

# Assassination Records Review Board Final Determination Notification

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**AGENCY : HSCA**  
**RECORD NUMBER : 180-10110-10000**  
**RECORD SERIES : SECURITY CLASSIFIED TESTIMONY**  
**AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 008215**

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**February 18, 1997**

**Status of Document: Postponed in Part**

**Number of releases of previously postponed information: 0**

**Number of Postponements: 1**

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**Postponement # 1 (Page 12):**

**Reason for Board Action:** The text is redacted because it reveals the identity of an intelligence agent that properly may be withheld under Section 6(1)(A) of the JFK Act. The Board is awaiting additional evidence from the CIA, at which time it will reconsider the postponement

**Substitute Language:** CIA Employee

**Review Date:** 05/1997

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**Board Review Completed:** 09/27/96

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM

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AGENCY INFORMATION

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : HSCA  
FROM : [ RESTRICTED ]  
TO :  
TITLE : [ RESTRICTED ]  
DATE : 04/12/78  
PAGES : 14  
SUBJECTS : CIA, METHODOLOGY

OSWALD, LEE, POST-RUSSIAN PERIOD, TRAVEL, TRIP TO  
MEXICO

[ RESTRICTED ]

DOCUMENT TYPE : TRANSCRIPT  
CLASSIFICATION : UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTIONS : 3  
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED WITH DELETIONS  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 09/27/96  
OPENING CRITERIA :  
COMMENTS : Duplicate enclosed.

Box 1.

U.S. House of Representatives  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
3381 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ANNEX NO. 2

May 2, 1978  
Date

Hon. Harold S. Sawyer  
(Exec. Sess.)  
Date of Transcript April 12, 1978 (5p.m.)

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PLEASE DO NOT MAIL

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Signature of Member

ELIZABETH L. BERNING,  
*Chief Clerk.*

Page numbers 13, 14  
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*5-3-78*

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Stenographic Report

ORIGINAL

HEARINGS

Before The  
Subcommittee on the Assassination of  
John F. Kennedy  
of the

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TESTIMONY OF ANNA TARASOFF

Washington, D.C.

April 12, 1978

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TESTIMONY OF ANNA TARASOFF

Wednesday, April 12, 1978

House of Representatives,

Subcommittee on the Assassination of John F. Kennedy of the Select Committee on Assassinations.

Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 5:00 p.m., pursuant to notice, in Room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, the Honorable Richardson Preyer (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

PRESENT: Representatives Preyer and Sawyer.

ALSO PRESENT: Wolf, Hornbeck, Purdy, Flanagan, Wills, Genzman, Fonzi, <sup>7303</sup> Hasaway, Cross, and Svendsen.

Mr. Preyer. The committee will resume its hearing.

Mrs. Tarasoff, we appreciate your coming here. We will ask if you will stand and be sworn.

Do you solemnly swear the evidence you will give the subcommittee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes; I do.

TESTIMONY OF ANNA TARASOFF

Mr. Genzman. Will you give your full name and address for the record?

Mrs. Tarasoff. My name is Anna Tarasoff and I live in Rancho Contento, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

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1 // Mr. Genzman. At this time I would like to show you a  
2 document which is labeled JFK Exhibit No. 94. Mrs. Tarasoff,  
3 have you previously been shown a copy of this letter which is  
4 labeled JFK Exhibit No. 94?

5 Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes.

6 Mr. Genzman. <sup>L: 11</sup> ~~Is it~~ your understanding that the letter is  
7 a letter from the CIA which authorizes any individual who has  
8 executed a secrecy agreement with the agency or  
9 bound by obligations of secrecy to furnish this committee  
10 information within its scope and jurisdiction?

11 Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes.

12 Mr. Genzman. Mrs. Tarasoff, did you ever aid your hus-  
13 band in his job in Mexico City in 1963?

14 Mrs. Tarasoff. Not in 1973, no. Let me make a correction.  
15 In 1973 is when we arrived. As I have said previously, I was  
16 picked up on contract in 1974.

17 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever aid your husband in his work in  
18 Mexico City before you were actually employed in Mexico City?

19 Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes; I did.

20 Mr. Genzman. Can you explain to us what you did in aiding  
21 your husband in his job?

22 Mrs. Tarasoff. My main purpose in aiding my husband was  
23 to take on the duties of translating the English transcript  
24 for the simple reason that he has a little problem in hearing  
25 and if there is a slight dialect, even in the English language

1 it would be hard for him to pick it up. So, I was doing the  
2 English transcript.

