

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

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TO : CHIEF, CI/R&A
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JIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1998

25 September 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CI/R&A

SUBJECT : Lee Harvey Oswald

1. On Thursday 22 September 1964 Mr. Louis Puckett, representing the Mexican Branch, accompanied me to the President's Commission to examine the photograph of an unknown individual taken in Mexico which the Commission contemplates using as an exhibit in its published report. Since 23 July 1964 we have been on record with the Commission opposing the publication of this picture, on the grounds that it would jeopardize a sensitive operation and could be embarrassing to the individual involved, who as far as this agency is aware, had no connection with Lee Harvey Oswald or the assassination of President Kennedy.

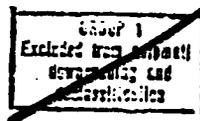
2. According to Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler, a Commission attorney, the Commission feels it is necessary to publish the photograph because Oswald's mother insists that the F.B.I. showed her a picture of Jack Ruby prior to the murder of her son. Actually she was shown a copy of the above picture furnished to the F.B.I. by our Mexican station shortly after the assassination of President Kennedy. The matter is still pending before the Commission.

3. The picture shown by the F.B.I. to Mrs. Oswald was partially cropped by that agency leaving only a vague outline of the background in the shape of a triangle behind her head. Examination with a magnifying glass or by a knowledgeable person would indicate it was taken in front of the Soviet Embassy. When Mrs. Oswald testified before the Commission in Washington, she was shown a copy of the same photo obtained from F.B.I. headquarters, only in this instance, it was completely cropped so no background appeared. Mrs. Oswald maintained that the Commission's photograph was not the same one shown to her by the F.B.I. in Texas. As a result, the Commission has felt impelled to utilize both photographs as exhibits.

Document Number 944-927P

for FOIA Review on SEP 1976

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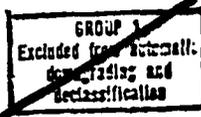
4. As far back as 7 August I recommended to Mr. Liebeler that the photograph bearing the background be further cropped so that nobody could recognize where it was taken. I also suggested that it be reduced in size to eliminate the hands and lower midsection of the person involved as an additional security precaution. Before leaving him, I asked whether the Commission had considered recalling Mrs. Oswald to show her the picture under dispute. He said that he did not think that this was necessary or desirable. He said that he would give the entire matter further consideration and discuss it with Mr. Rankin.

5. When Mr. Puckett and I arrived at the Commission, Mr. Liebeler was not available so we took the matter up with Dr. Goldberg, one of Mr. Rankin's principal assistants. Dr. Goldberg was familiar with the entire problem. He examined the photograph in question with the magnifying glass we furnished him and agreed that further cropping is warranted to protect the source. He said that the final decision to eliminate the disputed photo or alter it rested with Mr. Rankin, who at the time of the interview was at the White House delivering the first section of the Commission's report to the President. Mr. Rankin will be in New York until next Monday, and therefore we cannot resolve the problem until then.

6. Mr. Puckett and I also spoke to Mr. Jeebo of the Government Printing Office, who is liaison man between the Commission and the GPO printing establishment. We showed him the photograph and impressed upon him the importance of blurring the background. He said that this could be done easily leaving the triangle background completely black. In addition, we talked to a Commission clerk, Miss Mary Ann Rowcotsky, who had actual custody of the photograph when we arrived at the Commission. Since these interviews I have personally called both Miss Rowcotsky and Mr. Jeebo to make sure that no slip-up occurs in the handling of the photograph until a final ruling is received from Mr. Rankin. Mr. Jeebo assured me that as the last man on the transmission belt to the printers he would prevent such an occurrence.

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7. It appears unlikely, at this point, that the Commission will reverse its position and exclude the partially cropped picture from the public record. There is every indication, however, that by continuing to exert pressure, we will succeed in having the undesirable background material blurred sufficiently to make it unrecognizable.

Arthur E. Dooley

Arthur E. Dooley

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~~GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification~~

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3. The picture shown by the F.B.I. to Mrs. Oswald was partially cropped by that agency leaving only a vague outline of the background in the shape of a triangle behind her head.

When Mrs. Oswald testified before the Commission in Washington, she was shown a copy of the same photo obtained from F.B.I. headquarters, only in this instance, it was completely cropped so no background appeared. Mrs. Oswald maintained that the Commission's photograph was not the same one shown to her by the F.B.I. in Texas. As a result, the Commission has felt impelled to utilize both photographs as exhibits.

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