Presidential Lecture Series

The Princeton Club of New York

April 11, 2006
Bay of Pigs
April 17, 1961
Cuban Missile Crisis

Thirteen Days in October, 1962
JFK Motorcade November 22, 1963
Abraham Zapruder’s Film
Single Bullet Theory
Single Bullet Theory
The Limousine
The Casket
Jack Ruby
Shooting Oswald
Warren Commission

Earl Warren
Chief Justice of the United States

Richard B. Russell
U.S. Senator, Democrat, Georgia

John Sherman Cooper
U.S. Senator, Republican, Kentucky

Hale Boggs
U.S. Representative, Democrat, Louisiana

Gerald R. Ford
U.S. Representative, Republican, Michigan

Allen W. Dulles
former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

John J. McCloy
former president of the World Bank
The Warren Commission Report
September 1964
Lee Harvey Oswald
Oswald's Apartment in Minsk
General Edwin A. Walker
April 10, 1963
Five Reasons for the Loss of Confidence in the Warren Commission

1. Highly classified information that could not be disclosed in the Cold War
2. Johnson seeks to check rumors and prevent World War III
3. The progress of forensic science over the past four decades
4. The Commission Report was the work of lawyers – a brief for Oswald as killer
5. Failure by the CIA and Attorney General Robert Kennedy to disclose Operation Mongoose
MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL LANSDALE

From: Lt. Col. Patchell
Subject: Psychological Operations Group

Meeting held at 1330 hours on 23 May 62 with Mr. Harrisch and Mr. Shen of State. Motion of CIA, South of USIA, and myself attending. Following is a summary of subjects discussed:

1. CIA asked States to provide a clarification of personalities and groups to be supported - this came as a warning to the Office of Cooperative Narcotics and newspaper editors on the change in leadership.

2. The Armstrong Circle Theater movie has been used to support Spanish language publications and distribution.

3. On the “Armstrong to History” program of 25 May 62 - because of the type of movie - USIA is only putting out carefully and determined whether some sort of replay (it will be included in the show).

4. CIA using themes for listeners to understand - desired.

5. On declassification of Cuba - Soviet trade agreement - CIA has been unable to obtain, but should produce soon.

6. CIA guidance now being prepared for people who will be in the “field” and that it is being produced for use in Latin America.

Draft scripts will be brought to next meeting for final review.

7. On the RFE/WBC’s “White Book on University Problems in Cuba” - 1,000 copies each are being printed in Cuba in English, French, and Spanish. CIA to take action to make available in summary form for Latin American and student publications.

8. On the CRC publication “Cuba Now” - presently going out only to the media. CIA is looking into getting it into Latin America and Cuba - many issues appear to be no problem.

9. Suggested exploitation by USIA and CIA of items as early as possible. (Homing and indicators - make sure on distribution.)

Right up the unhappy impact of Kenned y’s speech. Should be forgotten that this is not an issue with us. State indicated that a correction was being done after it was made.

Suggested that Castro’s 11 April speech (which was key) had many exploitable points - corruption - help - labor - Cuba needs to CIA for research people.

Regarding Cuban paper concerning people who were going to be in training camps - USIA to take it.

Excerpt from Cabell's speech that has been exploited has a short applied to the “field” and the Russians are not aware of it. A copy will be made available to CIA.

CIA should make efforts to ensure that the Cuban government is aware of the fact that the documents are being published.

10. On meetings I have developed assistant support in nations taken without too much question. This is evidence of our ability to act without being noticed. For example, “deeply concerned” are replaced by “sympathetic” - this may be difficult at first, but

2. TECHNICAL CAPABILITY

Technical studies have been made which confirm the possibility of balloon operations in this area. A launching would be possible at night in a good direction approximated toward the northern coast of Cuba. The area would be covered over Cuba by the low altitude trade winds which prevail in that area. Meteorological studies indicate that the easterly trade winds in the area are among the most consistent of any area in the world. The balloon can be launched at the rate of twenty per hour per site, with four pounds of payload per balloon. Four stations could be operating simultaneously with a launching capability of eighty balloons per hour. As previously planned, the target for at least the first launching is the Matanzas-Havana area.
In conversation with me, McCloy, a member of the presidential commission stated that he has serious doubts of the credibility of the investigation to date. He does not eliminate the possibility that the attempt on Kennedy was made by two persons. However, in view of Johnson's order that the commission investigate also the circumstances of Oswald's slaying, some of the commission's operations and its report could come after Ruby's trial and perhaps even after the verdict and appeals. In the meantime the trial was postponed until 3 January [sic], and the FBI released to the press information that their investigation confirms Oswald's guilt, and that he had no accomplices.
Assassinations

