

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : CIA
RECORD NUMBER : 104-10406-10425
RECORD SERIES : JFK
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : RUSS HOLMES WORK FILE

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : HSCA
FROM : CHAIRMAN
TO : TURNER, STANSFIELD
TITLE : LETTER: I AM WRITING YOU WITH REGARD TO A MATTER OF
GRAVE CONCERN
DATE : 10/13/78
PAGES : 6
SUBJECTS : OSWALD

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : SECRET
RESTRICTIONS : OPEN IN FULL
CURRENT STATUS : OPEN
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 11/17/98
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : JFK-RH03:F0061-III 1998.11.17.11:42:53:530128: TWO
COPIES OF THREE PAGES.

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Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3369 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

Executive Registry
75-10381/1

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
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OCT 13 1978

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1998

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

I am writing you with regard to a matter of grave concern to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. As you know, in an effort to clarify the circumstances surrounding Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City in September - October 1963, the Committee's staff has spent considerable time examining the CIA's surveillance operations in effect in Mexico City at the time of Oswald's visit. Because of your willingness to cooperate with this Committee's investigation, as well as the cooperation which the Committee has received from present and former Agency personnel, we have made substantial progress in the Mexico City phase of our inquiry. Even so, there appears to be a substantial basis for believing that highly relevant documentary material -- specifically, CIA surveillance photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald -- have not been made available for the Committee's review.

Committee requested access to all photographic production and log sheets of such production, for the period September 26, 1963 to October 3, 1963, generated by the CIA's Mexico City Station's photo surveillance operations against the Soviet and Cuban Embassies in Mexico City. In response, the Agency made available those production materials pertaining to the Cuban Embassy (but not the Cuban Consulate) and the production materials originating from a secondary surveillance camera (but not the primary surveillance camera) focused on the Soviet Embassy compound. However, even in the absence of all requested production material being made available to this Committee, there is a strong circumstantial basis for concluding that Agency photographs of Oswald do exist.

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First, while admittedly there are contradictions in the Agency's written records, these records nevertheless suggest that an impulse camera was in operation when Oswald visited the Cuban Embassy. Such a camera would have automatically been triggered to photograph any person entering the Embassy. In addition, it has been determined by this Committee that Oswald entered and exited from the Cuban and Soviet compounds on at least five separate occasions, resulting in a total of ten opportunities during which Oswald could have been photographed by CIA surveillance cameras. The existence of an Agency photograph of Oswald has been further corroborated by CIA personnel both in Mexico City and at Agency headquarters who claim to have seen this material.

Finally, on October 6, 1978, a manuscript written by the late Win Scott, former Chief of Station of the CIA's Mexico City Station, was reviewed by a staff member of this Committee. While the criticism can be offered that Scott's manuscript has not yet been established as a true record, relevant portions of this manuscript do suggest that the contents are accurate and that photographs of Oswald were in fact obtained by the CIA's Mexico City surveillance operations. At page 273 of the manuscript, Scott wrote:

✓ "These visits and conversations are not hearsay; for persons watching these embassies photographed Oswald as he entered and left each one; and clocked the time he spent on each visit. The conversations are also known to have taken place, including the one in which he told the Soviet to whom he was talking that he should have heard, received a message, from the Soviet Embassy in Washington, indicating obviously that a Soviet Embassy official in Washington had offered to help Oswald."

Scott's comments are a source of deep concern to this Committee, for they suggest your Agency's possible withholding of photographic materials highly relevant to this investigation.

Therefore, the Committee reiterates its request of May 2, including but not limited to any and all photographs in the CIA's possession of Lee Harvey Oswald resulting from CIA surveillance operations directed against the Soviet and Cuban Embassies and Consulates in Mexico City. In addition, the

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Admiral Stansfield Turner

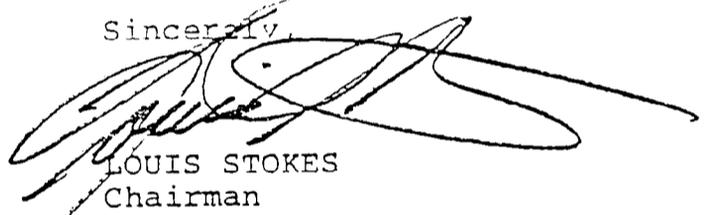
Page 3

Committee requests a detailed explanation regarding the withholding of any and all photographs in the CIA's possession of Oswald resulting from CIA surveillance operations directed against the Soviet and Cuban Embassies and Consulates in Mexico City.

As some of the information cited in this letter is derived from classified information, consideration should be given to assigning this letter an appropriate classification indicator.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



LOUIS STOKES
Chairman

LS:cbm

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LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN
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Executive Registry
Di-10387/1

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives
3389 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OCT 13 1978

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In a letter dated March 2, 1978, page 3, Item 1, the Committee requested access to all photographic production and log sheets of such production, for the period September 26, 1963 to October 3, 1963, generated by the CIA's Mexico City Station's photo surveillance operations against the Soviet and Cuban Embassies in Mexico City. In response, the Agency made available those production materials pertaining to the Cuban Embassy (but not the Cuban Consulate) and the production materials originating from a secondary surveillance camera (but not the primary surveillance camera) focused on the Soviet Embassy compound. However, even in the absence of all requested production material being made available to this Committee, there is a strong circumstantial basis for concluding that Agency photographs of Oswald do exist.

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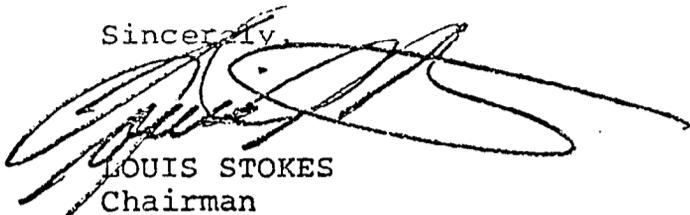
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louis Stokes', is written over the typed name and title.

LOUIS STOKES
Chairman

LS:cbm

~~SECRET~~