3 / His main duty was to take on the responsibility of tran-  
4 scribing the Russian transcripts. Although I did the English,  
5 he also reviewed it to be doubly sure that whatever I had  
6 transcribed was on the tape itself. This would be a good  
7 time to pick up whatever was on the tape also.

8 Mr. Genzman. Do you know the source of the tape record-  
9 ings which you aided your husband in transcribing?

10 Mrs. Tarasoff. It would be in the English transcript. Tha  
11 would appear on any reel that would be sent to him for tran-  
12 scribing.

13 Mr. Genzman. Were you aware of ~~whether~~ these tapes  
14 recorded conversations?

15 Mrs. Tarasoff. Was I aware of the recording of the ~~the~~

16 Mr. Genzman. Were you aware of the location of the  
17 recording of conversations?

18 Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes.

19 Mr. Genzman. Specifically, did these occur at the Soviet  
20 Embassy in Mexico City?

21 Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes.

22 Mr. Genzman. Mrs. Tarasoff, at this time I would like you  
23 to review four documents. At this time I would also like to  
24 announce to the Congressman that these four documents are  
25 included in the packet of documents which were given to them

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1 before the hearing and the documents we will be discussing  
2 appear on pages 1, 2, 10 and 11.

3 Mrs. Tarasoff, can you identify any of these documents?

4 Mrs. Tarasoff. Identify? Meaning what?

5 Mr. Genzman. Do you recognize any of these documents?

6 Mrs. Tarasoff. I recognize it as being my husband's work  
7 because I knew his style of work.

8 Mr. Genzman. Were you shown these documents prior to  
9 your appearance here today?

10 Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes.

11 Mr. Genzman. I refer you to the document labeled "P-2"  
12 and this notation that appears at the bottom right-hand corner  
13 of the page. Do you have that document in front of you?

14 Mrs. Tarasoff. It was marked what?

15 Mr. Genzman. P-2 in the very extreme right-hand lower  
16 corner.

17 Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes.

18 Mr. Genzman. Do you recognize this document?

19 Mrs. Tarasoff. Recognize it as my husband's work, yes.

20 Mr. Genzman. What features on this document would lead  
21 you to believe that it was your husband's work?

22 Mrs. Tarasoff. I know it. He would always put the slashes  
23 indicating there would be something that he wasn't too sure of  
24 Well, basically his style of writing, or typing rather.

25 Mr. Genzman. Are you saying then that this is a



transcription of a tape recording which you believe your  
husband to have done?

Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes.

Mr. Genzman. Do you have any independent recollection of  
this conversation aside from what appears on this document  
labeled P-2?

Mrs. Tarasoff. No.

Mr. Genzman. I would next like to refer you to the docu-  
ment labeled P-10 in the extreme lower right-hand corner. Do  
you recognize this document?

Mrs. Tarasoff. This would be recognizable. It does not  
indicate much of anything but I would say it would be part  
of his work.

Mr. Genzman. Would you say it would be more consistent  
with his work rather than inconsistent?

Mrs. Tarasoff. It is consistent with his work, yes.

Mr. Genzman. Do you have any independent recollection of  
this conversation other than what appears on the document  
labeled P-10?

Mrs. Tarasoff. No.

Mr. Genzman. I would next like to refer you to a document  
labeled P-1. Do you recognize this document?

Mrs. Tarasoff. As his work, yes.

Mr. Genzman. Are you saying then that this is a tran-  
scription of a conversation which your husband did in Mexico

city?

2 Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes.

3 Mr. Genzman. Do you have any independent recollection of  
4 this conversation other than what appears on the document  
5 labeled P-1?

6 Mrs. Tarasoff. No; I don't.

7 Mr. Genzman. Do you have any recollection, other than  
8 what you have seen on these three documents, of any conversa-  
9 tions pertaining to Lee Harvey Oswald which either you or  
10 your husband may have been connected with?

11 Mrs. Tarasoff. No. On these documents, no.

12 Mr. Genzman. Aside from what appears on these three  
13 documents, do you have any independent recollection of conver-  
14 sations dealing with Lee Harvey Oswald which were part of the  
15 surveillance operation in Mexico City?