Malcolm X assassinated
Vietnam War
National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States

THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT

FINAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON TERRORIST ATTACKS UPON THE UNITED STATES
1991
Oliver Stone’s
JFK

JFK
an Oliver Stone film
And so it begins... this Journal which is to be a record of the most horrifying, unbelievable, nightmarish experience through which I have ever lived. March the first will be certainly the great day in my life. That water shed from which all events must be dated before and after. For it was on March 1 that I was arrested “for conspiring with others to murder the President, John F. Kennedy.”

Even as I look at the words now it seems absolutely unbelievable that such a thing could come about. But it has, and it is important that I try to set down for myself and possibly others, the catastrophic horror which began on this date.
Final Report of the Assassination Records Review Board

"All government records concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy should carry a presumption of immediate disclosure."
ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD (ARRB)

- ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS IN OCTOBER 1992
- FIVE MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, CONFIRMED BY SENATE
- INDEPENDENT FEDERAL AGENCY
- FIND, REVIEW, IDENTIFY, AND SEND TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES RECORDS RELATING TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
- THREE-YEAR TERM, EXTENDED FOR A FOURTH YEAR -- 30 SEPTEMBER 1998
- $2.5 MILLION A YEAR -- STAFF OF 25
- POSTPONED RECORDS AND PARTS OF RECORDS
- APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT
- ALL RECORDS IDENTIFIED AS ASSASSINATION RECORDS OPEN IN NO LATER THAN 2017
Reasons for Postponing Release of Documents

GOARDS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS

- CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE
- PUBLIC INTEREST PRESUMES OPENING THE RECORD
- THREAT TO MILITARY DEFENSE, INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS, NATIONAL DEFENSE
  - INTELLIGENCE AGENT NEEDS CURRENT PROTECTION
  - INTELLIGENCE SOURCE OR METHOD CURRENTLY IN USE
  - ANY OTHER MATTER IMPAIRING NATIONAL SECURITY
- RISK OF HARM TO A PERSON THAT PROVIDED INFORMATION
- UNWARRANTED INVASION OF PRIVACY
- EXPOSE A LIAISON RELATIONSHIP WITH A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
- REVEAL A PROTECTIVE PROCEDURE TO PROTECT PRESIDENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
The Framers in 1787
Freedom of Information Act
July 4, 1966
Government secrecy growing

Federal secrecy has been increasing steadily, in spite of the 9-11 commissions’ advice that fewer documents should be classified.

Source: U.S. Information Security Oversight Office
OpenTheGovernment.org
Secrecy Report Card
Report by OpenTheGovernment.org

Federal spending favors secrecy

IN BILLIONS

FY97: $3.4, $0.15
FY98: $3.6, $0.2
FY99: $3.8, $0.2
FY00: $4.3, $0.2
FY01: $4.7, $0.2
FY02: $5.7, $1
FY03: $6.5, $0.05

Note: Figures do not include CIA documents

Source: U.S. Information Security Oversight Office
OpenTheGovernment.org
The Constitution is not a suicide pact.

Justice Robert Jackson
Terminiello v. Chicago (1949)
On December 2, 1963, a source, who had furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on November 26, 1963, Genne Kuhn, Wheeling, West Virginia, who has previously been identified by the source as Chairman of the Lower Ohio Valley Section of the Communist Party, stated that Anthony Krchmarek, head of the Communist Party in Ohio, and an Arnold, last name not mentioned, had recently visited her. She did not give the date of this visit. She stated that Krchmarek and Arnold spoke to an assembly of students at Bethany College, and that after the meeting, they were invited to a cocktail party, where Socialism was discussed until the small hours of the morning. She said that there was no show of contempt or any hard feelings, only friendliness. She stated Krchmarek and Arnold are to return on Sunday, December 8, 1963, at 6:30 P.M., and desire to discuss matters dealing with the coal unions.

