

November 9, 1995

HAND DELIVERED

Mr. John Pereira, Director
Historical Review Group
Center for the Study of Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C., 20505

Re: ARRB requests for evidence

Dear John:

I thought that it might be helpful to you if I were to provide you with our current assessment of the status of our review of the Agency's assassination records and point to where we would like to proceed in the future.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the efforts made by the Historical Review Group to facilitate our review of records. It has been, as you know, a difficult and time-consuming process both for the Agency and the Review Board. We very much appreciate the personal cooperation of you and your staff.

We continue to be concerned by the slow progress that has been made. Although we perceive that the task has been more difficult and time-consuming than Congress anticipated, we have found that the careful education process in which we have been involved has helped educate us with respect to your concerns and, we hope, has helped demonstrate to you the Review Board's concerns.

We must, however, begin to pick up the pace. In many circumstances we are reviewing and then re-reviewing the same documents over and over again. We are also frequently put in the position of not being provided with evidence in a timely manner so that we can make our presentations to the Board. While many of these difficulties are understandable -- and perhaps even inherent to the start-up of the process in which we are engaged -- we must expedite the process. Rather than dealing with dozens of records at Board meetings, we need to move towards a schedule where hundreds of records will be reviewed at Board meetings. From our perspective, it seems that it is essential that the Agency be prepared to allocate significant additional resources to the process of

reviewing the records and making evidence available to the Board.

We also believe that the Agency still is not providing the type of evidence that will be the most convincing to the Board. Where issues exist that the Board has not yet addressed, and where the Agency would like to see postponements upheld, *specific* information must be provided to support a postponement. General statements, while useful in identifying the underlying issues involved, do not provide the Board with the complete knowledge and understanding of the issue that is necessary to make an informed judgment regarding release of the information.

The Board is looking forward to receiving the CIA's evidence in support of the postponement of true names. As you know, we have planned for some time to devote the December (12 and 13) meeting to this important issue.

Additionally, you will find enclosed with this letter the next in our series of information requests, covering boxes 7-9 of the Oswald collection. We are submitting these requests now in an attempt to give HRG as much advance notice as possible of which records we will be reviewing for the January 4 meeting. Evidence for records to be reviewed January 4 should be provided no later than December 13, 1995.

We hope that during HRG's review of the January documents, the standards outlined in this letter will be kept in mind. If at any point an issue is deemed so sensitive that a briefing is required, ARRB staff will meet with you at your convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures