

# Assassination Records Review Board Final Determination Notification

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AGENCY : HSCA  
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10110-10484  
RECORD SERIES : REPORT ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S TRIP TO MEXICO CITY  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

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October 7, 1996

**Status of Document:** Postponed in Part

**Number of releases of previously postponed information:** 437

**Reason for Board Action:** The Review Board's decision was premised on several factors including: (a) the significant historical interest in the document in question; (b) the absence of evidence that the release of the information would cause harm to the United States or to any individual.

**Number of Postponements:** 301

The redactions in this document have been postponed under the provisions set forth in The John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992. The postponement dates and the substitute language for the redactions contained within this document are as follows:

All redactions with the substitute language: "CIA A," "CIA B," "CIA C1," "CIA C2", "CIA D," "CIA E," "CIA F," and "CIA G" are CIA Employees. They have been postponed under Section 6(1)(A) of the JFK Act until 05/1997, at which time the Review Board will reconsider the postponements based on additional evidence provided by the Central Intelligence Agency.

All redactions with the substitute language: "Describes technical operation," "Describes organization," "Describes group," "Describes operation," "Describes people," "CIA Senior Official," "Describes location," "Describes individuals," "Describes technical operation and individuals," "No suitable substitute language," or "Describes meeting" have been postponed under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act until 10/2017, when they have been scheduled for release.

All redactions with the substitute language "Crypt," "Crypts," "Source," "None," "Identifying Information," or "Name" have been postponed under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act until 08/2006, when they have been scheduled for release. (There are two exceptions to this. The first appears on page 13 of the footnotes where two "crypt" redactions have been postponed under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act until 10/2017, when they have been scheduled for release. The second appears on page 57 of the footnotes where four "source" redactions have been postponed under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act until 12/1996, at which time the Review Board will reconsider the postponements based on additional evidence provided by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The sole redaction without substitute language (p. 44) might properly be postponed under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK act. The Review Board will reconsider this postponement by 09/1997.

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**Board Review Completed:** 08/06/96

Pages 512 - 520            9 Contents  
116 - 300            185 Text  
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351 - 471\*            121 Text & docs listed  
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\* includes 4 missing pages

\*\* 4 pages missing - 484, 5, 6, & 7

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LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
THE CIA AND MEXICO CITY  
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Part I & Part II

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# **OSWALD, THE CIA, AND MEXICO CITY**

**WRITTEN BY DAN HARDWAY AND EDWIN LOPEZ  
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS**

**THIS VERSION HAS GONE THROUGH THREE ROUNDS OF DECLASSIFICATION.  
IT WAS ORIGINALLY RELEASED BY THE CIA IN 1993.  
THE REMAINING REDACTIONS WERE REVIEWED BY THE JOHN F. KENNEDY  
ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD IN NOVEMBER, 1995 AND AGAIN IN  
OCTOBER, 1996.**

(This form is to be used for material extracted from CIA—controlled documents.)

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ADDENDUM TO FOOTNOTE # 614 OF "LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE CIA  
AND MEXICO CITY.

Some controversy has arisen in regard to the question of whether the tapes existed at the time of the assassination due to a memorandum from J. Edgar Hoover to the head of the Secret Service which said:

The Central Intelligence Agency advised that on October 1, 1963, an extremely sensitive source had reported that an individual identified himself as Lee Oswald, who contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring as to any messages. Special Agents of this Bureau, who have conversed with Oswald in Dallas, Texas, have observed photographs of the individual referred to above and have listened to a recording of his voice. These Special Agents are of the opinion that the above-referred-to individual was not Lee Harvey Oswald.

(Memorandum from Hoover to James J. Rowley, 11/23/63, pp. 4-5.) The HSCA has determined that this statement was probably based on another FBI memorandum which said:

Inasmuch as the Dallas Agents who listened to the tape of the conversation allegedly of Oswald from the Cuban Embassy to the Russian Embassy in Mexico and examined the photographs of the visitor to the Embassy in Mexico and were of the opinion that neither the tape nor the photograph pertained to Oswald, I requested Shanklin to immediately send a photograph of Oswald to our Legal Attache.

(Memorandum from Belmont to Tolson, 11/23/63, p. 1. Mr. Belmont was reporting the results of a conversation with the Special Agent in Charge in Dallas, Gordon Shanklin, that occurred at 11:50 A.M.)

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ADDENDUM: Page Two.

Later that same day SAC Shanklin informed the Director that the tape of Oswald's voice had been erased: "It should be noted that the actual tape from which this transcript was made has been erased." (Teletype from SAC Dallas to Director, # 232220, 7:30 P.M. CST, 11/23/63. Emphasis in the original.)

The confusion about whether or not there was a tape apparently continued for several days after the SAC in Dallas informed the Director that such a tape did not exist. On 11/25/63 the FBI Legat in Mexico City sent a Cablegram to the director which said:

There appears to be some confusion in that no tapes were taken to Dallas but only typewritten transcripts supplied by CIA, the tapes not being available because they had been erased.

(Cablegram # 182 & 183, p. 2.)

The FBI was asked to explain the paragraph from the Hoover memorandum quoted above. It responded:

The paragraph appearing on pages 4 and 5 of the letterhead memorandum, which is quoted in your (FBI) request of March 17, 1978, contains some incorrect information regarding a tape recording of the voice of an individual who identified himself as Lee Oswald.

Retrievable information contained in files of the FBI indicates that this Bureau received information derived from transcripts of tape recordings furnished by another government agency which conducts intelligence type inves-

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