On December 2, 1963, another source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on November 15, 1963, Arnold Johnson and Anthony Krchmarek had stopped in Steubenville, Ohio, that day, and spoke at Bethany College in West Virginia. Source stated that Anthony Krchmarek at a recent meeting, had spoken of Arnold Johnson procuring speakers for college engagements.

The same source stated that on November 18, 1963, Arnold Johnson and Anthony Krchmarek again visited Steubenville, Ohio, to arrange for a meeting “down the river” on December 8, 1963, and to postpone a meeting scheduled for Steubenville on November 22, 1963, to December 13, 1963. After making these arrangements, they returned to Cleveland, Ohio.

On December 12, 1963, the first source and a third source, who has furnished reliable information in the past...
Gus Hall
URGENT 11-26-63 8:05 PM VBR
TO DIRECTOR AND SAC, DALLAS
FROM SAC, HOUSTON 44-939 2P

JACK LEON RUBY, AKA. LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA. DASH
VICTIM. CR.

ON NOVEMBER TWENTY SIX INSTANT, REPORTED TELEPHONE CONVERSATION NA WITH
DALLAS ON NOVEMBER TWENTY FIVE LAST. KNOWN TO INFORMANT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS,
IS REPORTED TO BE QUOTE FIXER UNQUOTE AND QUOTE PAY OFF
CONTACT UNQUOTE BETWEEN
DURING PHONE CONVERSATION INFORMANT ASKED
IF SHOOTING OF OSWALD WAS AN ACCIDENT AND SHE REPORTEDLY
STATED QUOTE NO, I DON'T THINK SO UNQUOTE. WAS
ASKED TWO OR THREE TIMES IF IT WAS ACCIDENT AND EACH TIME
SHE SAID IT WAS NOT BUT REFUSED TO MAKE FURTHER
STATEMENT OR CLARIFICATION ON PHONE, STATING TO INFORMANT
QUOTE YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS UNQUOTE.
END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO

INFORMANT TO PERSONALLY CONTACT MILLE IN DALLAS
ON LEGITIMATE BUSINESS ON NOVEMBER TWENTY SEVEN OR TWENTY
EIGHT, NEXT. HOUSTON WILL FOLLOW AND REPORT RESULTS OF
CONTACT.

INFORMANT STATES WILL NOT COOPERATE WITH BUREAU
AND WILL DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE OF INCIDENT.
HOUSTON RECOMMENDS NOT BE INTERVIEWED AT THIS TIME
IN ORDER THAT INFORMANT WILL NOT BE COMPROMISED.

END AND ACK
WA ADV SEP
DL HOLD
DL 8 8:09 PM CST OK FBI DL LKH

Before
TO DIRECTOR AND SAC, DALLAS
FROM SAC, HOUSTON 44-939 2P

JACK LEE RUBY, AKA. LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA. MAN
VICTIM CR.

CONTINUED
ON NOVEMBER TWENTY SIX INSTANT, [MC] REPORTED TELEPHONE CONVERSATION HAD WITH [MC] HOSTESS, BACHELOR'S CLUB, DALLAS ON NOVEMBER TWENTY FIVE LAST. [MC] KNOWN TO INFORMANT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, IS REPORTED TO BE QUOTE FIXER UNQUOTE AND QUOTE PAY OFF QUOTE BETWEEN DALLAS POLICE AND CRIMINAL ELEMENT.

DURING PHONE CONVERSATION INFORMANT ASKED [MC] IF SHOOTING OF OSWALD WAS AN ACCIDENT AND SHE REPORTEDLY STATED QUOTE NO, I DON'T THINK SO UNQUOTE. [MC] WAS ASKED TWO OR THREE TIMES IF IT WAS ACCIDENT AND EACH TIME SHE SAID IT WAS NOT BUT REFUSED TO MAKE FURTHER STATEMENT OR CLARIFICATION ON PHONE, STATING TO INFORMANT QUOTE YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS UNQUOTE.

