



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on December 16, 2021

## Newly Released JFK Docs Don't Show Much

The newly released files on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy didn't drop the bombshell many thought the eagerly anticipated documents would contain. Instead, they carried a payload of duds.

Lee Harvey Oswald, the former Marine who murdered Kennedy from the Texas School Book Depository on November 22, 1963, met with a Soviet KGB agent two months before he went to Dallas to kill the 35th president. New but prosaic details emerge about that previously known meeting. As well, the files contain letters and phone calls to U.S. embassies before and after the shootings that claimed the Soviets were behind the assassination. They were dismissed as "cranks."



Beyond that, the [Daily Mail suggests](#), the files contain nothing new, although some will not be released until next year.

### Contents

The 1,500 or so documents, released yesterday, show that Oswald met with Soviet Consul Valeriy Vladimirovich Kostikov in Mexico City in September 1963, the *Daily Mail* reported:

"Oswald called the Soviet Embassy on 1 October, identifying himself by name and speaking broken Russian, stating the above and asking the guard who answered the phone whether there was 'anything concerning the telegram to Washington,'" ... CIA officer Tennent H. Bagley wrote on November 23, 1963, the day after the assassination.





SECRET  
SR/CI Memo  
23 November 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director, Plans  
FROM: Acting Chief, SR Division  
SUBJECT: Contact of Lee OSWALD with a member of Soviet KGB  
Assassination Department

1. According to an intercepted phone call to Mexico City, Lee OSWALD was at the Soviet Embassy there on 20 September 1963 and spoke with the Consul, Valeriy Vladimirovich KOSTINOV. This was learned when OSWALD called the Soviet Embassy on 1 October, identifying himself by name and asking the broken Russian, stating the above and asking the guard who answered the phone whether there was "anything new concerning the telegram to Washington." The guard checked and then told OSWALD that a request had been sent, but nothing had as yet been received. (OSWALD 6493, 2 October 1963) The FBI Liaison officer, Mr. Pappish, told me on 23 November that the Bureau has reason to believe that OSWALD's visit was to get Soviet support for a U.S. passport or visa matter [perhaps the new passport mentioned in the press article].

2. KOSTINOV is an identified KGB officer. He was a case officer in an operation which is evidently sponsored by the KGB's 13th Department (responsible for sabotage and assassination). This operation, which is controlled by the FBI under the cryptonym SMELFORD, involved a German-national resident of Oklahoma who was recruited in Europe, and met this year with KOSTINOV in Mexico City and shortly thereafter with a known 13th Department officer, Oleg KRIVIN, in New York. The instructions given SMELFORD by the two officers, (pinpointing objectives for sabotage) and the circumstances of their involvement in the case, left no doubt that both of them were working for the same KGB component, the 13th.

3. Of course it is not usual for a KGB agent on a sensitive mission to have such overt contact with a Soviet Embassy. However, we have top secret Soviet intelligence documents, describing Military Intelligence doctrine, which show that very important agents can be met in official installations using as cover for their presence there some sort of open business: Vice Admiral

COPY OF 34-538  
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for FOIA Review on MAY 1978

34-538  
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SECRET

22 May 64 ~~DDP4-2624-12971~~ To Rankin from Helms  
refer to # 2 of Rankin memo, 12 Feb 64, relative to dissem to SS made by CIA

24 Nov 63, CIA received from Navy, cable from Naval Attache in Canberra, Australia (IN 67327) reporting telephone conversation w/ alleged Polish chauffeur at ~~the~~ Sov. Embassy in Canberra. Pole said that probably the Sov govt had financed JFK assassination. Reference was made in cable to receipt of similar anonymous phone call on 15 Oct 62.

- a) cabled Canberra asking for full details of 23 Nov teleph. conversation & the 15 Oct 62 call. CIA had not previously known of the 62 telcall.
- b) CIA Canberra, on 27 Nov, furnished all avail. inform 62 tel call. The source had stated that "Iron Curtain Country" planned to pay \$1,000,000 for JFK assassination.
- c) 27 Nov, CIA Canberra furnished complete detail on ~~the~~ anonymous call of 23 Nov 62.
- d) 29 Nov, CIA dissem info, as supplied by CIA Canberra to WH, State, FBI, w/ copy to SS. A copy of the dissem attached.

