

MEMORANDUM

January 16, 1996

To: Jeremy Gunn

cc: Mary McAuliffe, Joe Freeman

From: Eric Scheinkopf

Subject: State Department Records in the HSCA Security Classified Files

Four of the boxes (boxes 1, 3, 4, and 5) from the HSCA Security Classified Files record series contain State Department files. In some cases there are communications from other agencies or entities to State, but most documents appear to be State originated. A quick summary of each folder will follow to be used as a guide in looking at the folders.

Box 1

Folder 01 contains a State Department memo from August, 1977 that discusses a proposed trip to Cuba by HSCA staffers. Folder 02 contains a State Department letter from the Office of Congressional Relations to the Chief of the US Interests Section in Havana from September, 1977. Folder 03 contains letters from the Naval Investigative Service to the State Department, and a State Department letter to Blakey regarding transmission of materials on Oswald. There is also a State Department Passport Office letter from 1962 and State telegrams from 1959 in the aftermath of Oswald's defection. Folder 04 contains a letter and a telegram from the State Department to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana in October and November 1977 respectively regarding Mr. Blakey's proposed visit and efforts to contact a particular person. Folder 05 is a letter from the State Department to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana regarding Mr. Blakey's proposed visit. Folder 07 contains a letter and telegram from the State Department regarding Mr. Blakey's proposed visit and a transmittal letter to him identifying by number the classified documents enclosed. Folder 28 contains a 1973 State Department telegram regarding an individual's alleged knowledge of some illegal activities and his talks with a prominent Mafia chief on a business matter. The document appears to have no relevance to the ARRB's work.

Scheinkopf e:\wp-docs\hscados
File 4.21.7

Box 3

Folder 60 has certain State Department documents which the CIA has located among its files. There is a cover letter from the State Department to Mr. Blakey (unclassified upon the removal of attachments) which briefly describes the documents. One tab has documents pertaining to Antillio Ramirez Ortiz. Among the documents is a memorandum to the Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research from J. Edgar Hoover in which the FBI may have an interest. Tab B has documents pertaining to Dino Cellini, Jake Lansky and William A. Morgan from the State Department. Folder 62 has a State Department cover letter to Blakey enclosing documents about Antillio Ramirez Ortiz. The letter is unclassified when the attachments are removed. The documents appear to have no relevance to the ARRB's mission. Folder 69 has a letter from the State Department to Mr. Blakey enclosing documents that again pertain to Antillio Ramirez Ortiz. The letter is unclassified when the enclosures are removed. The whole folder appears non-JFK related. Folder 70 has an April 1978 memo from the State Department regarding the HSCA's visit to Cuba. Folder 79 has a May 1978 State Department letter to Mr. Blakey regarding the viewing of the personnel files of certain State Department employees including John McVickar and Richard Snyder. A classified document relating to these two individuals is attached to the letter which is unclassified upon the removal of attachments.

Folder 80 (1 of 2) contains a letter from the State Department (unclassified upon removal of attachments) to Mr. Blakey that accompanies documents from Central Foreign Policy Records on Lee and Marina Oswald. These documents deal with the process for issuing Mrs. Oswald a visa, the issuing of tourist visas to the USSR, Oswald's efforts to return to the US and the procedures for doing so. Comparisons with other Americans who lived in the USSR are included in these documents. Folder 80 (2 of 2) contains information on the renewal and obtaining of a passport. Other defector cases are examined in these files. This folder also contains correspondence between Senator John Tower and the State Department on Oswald, a letter from McVickar to Oswald, and an April 28, 1964 Dutton memo on a news article about the Oswald case. There is also a lot of Congressional correspondence on the Oswald case that is post-assassination explaining how Oswald was able to return to the United States.

Box 4

Folder 111 contains a State telegram from Moscow to Washington in August 1978 regarding the HSCA's investigation. Folder 112 contains a transmittal letter from the State Department to Mr. Blakey regarding an HSCA request for information. The letter is unclassified upon removal of the attachments. The documents deal with a Mr. Robert Todd. Folder 119 also deals with an HSCA request for information from the State Department in August 1978. The results of the searches are documents on one enclosure while the other two tabs contain documents dealing with John Carlos Wilson and Jack Ruby. Folder 137 contains a letter from the State Department to Chairman Stokes

(no classification listed stamped on it) regarding documents on two individuals - Charles William Thomas and Elena Garro de Paz. The following documents in the folder are unclassified. The CIA may have an interest in this folder.

Box 5

Folder 013269 contains information pertaining to George de Mohrenschildt (including passport information) and Lee Harvey Oswald (including information on his repatriation loan and the granting of such loans, and the procedures for granting a passport). Documents on his time in the Soviet Union are also included. They are all State originated.