END PAGE ONE

44 2401 329
CIA Double Agents in Mexico

29 November 1963

[Document content not legible]
J. Edgar Hoover to F. Lee Rankin
June 17, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Through a confidential source which has furnished reliable information in the past, we have been advised of some statements made by Fidel Castro, Cuban Prime Minister, concerning the assassination of President Kennedy.

In connection with these statements of Castro, your attention is called to the speech made by Castro on November 27, 1963, in Havana, Cuba, during which Castro made similar statements concerning this matter. All pertinent portions of the speech are set out in the report of Special Agent James J. O'Connor dated May 8, 1964, at Miami, Florida, beginning on page 20.

According to our source, Castro repeatedly was reported to have said, "People in Mexico gave us the permission in a full report of how (Oswald) acted when he came to Mexico to get a visa. Castro further related, first of all, nobody ever went that way for a visa. Second, it costs money to go to distance. He (Oswald) stumped into the embassy, demanded the visa, and when it was refused to him, he came out saying, 'I'm going to kill Kennedy for this.'" Castro is alleged to have continued and asked, "What is your government doing to catch the other assassins?" and speculated, "It took about three hours."

This additional material is not forth for the Commission's information and no further action is contemplated by this Bureau concerning it.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: (continued)

This letter is classified "Top Secret" in view of the nature of this source's disclosures of which would seriously damage national defense interests.
“Our People in Mexico gave us the details in a full report of how he (Oswald) acted when he came to Mexico to their embassy (uncertain whether he means Cuban or Russian Embassy). Castro further related, “First of all, nobody ever goes that way for a visa. Second, it costs money to go that distance. He (Oswald) stormed into the embassy, demanded the visa, and when it was refused to him, headed out saying, ‘I’m going to kill Kennedy for this.’” Castro is alleged to have continued and asked, “What is your government doing to catch the other assassins?” and speculated, “it took about three people.”

“Note: This letter is classified "Top Secret" in view of the nature or our source, the disclosure of which would seriously damage national defense interests.”
“The source then advised that Castro’s speculation was based on tests which Castro and his men allegedly made under similar conditions with a similar rifle and telescopic sight.”
LIENVOY

Document

23 November 1963

1. IMPORTANT YOU REVIEW ALL LIENVOY TAPES AND TRANSCRIPTS SINCE 27 SEPTEMBER TO LOCATE ALL MATERIAL POSSIBLY PERTINENT TO SUBJECT REF.

2. DISPATCH SOONEST BY SPECIAL COURIER, STAFFER IF NECESSARY, FULL TRANSCRIPTS AND ORIGINAL TAPES IF AVAILABLE ALL PERTINENT MATERIAL.

3. [ARE ORIGINAL TAPES AVAILABLE?]

END OF MESSAGE

CS Comments: *Reported that on 1 October 63, an American met an American who said his name was Lee Oswald was at the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City.*

Document Number 40-541

D: 260-S-41

261-237,240

260-S-41

23 Nov 63

CS COPY

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED.
ANZUS Treaty

No. 2 Security Treaty Between Australia, New Zealand and the USA [ANZUS]

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANBERRA

Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America [ANZUS]

(San Francisco, 1 September 1951)

Entry into force generally: 29 April 1952

AUSTRALIAN TREATY SERIES
1952 No. 2

Australian Government Publishing Service
Canberra

© Commonwealth of Australia 1997
Date: October 12, 1960
To: Director, FBI (105-1065)
From: Legat, Paris (105-1067)
Subject: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Re Paris letter 9/27/60.
The Swiss Federal Police furnished the following report on October 1, 1960.

The investigation at the "Albert Schweitzer College" located at Churwalden, Switzerland, revealed that OSWALD actually had announced his planned attendance at this school for the course beginning in the Fall of 1959. Inquiry at the college revealed that he has not arrived there up to the present time. He had originally written a letter from Moscow indicating his intention to attend there. A letter which was addressed to him at this address by his mother was returned to her since his whereabouts are unknown to the college. The Swiss Federal Police advised that it is unlikely that he would have attended the course under a different name. The Swiss Federal Police advised that courses for the Fall of 1960 commence on October 2, 1960, and that it is possible that the school may have received a letter from OSWALD at the present time, there is no record of a person possibly identical with the subject he is reporting for the courses beginning October 2.