SECRET

Another memo, handwritten six months after the murder in May, documents the "cranks" who passed "tips" to the CIA and State Department.

Two days after the murder, for instance, "the Naval Attaché in Canberra, Australia cabled the CIA that someone claiming to be a Polish chauffeur at the Soviet Union embassy had telephoned to report that 'probably' the Soviet government had financed the assassination," the [newspaper reported](#):



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The Naval Attaché said that a similar allegation had been made in an anonymous phone call on October 15, 1962, a year before the assassination, in which the caller stated that “Iron Curtain Countries” planned to pay \$100,000 for Kennedy to be killed.

However, the memo notes that Australian security services considered the caller a “crank” and were unable to identify any Polish employees at the Soviet embassy. “Avail. evidence would tend to show caller was a crank but can’t confirm this,” the memo states.

Diplomats in Stockholm, Sweden, received a letter on November 23, 1963 that said the Red Chinese whacked Kennedy. But a “CIA analysis determined the anonymous letter was written by a Swede, using a Swedish keyboard typewriter.”

A letter to the U.S. embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, claimed the assassination was “part of a plot to kill all presidents of the free world.” That letter, too, came from a “crank.”

The documents also reveal that POTUS 35’s little brother, Robert, played a bigger role in [Operation Mongoose](#) — the CIA plot to assassinate Cuban communist dictator Fidel Castro — than first thought.

[Sirhan Sirhan murdered](#) the younger Kennedy on June 4, 1968 at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Kennedy had just won the California and South Dakota presidential primaries.

### **Cottage Industry**

The documents won’t please conspiracy theorists who claim Lee Harvey Oswald could not have and did not act alone. Myriad theories abound. The [mob did it](#). The [Israelis did it](#). The [CIA did it](#). And the latest, [LBJ did it](#).

Roger Stone, a former advisor to President Trump and torpedo for Richard Nixon, said Nixon told him personally that LBJ arranged the murder.

In an interview with the *Daily Caller*, [Stone explained](#):

Nixon said, “The damn thing is, I knew this Jack Ruby. Murray [Chotiner] brought him to me in 1947, said he was one of ‘Johnson’s boys’ and that LBJ wanted us to hire him as an informant to the Committee. We did.”

I think Nixon immediately recognized that LBJ was using one his operatives to do “clean up” work on the murder of John Kennedy. Nixon would also say to me “Both Johnson and I wanted to be president, but the only difference was I wouldn’t kill for it.” At other times when I pressed the old man hard on who really killed JFK, Nixon would just shiver and say “Texas!”

Richard Nixon, Henry Cabot Lodge and Barry Goldwater were convinced that Lyndon Johnson murdered JFK. I mean absolutely convinced.

LBJ had to get rid of Kennedy because RFK was about to destroy the vice president politically and send him to prison, [Stone explained](#):

Robert Kennedy was within days of destroying LBJ with a two-track program. One was a RFK-fed LIFE magazine exposé into LBJ’s epic corruption and ties to his protégé’s Bobby Baker’s scandals. The other was a Senate Rules Committee investigation, also fed by Robert



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Kennedy, into LBJ's corruption and kickbacks. "Desperate" does not even begin to describe LBJ's situation. LBJ was on the verge of not just national humiliation and being dropped from the 1964 Demo ticket, he was looking at the slammer.

Thus began the claim that Oswald was a communist and Castro sympathizer. In fact, he was a U.S. intelligence agent. LBJ floated multiple theories to cast suspicion elsewhere, Stone told the website.

In 2007, the late [Vincent Bulgiosi](#), who prosecuted Charles Manson and his family for the [Tate-LaBianca murders](#) in 1969, published [Reclaiming History](#), a 1,600-page account of all the theories.

Bulgiosi concluded that Oswald acted alone.



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