time. They could have uncovered facts that we didn't get," said Tunheim, who was a member of a board delegation that tried but failed to get the documents from Russia in 1996.

A Russian newspaper published three documents from the files on Wednesday, the Washington Post reported. One was a handwritten letter Oswald sent to Soviet authorities seeking asylum in 1959. Another discussed the Soviet reaction to the assassination and the third described plans for attendance at the Kennedy funeral.



Leo Harvey Oswald, shown in custody after his arrest in connection with the JFK assassination, is discussed in files just turned over to President Clinton.

ASSOCIATED PRESS/1963

Camera shows view from JFK killer's perch

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — For the first time, the world can look out from the perch where Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots that killed President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Images from a camera mounted in the sixth-floor window of the old Texas School Book Depository can be viewed at the Sixth Floor Museum's Web site, www.jfk.org.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., brother of the slain president, criticized the innovation.

"Those who guided the original creation of the Sixth Floor Museum made a substantial effort to prevent the exploitation and commercialization of President Kennedy's death, and their efforts were a great credit to the people of Dallas," Kennedy spokeswoman Melody Miller said Wednesday.

Jeff West, executive director of the museum, said he was "surprised and disappointed, frankly" at Kennedy's remarks, but defended the installation of the camera.

"We have received countless requests for access to the view of Dealey Plaza from the sniper's perch. The installation of this camera affords us the opportunity to honor those requests without disrupting the solemnity of the museum experience," West said.