

MEMORANDUM

August 31, 1995

To: Jeremy Gunn

From: Joe Freeman
cc - Anne Buttimer

Subject: ARRB Record Tracking Chart, Summary Recommendations

I've looked at the Koepcke, Lifton, Marsh and Milam files, which begin on page 6 of the tracking chart (8/14/95 version) and run over on to the middle of page 7. I stopped at that point, which will give you -- pursuant to our original conversation regarding this project -- an opportunity to give me feedback as to whether I'm providing what you're looking for. Now that I am familiar with these particular files, I am obviously available to draft replies to our correspondents, should that be desired.

Koepcke, Jim. Letter of 7/10/95, re: Mike Hall, former BATF agent alleged to have knowledge of CIA involvement with the assassination.

- 1) Assigned ARRB staffer should be familiar with Fonzi reference (p. 235) in Koepcke letter;
- 2) Contact Jim Kaboushek, current ATF agent in Minneapolis (612-290-3092) and try to secure the letter he allegedly has indicating Mike Hall's knowledge of CIA involvement in assassination; since Kaboushek has talked to Koepcke about it, he should be willing to share it with us;
- 3) Locate and talk to Mike Hall -- Kaboushek may be able to help with this;
- 4) Consideration could be given to approaching Fonzi for additional background; possibly enlist him as an ally in re-opening this lead.

Lifton, David. Letter of 5/23/95, re: 12/11/63 memo from Scelso to Helms recommending that FBI be asked to revise pp. 39-40 of its Summary Report to the WC. Lifton believes this requested

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change has to do with protecting CIA sources in the Cuban Consulate, and that the *unrevised* version of the Summary Report may shed light on nature of CIA-FBI communications regarding Oswald's trip to Mexico (ie, pre-assassination CIA cables indicating its knowledge of Oswald's visit to the Cuban consulate).

1) At the very least -- since the Board has voted to fully release the CIA memo which is Lifton's jumping off point for his speculations and inquiry -- this would be a good time to send Lifton a preliminary reply, timed to coincide with the release of the document to Archives II, indicating that the Board agrees that this is an important document and so took it up at this relatively early point in our work.

2) At one point, Lifton believed that early-generation versions of the FBI Summary Report might contain "trace evidence" of the original language; he believed this because he discerned the possibility of such traces on his own copy of the report (which he copied from WC staffer Wesley Liebler's years ago). Lifton later changed his mind on this, after getting input from Paul Hoch.

In our reply to Lifton, we can inform him that Kevin spot-checked some copies of the report out at NARA II and saw no evidence of alteration.

3) Kevin has spoken with Steve Tilley and, informally, with FBI folks about the possibility of there being an "original" (ie, pre-changes requested by CIA on pp. 39-40) copy of the Summary Report still around. These informal inquiries have not yielded any positive responses. If we really want to go the distance for Lifton, we could posit the existence of such an original version and make a formal request of the FBI to locate it and turn it over.

4) Lifton feels that this "sanitization" of the FBI Summary Report is a serious matter, and suggests that Slawson and Coleman be deposed to see if they were aware of what was going on at the time. This would seem to be a bit strong; but perhaps the two could be informally approached to determine what, if anything, either of these gentlemen remember about the revisions on pp. 39-40.

5) Also worth sharing with Lifton would be any unclassified information relative to steps we have taken to try and nail down CIA's pre-assassination knowledge of Oswald's visit to the Cuban Consulate.

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Lifton, David. Letter of 7/22/94 to Steve Tilley, forwarded to ARRB, re: library records. Lifton wants us to pursue Oswald's library borrowing history in Ft. Worth, Dallas, NYC and (for periods not already covered by the Warren Commission) New Orleans. He also believes an inquiry should be lodged with the Navy Dept. for any records it may have of borrowing at base libraries (Atsugi and El Toro).

1) Letters of inquiry could be sent to all the places/entities Lifton suggests.
The harder part comes when we receive their replies. The WC published information about Oswald's library borrowing in New Orleans because it was a relatively easy matter to do so: the branch Oswald apparently borrowed from most often (the Napoleon Branch) had their records organized by cardholder.

The Main Branch of the NO Library, however, did not organize its records by cardholder, and so microfilm records of every book charged out during a given period would have to be checked to determine if Oswald charged anything out. This wasn't done, so we don't know today whether or not Oswald charged anything out of the Main Branch (see CE 2650, Vol XXV, page 928, as cited by Lifton). Neither was the Dallas Public Library system organized by cardholders in 1963; it was suggested to authorities in 1963 that "millions" of microfilm entries would have to be reviewed in order to reconstitute Oswald's

borrowing history in that city (unlike NO). Perhaps there is some better way to do it now. If not -- and assuming we can secure raw data -- who's going to do the legwork to make this information useful? If the answer is "nobody", then how important can it be to secure the raw data? The pursuit of these records is nonetheless tempting, given that the one book we *do* know Oswald borrowed from the Dallas Library (only because he never returned it), *The Shark and the Sardines* by Juan Jose Arevalo (charged out on 11/6/63, due 11/13/63) was translated from the Spanish edition by Dr. Raul Osegueda and *June Cobb*. This sort of coincidence *does* whet one's appetite for the rest of Oswald's Dallas reading list.