16 Mrs. Tarasoff. According to my recollection, I, myself,  
17 have made a transcript, an English transcript, of Lee Oswald  
18 talking to the Russian Consulate or whoever he was at that time  
19 asking for financial aid.

20 Now, that particular transcript does not appear here and  
21 whatever happened to it, I do not know, but it was a lengthy  
22 transcript and I personally did that transcript. It was a  
23 lengthy conversation between him and someone at the Russian  
24 Embassy.

25 Mr. Genzman. How long do you recall this conversation was

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1 Mrs. Tarasoff. This conversation, I would say, at least  
2 covered a page and a half or two.

3 Mr. Genzman. Is it your recollection that the person  
4 speaking identified himself as Lee Oswald?

5 Mrs. Tarasoff. He definitely identified himself as being  
6 Lee Oswald.

7 Mr. Genzman. Referring to the document labeled P-1,  
8 is it possible that this is the conversation that you are  
9 recalling?

10 Mrs. Tarasoff. No. This would not be the conversation  
11 that I would be recalling for the simple reason that this is  
12 my husband's work and at that time probably the name didn't  
13 mean much of anything. But this particular piece of work that  
14 I am talking about is something that came in and it was marked  
15 as urgent.

16 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall whether Lee Oswald or the per-  
17 son <sup>whom</sup> ~~who~~ you later determined to be Lee Oswald spoke in English  
18 or Russian?

19 Mrs. Tarasoff. English only.

20 Mr. Genzman. In summary, then, you are saying that the  
21 document P-1 does not appear to be the transcription of the  
22 conversation you are thinking of?

23 Mrs. Tarasoff. That is right.

24 Mr. Genzman. Because it speaks of broken Russian as  
25 opposed to the English language?



the particular party was who requested this.

2 // Mr. Genzman. What did you do after you received this  
3 request?

4 Mrs. Tarasoff. We went ahead and transcribed whatever  
5 was on that particular reel in the space allotted or space  
6 designated. After it was transcribed, we contacted whoever  
7 it was then. They, in turn, came by and picked it up. Once  
8 it left our hands, we have no knowledge of what happened to it.

9 Mr. Genzman. Was your contact the normal contact that  
10 you used or was it a special contact?

11 Mrs. Tarasoff. It was our normal contact at that time.

12 Mr. Genzman. Were the circumstances unusual in any other  
13 way?

14 Mrs. Tarasoff. Such as what?

15 Mr. Genzman. You have mentioned that an urgent request  
16 was given to you in conjunction with this tape recording. Were  
17 any of the circumstances unusual besides the fact that you got  
18 an urgent request to do this particular piece of work?

19 Mrs. Tarasoff. No. It was just a request that this was  
20 urgent and there were no other explanations as to why it was  
21 urgent.

22 Mr. Genzman. Was the fact that you turned the transcript  
23 over to your contact immediately unusual?

24 Mrs. Tarasoff. No, because we had done this prior to  
25 that. If there was anything that we felt was urgent we would

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1 always contact them. Then it would be up to the people at the  
2 embassy to decide whether it was or wasn't.

3 Mr. Genzman. Do you remember any other details of the  
4 conversation which you say involved Lee Harvey Oswald?

5 Mrs. Tarasoff. Well, for one thing he was persistent  
6 in asking for financial aid in order to leave the country.  
7 They were not about to give him any financial aid whatsoever.  
8 He had also mentioned that he tried the Cuban Embassy and they  
9 had also refused financial aid.

10 Mr. Genzman. I believe you stated earlier that the person  
11 speaking identified himself as Lee Oswald in the conversation?

12 Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes; he definitely did identify himself as  
13 Lee Oswald.

14 Mr. Genzman. On the basis of this identification were  
15 you able to infer that the person who spoke on September 28  
16 was also Lee Oswald?

17 Mrs. Tarasoff. Not listening to this particular tape or  
18 the other one, I would not know whether it was the same party  
19 or not.

20 Mr. Genzman. In any of your connections with the Lee  
21 Harvey Oswald case, and I am speaking specifically of your duty  
22 in the surveillance and operation in Mexico City, was there any  
23 thing out of the ordinary aside from that urgent request that  
24 you received?

25 Mrs. Tarasoff. No; there wasn't anything out of the

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inary except they just asked that this was one thing that they wanted transcribed as soon as possible and turned over to them.

