

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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ORIGINATOR : CIA
FROM :
TO : DEPUTY CHIEF, OPERATIONS STAFF

TITLE :
REVIEW OF AGENCY HOLDINGS REGARDING PHOTOGRAPH OF INDIVIDUAL

DATE : 05/02/75
PAGES : 3

SUBJECTS :
REVIEW OF AGENCY HOLDINGS REGARDING PHOTOGRAPH OF
UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL IN MEXICO CITY PUBLISHED BY THE
WARREN COMMISSION
REFERENCE: LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1975 BY BELIN TO KNOCHE

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COMMENTS :
SSCI Box 352

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

S E C R E T

had indicated in writing to Chief, CIOPS, that he has no objection for Mr. Belin to do whatever is desired with these photographs at this time. It should be noted that Mr. Fensterwald in 1971 - 1972 was actually shown, by Mr. Houston during a visit to the Agency, two of the twelve photographs, other than the one already published in the Warren Commission report. (It is these two that he has published in The New York Review of Books article which Mr. Belin attaches to his memorandum.)

7. It seems to me that whoever makes a decision on whether the entire matter can be fully disclosed at this time should bear in mind that a subsidiary decision must also be made, i.e., whether to crop or otherwise fuzz up the background of the photographs or, alternatively, to publish the entire run of the photographs for the first time without taking out the background. Obviously, none of these questions apply to the passage of this material to Mr. Belin and the Rockefeller Commission itself. I think they should see the entire documentation as it stands. Perhaps after that, the question of what could be discussed and the question of "how?" and "how much?" could be taken up with Mr. Belin himself. My personal recommendation is that the more we can say about this matter in a fully open and final manner, the better off we will be as an Agency. But it is my understanding that there are still sensitive aspects deriving from the fact that the operation which produced the photographs [REDACTED] and as a consequence publication at this time would create additional problems at that level in Mexico. Also, it should be noted that the Ambassador, according to Win Scott's memorandum to J.C. King on 22 November 1963 (see Item 8 in the backup documentation), allegedly played a direct role in the decision to put the photographs into the hands of the FBI in Dallas laterally from the Field. As far as I know, there has not been anything published about this aspect at any time in the past nor have we had any discussions with the State Department about that aspect of the matter.

100-32

Attachments:
as stated