Mantik, David. Letter of 6/27/95, re: letter from Dr. Pierre Finck to HSCA, referred to CIA. This is the second inquiry we've received relative to this document; the earlier one came from Wallace Milam when he testified before the Board in Dallas last November. The document has generated undue interest because, 1) the name involved, Dr. Pierre Finck, 2) the RIF references President Kennedy's autopsy, and 3) the referral is to the CIA. However, the document is only a

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6-page typed version of a diary Finck kept and which he turned over to the HSCA. In the diary, Finck records having attended a *public lecture* on the assassination and references various issues raised in the lecture: CIA, William Harvey, CIA-backed assassination attempts on Castro, etc. This is why the document was referred (erroneously, in my judgement) and it is hard to imagine the CIA objecting to its release.

1) Recommend asking the CIA to sign-off on release. Until it's open, it will continue to fuel unwarranted speculation as to its content. I don't know how a CIA sign-off relates to the document's status as a communication to the HSCA: ie, House Oversight Committee.

Marsh, Anthony. Letter of 11/28/94, re: apparent redaction in 7/6/64 FBI memo from Jevons to Conrad, having to do with neutron activation analysis of bullet fragments from Presidential limousine and Gov. Connally; also, the Barghoorn incident.

1) Looking at the copy of the Jevons memo sent to us by our correspondent, it struck me that the alleged redaction might be something more innocent and, sure enough, it was not present in two copies of the same document located elsewhere in the JFK collection (see HSCA Record Number 180-10014-10457 and FBI HQ File 62-109060-3452, attached). The document is already open in full and can simply be sent to Mr. Marsh.

2) Barghoorn incident. Eric kindly lent me *The Crisis Years* so I could at least learn what Marsh was referencing. There is no corroboration in that book's brief account of the incident of any subsequent fallout between JFK and Helms over what the CIA had told the President in response to his inquiry. Nonetheless, I suppose we could request any CIA files on Barghoorn and perhaps query Helms.

Milam, Wallace. Letter of 9/17/94, re: request for review of sundry documents. This is a request that various, apparently unrelated, documents be reviewed. While it should be an easy matter to get agencies to sign off on the release of most of the documents Milam lists, they also raise the broader issue of ARRB-HSCA-House Oversight Committee relations.

1) Agency File Number 002603, 2/19/64 WC memo from J. Lee Rankin to Leon Hubert.

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Having scanned the RIF's for all the documents in the file, I believe Mr. Milam is mistaken and that the direction of the memo is the reverse of what his letter states: the memo is actually from Hubert to Rankin (see attached document). If I am correct, this document is already open and could be forwarded to Mr. Milam.

2) Agency File Number 002603, Robert Bouck to HSCA, referred to Secret Service. This is a 3 page OCR from HSCA counsel Andy Purdy relative to a phone call with Bouck, re: Purdy's efforts to determine how many sets of autopsy photos were made. I see nothing in it that would pose a problem for the USSS if they took the time to look at the document.

3) Agency File Number 008788, 11/26/63 memo from Sibert and O'Neil to SAC Baltimore, re: Presidential autopsy, referred to FBI. Kevin determined for me that this memo has already been released by the FBI (copy attached). Thus, it could be mailed to Milam.

4) Agency File Number 009599, 6/28/78 OCR by HSCA staffer Leslie Wizelman, re: files she reviewed at CIA headquarters. This is merely a listing of file names and third-agency documents therein. Contains no substantive information and should be eminently releaseable.

Milam also references an earlier inquiry (summer of 1994) regarding a Shanklin-generated document dated 11/22/63, re: Jean Souetre. Having done a database search, this appears to be a 46 page document in the HSCA Security Classified Files (Agency File Number 025-JFK). Status: referred. I have not reviewed it.

Milam, Wallace. Letter of 10/14/94, re: Parkland Hospital Files and Dallas County Sheriff's Department files. According to the chart, Anne is working on this one. My only input would be as follows:

1) Milam wants the ARRB to obtain any written records pertaining to a December, 1963 visit to Parkland Hospital by a detail of Secret Service Agents. He seems to be interested in hospital, as opposed to Secret Service records. This visit took place between Dec. 10th and Dec. 18th and was the occasion for the sharing with the Parkland doctors of the

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Bethesda autopsy report. The outcome of this meeting was that the Parkland doctors all recanted their earlier statements about JFK's neck wound being an *entrance* wound. Thereafter, they made statements supportive of the autopsy report which characterized the neck wound as an exit wound. I suppose what Milam has in mind are memoranda for the record that the Parkland doctors might have penned subsequent to this meeting, or that kind of thing. I don't believe I've ever run across anything of that nature. The HSCA subpoena of Parkland records *presumably* would have caught any such documentation. A database search could be done to see if there's any indication of these kinds of documents in the Collection; Parkland Hospital could also be contacted directly on the matter. Doctors who participated in the meeting with the Secret Service could be contacted, as well, to see if they remember generating any contemporaneous record of the event.