The Swiss Federal Police advised that if further information comes to the attention of the Albert Schweitzer College, they will be advised and they in turn will advise us.

RUW
2 - Bureau
1 - Paris
NWP:mas

REJ 41
10 7-81
10

07-18 1960

(3)
In the transcription of 9/18/79, she testified that she could identify his voice and that she transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice and that she transcribed from 9/18/79, 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79.

In addition, she testified that she could identify his voice in the transcripts as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79. She testified that she could identify his voice in the transcriptions as 10/18/79 and 10/31/79. She was present in the transcripts and transcribed from 10/14/79, 10/21/79, and 10/31/79.
In 1979, a single Report and twelve volumes of appendices on each assassination were published by the Congress. In the JFK case, the HSCA found that there was a “probable conspiracy,” though it was unable to determine the nature of that conspiracy or its other participants (besides Oswald).
A source who has furnished reliable information in the past and who was in Russia on the date of the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy advised on December 4, 1966, that the news of the assassination of President Kennedy was flashed to the Soviet people almost immediately after its occurrence. It was greeted by great shock and consternation and church bells were tolled in the memory of President Kennedy.

According to our source, officials of the Communist Party held a press conference in the Kremlin on December 6, at which Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and Deputy Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union were present. The conference was attended by the heads of various Communist Party organs and officials of the Soviet government. The conference was held in Moscow and lasted for several hours. During the conference, the officials of the Communist Party declared their condemnation of the assassination of President Kennedy and expressed their sincere sympathy for the United States and the people of the United States. The conference was covered by a number of Russian and foreign journalists and the proceedings were broadcast on Russian national television.

Our source further stated that Soviet officials were fearful that without leadership, some irresponsible elements in the United States might utilize the assassination and play on anti-Communist sentiments in the United States in order to stop negotiations with the Soviet Union, attack Cuba and thereby spread the war. As a result of these feelings, the Soviet Union immediately went into a state of national alert.
“According to our source, Colonel Boris Ivanov, Chief of the Soviet Committee for State Security (KGB) residency in New York City, held a meeting of KGB personnel on the morning of November 25, 1963. Ivanov informed those present that President Kennedy’s death had posed a problem for the KGB and stated that it was a necessary for all KGB employees to lend their effort to solving the problem.”

“According to our sources, Ivanov stated that it was his personnel feeling that the assassination of President Kennedy had been planned by a right wing group rather than being the act of an individual assassin. Ivanov stated that it was therefore necessary that the KGB investigate with the greatest possible speed the true story surrounding President Kennedy’s assassination. Ivanov stated that the KGB was interested in knowing all the factors and all the possible groups which might have worked behind the scenes to organize and plan this assassination.”
Mark Lane
MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF OF STAFF U. S. ARMY
SUBJECT: Ideas on How to Have the Castro/Communist Regime (Cuban)

1. (a) This memorandum responds to your verbal instructions to submit ideas on how to have the Castro regime.
   (b) The political object of the United States with respect to Cuba - a regime which is not inimical to our national interests - is the dominant consideration.

2. (a) There are two courses of action other than overthrow by military force which, if successfully implemented, would lead to achievement of our political object.
   (b) Course of Action No. 1: Intimidation of Castro (or use of his successor) to comply with our will.

   (1) Concept. Castro is personally informed by very high authority that we will no longer tolerate a Cuban regime inimical to our national interests. He is given the choice to change his policies and join us on our conditions or be overthrown. If he timely complies with our conditions then gradually he will be permitted to participate in the Alliance for Progress. If he refuses, then he and possibly others are removed and an attempt is made to install the successor of Course of Action No. 2 is implemented.

   (2) Advantages.
      (a) Applies least force.
      (b) Provides Castro most graceful retreat - "Bridge of Gold."
      (c) Least cost to lives, resources and money.
      (d) Can be initiated quickly.
      (e) Immediately weakens Communist position world-wide and especially in Latin America.

   (f) By any means. The least revolutionary treatment of the Cuban situation.