Mr. Genzman. Were you at any time asked to do a comparison of voices; in other words, comparing two different types to make an identification concerning Lee Harvey Oswald?

Mrs. Tarasoff. No. It would be a rare occasion for them to return a tape to us once it left our hands. There was never a comparison made for voices.

Mr. Genzman. Prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, were you ever contacted by anyone in Mexico City to explain your connection with the Lee Harvey Oswald surveillance?

Mrs. Tarasoff. No.

Mr. Genzman. After the assassination of President Kennedy, were you ever contacted to explain your connection with the Lee Harvey Oswald surveillance?

Mrs. Tarasoff. No.

Mr. Genzman. Did the CIA or the FBI or the Warner Commission or any other government body ever contact you?

Mrs. Tarasoff. No; no one ever approached us in regard to this particular circumstance.

Mr. Genzman. Other than staff members of this committee, has anyone ever approached you and asked you to explain your knowledge concerning Lee Harvey Oswald and the surveillance operations in Mexico City?

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Mrs. Tarasoff. No, sir.

Mr. Genzman. Do you have any recollection of who your contacts were as part of the surveillance operations?

Mrs. Tarasoff. Well, we had so many different <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> you mean contacts at the period of all this?

Mr. Genzman. Yes.

Mrs. Tarasoff. The first contact was [ ]. Our second contact, I don't remember his last name but I do remember his first, which is Rudy.

Mr. Genzman. Could you describe this individual whom you believe was named Rudy?

Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes. He was fair complexioned and receding hairline. He more or less always wore a beige sort of colored suit; an average build, he was neither light nor heavy. He was actually of Polish extraction. So you would say he had no outstanding features, really.

Mr. Genzman. Do you recall his hair color?

Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes; he was a blond, what was left of it.

Mr. Genzman. Do you recall his height? Could you estimate his height?

Mrs. Tarasoff. I would say he would be just a little taller than what my husband is.

Mr. Genzman. How tall is your husband?

Mrs. Tarasoff. I think he is about five seven or so, or six, about that.



1 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall the age of the individual  
2 whom you believe was named Rudy?

3 Mrs. Tarasoff. I would say Rudy at that time would have  
4 been in his 40's.

5 Mr. Genzman. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

6 Mr. Preyer. Thank you. Mr. Sawyer.

7 Mr. Sawyer. I have one or two questions.

8 Do you recall any other subject that was covered in that  
9 conversation that you transcribed other than the requests for  
10 financial aid?

11 Mrs. Tarasoff. That was his main purpose, sir, just  
12 getting financial aid, because he had said that he was broke  
13 and he wanted to leave the country and he was seeking financial  
14 aid and he thought that contacting the Russian Embassy or  
15 Cuban Embassy, I think, would be willing to finance his passage  
16 to wherever he wanted to go. There was nothing <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> the conver-  
17 sation was a repetition of questions and answers really, and  
18 the party who spoke to him spoke in English, so there was  
19 no difficulty in understanding either one of them as to what  
20 they were saying to each other.

21 Mr. Sawyer. As you recall it, the net effect was they  
22 turned him down?

23 Mrs. Tarasoff. Yes; they definitely turned him down. In  
24 fact, if I recall, they finally got disgusted and hung up on  
25 him.

~~Mr. Sawyer.~~ Thank you.

Mrs. Tarasoff. You are welcome.

Mr. Preyer. I have no questions. Do you have any further questions?

Mr. Genzman. No; I do not, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Preyer. Thank you, Mrs. Tarasoff. We appreciate very much your being here. We will excuse you at this time.

Before we recess we have a provision that on the conclusion of the testimony of a witness, if the witness wishes to make any statement about his or her testimony or wishes to make any clarifying remarks he or she would be recognized. If there is anything further you would like to add or comments you wish to make we will be glad to hear from you.

Mrs. Tarasoff. The only thing I have to say is that after so many years, to try to rely on memory alone makes it rather difficult in not having other than these few documents to refresh your memory, it makes it a little difficult, really.

Other than that, I would say whatever I have said today here would be true to the best of my knowledge after so many years.

Mr. Preyer. Thank you. We appreciate your testimony.

Mrs. Tarasoff. I thank you.

Mr. Preyer. The committee stands adjourned until 8:00 tomorrow morning in this same room.

(Whereupon the committee adjourned.)