2) Milam also wants the Board to initiate an inquiry with the Dallas County Sheriff's Department relative to obtaining any records it may have. From previous work I have done for Anne, I know that the Collection does contain some Sheriff's office records at present: criminal records for several individuals, as well as investigation reports/statements by various deputy sheriffs who were involved with the initial phase of the assassination investigation. I don't know whether this is all the Sheriff's Dept. has; but I do know that Anne intends to send the Dept. an inquiry letter as part of her outreach to local law enforcement agencies. This forthcoming effort could be referenced in a reply to Mr. Milam.

Milam, Wallace. Fax of 4/18/95, re: Sebastian Latona and latent prints on the Mannlicker-Carcano.

1) Recommend a database search be done on HSCA and FBI records to try and determine paper trail for possession of a) Dallas PD photos of trigger guard prints and, b) additional photos taken by Latona at the Justice Building here in Washington on 11/23/95. Following such a search, specific inquiries could be made to the FBI or Dallas PD on the issue.

1) A larger issue, not raised directly by Milam's letter, is whether the Board should try to

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obtain the photos of the trigger guard fingerprints apparently in the possession of Rusty Livingston (co-author, with his nephew Gary Savage, of *First Day Evidence*), whose findings -- says Milam -- were part of the 1993 Frontline report. Livingston's photos were allegedly made from original negatives. Anne has contacted either Livingston or Savage (I forget which) and received no cooperation whatsoever.

Milam, Wallace. Letter of 6/30/95 [1], re: Reily Coffee Company link with NASA Michoud facility. Milam believes a disproportionate number of one-time Reily employees ended up working for NASA at Michoud, and posits an intelligence-related link. He also references William Reily's alleged sponsorship of the Crusade to Free Cuba.

1) Depending on the importance of this alleged connection, we could request NASA's employment files for the Michoud facility and subpoena the Reilly Coffee Company's records, as well.

Milam, Wallace. Letter of 6/30/95 [2], re: 4 separate items.

1) Unreleased CIA investigation into the assassination (Helms as referenced by Beschloss). As this is not a new issue, I assume it's well in hand and make no unnecessary explanation or recommendations.

2) Working papers, notes and memoranda of HSCA Medical Panel. A first step might be to contact Andy Purdy (lead HSCA counsel on medical/forensic issues) and Dr. Michael Baden (Chairperson of Medical Panel) and inquire as to their recollections, if any, concerning working drafts, destruction/retention of papers, etc. Subsequently, all the panel members could be approached/subpoened about turning over any materials they may still possess from their HSCA service. In order to get a better handle on what may already be in the collection, a comprehensive database search/numbered files verification project could be undertaken. This would be no mean task, however.

3) HSCA document, Record Number 180-10091-10155, re: OCR with Robert Bouck of the Secret Service. Milam has already asked for the review and

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release of this document in his letter of 9/17/94 (see above). To reiterate, substantively this document is not a big deal. The difficulties, if any, arise with the agency involved (USSS) and the fact that it is HSCA-originated.

4) Samuel Bird tape. Then-Lt. Samuel R. Bird, stationed at the time with the Ceremonial Duties Office at Ft. Myers, VA, and present for the autopsy, made a contemporaneous tape of his involvement in post-assassination events: he was part of the honor guard around the casket. Milam believes this tape to be an "extremely important" assassination record, and writes that "I would as soon have access to the Bird tape(s) as any other medical document known to exist." The HSCA talked to Bird and confirmed that he still had the tape (in 1978). Milam has reviewed HSCA Agency File Number 005541 (attached) which references this contact. Milam appears to believe that no subsequent HSCA contact with Bird took place, or at least that there is no record of it. In fact, there was a subsequent phone call between Bird and HSCA staffer Mark Flanagan (see the OCR, Agency File Number 005524, attached) on 2/21/78 (four days after the one Milam is aware of which -- while obscure -- clearly indicates that Bird had reviewed the tape since the previous call and reports to Flanagan that there is "no information pertaining to the autopsy on the tape." Apparently, the HSCA lost interest thereafter. Obviously, we can send Milam a copy of this OCR and bring him up to speed on the fact that there was a subsequent HSCA contact. But the other question is whether we should go further than the HSCA apparently did in ensuring that the tape contains nothing of value. I'd suggest that we contact Bird or his heirs and arrange to listen to the tape ourselves, and then make a determination regarding its value as an assassination record. A first step might be to locate Flanagan and confirm that there was no further HSCA-Bird contact subsequent to 2/21/78.

Freeman e:\wp-docs\082595
File 3.9