   (g) Requires no change in Alliance for Progress.

   (h) Overthrows Castro without having to face resistance of a large number of Cuban fighters.
Army Plans to Kill Castro
January 1963

IDEA
*2 Remove Castro and/or other key political leaders by assassination, kidnapping, bribery or by placing a bounty on them. Encourage defections and strengthen Defector Programs.

* Ideas which could be implemented in approximately six months.
CIA and the Warren Commission Report
April 1, 1967

CONTINUATION OF DISPATCH

e. Oswald would not have a conspirator. He was a "low
and an unknown quantity to

f. As to charges that the
three months after the death
the Commission tried to spec
the pressure of irresponsibility
coming from the same critic
cutting out new criticisms.

5. Such vague accusations
only can always be explicit
visually concerned have for
mission staff questioned 41
people, conducting 25,000 in
large group, a certain name
Jones, one of the originators
reported on television, it was
from an attack, one from a
bridge, and one occurred

1. Our Concern. From the day of President Kennedy's assassination or
there has been speculation about the responsibility for his murder. Although
this was stemmed for a time by the Warren Commission report (which appeared
at the end of September 1964), various writers have now had time to assess the
Commission's published report and documents for new pretexts for questioning,
and there has been a new wave of books and articles criticizing the Commission's
findings. In most cases the critics have speculated as to the existence of some
kind of conspiracy, and often they have implied that the Commission itself was
involved. Presumably as a result of the increasing challenge to the Warren
Commission's report, a public opinion poll recently indicated that 40% of the
American public did not think that Oswald acted alone, while more than half of
those polled thought that the Commission had left some questions unresolved.
Countless polls abroad showed similar, or possibly more adverse, results.

2. This trend of opinion is a matter of concern to the U.S. government,
including our organization. The members of the Warren Commission were naturally
concerned for their integrity, experience, and prominence. They represented both
major parties, and their staff were deliberately drawn from all sections
of the country. Just because of the standing of the Commissioners, efforts to
impeach their report and wisdom tend to cast doubt on the whole leadership of
American society. Moreover, there seems to be an increasing tendency to hint
that President Johnson himself, as the one person who might be said to have
benefited, was in some way responsible for the assassination. Innumerable
such accusations affects not only the individual concerned, but also the whole
reputation of the American government. Our organization itself is directly
involved; among other facts, we contributed information to the investigation.
Conspiracy theories have frequently thrown suspicion on our organization, for
example by falsely alleging that Lee Harvey Oswald worked for us. The aim of
this dispatch is to provide material for countering and discrediting the claims
of the conspiracy theorists, so as to inhibit the circulation of such claims in
other countries. Background information is supplied in a classified section and
in a number of unclassified attachments.
“1. Our Concern. From the day of Presidents Kennedy’s assassination on, there has been speculation about the responsibility for his murder. Although this was stemmed for a time by the Warren Commission report (which appeared at the end of September 1964), various writers have now had time to see the Commission’s published report and documents for new pretexts for questioning and there has been a new wave of books and articles criticizing the Commission’s findings. In most cases the critics have speculated as to the existence of some kind of conspiracy, and often they have implied that the Commission itself was involved. Presumably as a result of the increasing challenge to the Warren Commission's report, a public opinion poll recently indicated that 46% of the American public did not think that Oswald acted alone, while more than half of those polled thought that the Commission had left some questions unresolved.
Moreover, there seems to be an increasing tendency to hint that President Johnson himself, as the one person who might be said to have benefited, was in some way responsible for the assassination. Innuendo of such seriousness affects not only the individual concerned, but also the whole reputation of the American government. Our organization itself is directly involved; among other facts. We contributed information to the investigation. Conspiracy theories have frequently thrown suspicions on our organization, for example by falsely alleging that Lee Harvey Oswald worked for us. The aim of this dispatch is to provide material for countering and discrediting the claims of the conspiracy theorists, so as to inhibit the circulation of such claims in other countries. Background information is supplied in a classified section and in a number of unclassified attachments.”
“C. Conspiracy on the large scale often suggested would be impossible to conceal in the United States, esp. since informants could expect to receive large royalties, etc. Note that Robert Kennedy, Attorney General at the time and John F. Kennedy’s brother, would be the last man to overlook or conceal any conspiracy. And as our reviewer pointed out, Congressman Gerald R. Ford would hardly have held his tongue for the sake of the Democratic administration, and Senator Russell would have had every political interest in exploring any misdeeds on the part of Chief Justice Warren. A conspirator moreover would hardly choose a location for a shooting where so much depended on conditions beyond his control: the route, the speed of the car, the moving target, the risk that the assassin would be discovered. A group of wealthy conspirators could have arranged much more secure conditions.”
JFK and 9-11
Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead.

