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From: CN=Tom Samoluk/O=ARRB
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DisplayDate: 02/02/1998
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Subject: Tom Notes on Jack/Kermit/David Moscow/Minsk Trip

Per the conversation that Jeremy and I had today, I am providing each of you with my notes from the conversation with Jack on the trip. This will hopefully assist in the next step in dealing with State. Jeremy will call Jack to discuss how best to proceed. Conversation with Jack, 1/30/98; 3:15 pm Minsk

When in Minsk, Jack does not recall officials saying much about protecting sources and methods; the problem was with their law that "protects individuals;" it does not permit the government to release information. We got a pledge of full cooperation from the Deputy Chairman, the highest ranking individual with whom we dealt. We dealt with an official at the U.S. embassy in Minsk, named John Boris; instructions were faxed to him to negotiate on ARRB behalf on June 19, 1997; (NINA SHOULD GET A COPY OF THIS FAX) Jack's recollection is that we may have paid for the translation of our message that contained 4 or 5 different options to get movement on the records (such as we would pay for the cost of copying the records); In addition there was discussion of ARRB assisting with the publication of the records by contacting U.S. publishers. KGB successors told former U.S. Ambassador Yalowitz (sp?) that ARRB would get what Mailer had gotten; (WE SHOULD CHECK WITH YALOWITZ ON THIS MATTER; HE IS IN WASHINGTON AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT) Jack's notes reflect the following chronology:

June 11, 1997, Boris had called Jack back regarding various options to be offered. June 17, 1997 David was working on the fax. June 23, 1997 Jack made several changes to Minsk cable. July 1, 1997, Embassy in Minsk is having a difficult time getting a reply from the KGB because of summer vacations. David's departure follows; not clear what follow-up was done. Anne Carson, attaché in Minsk was another contact. Moscow

There is much more to the Moscow leg of the trip; State memo does not reflect the following:

1. ARRB met with Lebedev (contrary to State memo) and gave 7-10 pages that he had found; his complaint was that there was no agreement for an exchange of archival records with the U.S.; he agreed to search the files in response to any specific questions that the ARRB had; were any specific questions ever asked by ARRB?
2. ARRB met with Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (Former KGB) official, Bellazoroff (sp?), who stated that the KGB had done an exhaustive investigation after the assassination (this had never been admitted before); it was obvious that they had records; clearly someone higher up must in the government must order the records to be turned over; Jack question: Should this matter be approached through high levels at State or through Vice President Gore at his next meeting (also raised by Patrick Kennedy when at Board meeting)?
3. ARRB met with State Archives Services; these officials stated that they want the Molnysk (sp?) Archives

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