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GATES DETERMINED TO CLEAR CIA IN JFK ASSASSINATION

BY ROBERT GREEN

WASHINGTON, MAY 15, REUTER - U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR ROBERT GATES SAID ON FRIDAY THAT RELEASING DOCUMENTS ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THE FIRST STEP IN HIS EFFORTS TO CLEAR THE AGENCY OF SUSPICION IN PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION.

HE ALSO CRITICISED THE MOVIE JFK:: AND ITS DIRECTOR OLIVER STONE FOR RAISING THE SUSPICIONS.

THE CIA ON WEDNESDAY MADE PUBLIC 124 PAGES OF DOCUMENTS FROM ITS FILE ON OSWALD'S ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 22, 1963, ASSASSINATION OF KENNEDY IN DALLAS, TEXAS, BUT THEY CONTAINED LITTLE NEW INFORMATION.

OSWALD WAS NAMED BY A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION IN 1964 AS THE SOLE ASSASSIN.

THERE HAS BEEN SOME COMMENT ON THIS PRE-ASSASSINATION OSWALD FILE AND HOW LITTLE IT CONTAINED. I WANT TO RE-EMPHASISE THAT THIS PRE-ASSASSINATION MATERIAL IS BUT THE FIRST INSTALMENT OF ALL THE MATERIAL THAT WE WILL REVIEW -- AN EXAMPLE OF OUR INTENTIONS,:: GATES SAID AT A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HEARING.

GATES SAID THE CIA HAD SOME 300,000 PAGES OF DOCUMENTS ON THE ASSASSINATION, INCLUDING 33,000 PAGES ON OSWALD. HE HAS PROMISED TO MAKE PUBLIC AS MUCH OF THE INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE AFTER IT IS REVIEWED FOR SECURITY AND PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS. I BELIEVE THAT MAXIMUM DISCLOSURE WILL DISCREDIT THE THEORY THAT CIA HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE MURDER OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY,:: HE TOLD THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE.

THE COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING LEGISLATION PROMPTED BY JFK::

TO MAKE PUBLIC FILES FROM THE CIA, FBI AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON THE MURDER.

FRANKLY, I FIND THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE MOVIE ARE OFFENSIVE TO THE AGENCY AND TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, TO A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE IN THE GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME,:: GATES SAID. HE SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN THE MOVIE.

HE CALLED STONE

A SELF-STYLED EXPERT:: ON THE MURDER AND SAID HE DID NOT THINK MEETING STONE TO DISCUSS THE ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION WOULD SERVE ANY PURPOSE.

GATES SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR MANY AMERICANS TO ACCEPT THAT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION COULD BE CARRIED OUT BY ONE MAN BECAUSE THE PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE MURDER WAS SO GREAT.

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