~ Benjamin Franklin
“History may not repeat itself, but it does rhyme a lot.”

~ Mark Twain
Lessons and Recommendations from the AARB

Recommendation 1:
- Genuinely independent

Recommendation 2:
- Presumption of openness

Recommendation 3:
- "common law" of decision

Recommendation 4:
- Reasonable time limits

Recommendation 5:
- Joint declassification sessions

Recommendation 6:
- Stronger compliance and effective oversight

Recommendation 7:
- Provide NARA the capability of implementation
Lessons and Recommendations from the AARB

Recommendation 8:
- Make historical understanding the touchstone

Recommendation 9:
- Strengthened the Freedom of Information Act and associated executive orders

Recommendation 10:
- Limit the number of those in government who can actually classify federal documents; restrict the number of categories by which documents might be classified; reduce the time period for which the document(s) might be classified; encourage the use of substitute language to hasten opening; and increase resources available for declassification
Major Accomplishments of the Assassination Records Review Board

- Reviewed and voted on over 27,000 previously redacted assassination records;
- Obtained agencies' consent to release an additional 33,000+ assassination records;
- Ensured that the famous "Zapruder Film" of the assassination belonged to the American people and arranged for the first known authenticity study of the Zapruder Film;
- Opened previously redacted CIA records from the Directorate of Operations;
- Released 99% of the "Hardway/Lopez Report" documenting the CIA's records on Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City before the assassination;
Major Accomplishments of the Assassination Records Review Board

- Conducted a three-day audio taped interview of former FBI Special Agent James P. Hosty, one of two agents who were responsible for the FBI's cases on Lee and Marina Oswald prior to the assassination;
- Acquired for public release two sets of original notes from Lee Harvey Oswald's interrogation in the Dallas Police Department taken by FBI Agent James Hosty and Dallas Homicide Division Captain “Will” Fritz (prior to the Board's existence, it was thought that no original notes existed);
- Clarified the controversial medical record of President Kennedy's autopsy and his treatment at Parkland Hospital by deposing 10 Bethesda autopsy participants, five Parkland Hospital treating physicians, and conducting numerous unsworn interviews of Parkland and Bethesda personnel;
Major Accomplishments of the Assassination Records Review Board

- Secured records relating to District Attorney Jim Garrison's prosecution of Clay Shaw for conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy, including Shaw's diaries, records from Shaw's defense attorneys, investigative records from the District Attorney's office, and grand jury records;
- Obtained the full release of FBI documents that describe the FBI's attempts to track Oswald's activities in Europe prior to the assassination;
- Made available to the public all FBI and CIA documents from previous official investigations;
- Acquired for the American people film footage depicting events surrounding the assassination, portions of which had never been seen before, including the Dallas television station KTVT outtakes of President and Mrs. Kennedy in Dallas and the aftermath of the assassination;
Major Accomplishments of the Assassination Records Review Board

- Sponsored ballistics and forensic testing of Warren Commission Exhibit 567, the bullet "nose fragment" from the front seat of the Presidential limousine, (the HSCA Firearms Panel first recommended the testing in 1978, but the testing was not conducted until the Review Board existed);

- Permanently preserved all the autopsy photographs of President Kennedy in digitized form, and conducted sophisticated digital enhancement of selected, representative images;

- Reviewed IRS and Social Security tax, employment, and earnings records on Lee Harvey Oswald, the authenticity of which has been questioned by researchers who have not been allowed access to such material. Required IRS to prepare a releasable report without releasing tax return information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by Federal law.
Presidential Lecture Series
The Princeton Club of New York

April 11, 2006