

Meeting at U.S. Department of State  
ARRB and Cuban Interests Section  
March 18, 1997

This is a general, introductory meeting

1. JFK Act background.

Uncertainty and suspicion by the American people about the JFK assassination

Movie JFK

Congress decided that it wants all US government records related to the JFK assassination to be declassified and made available to public

Congress created an *independent* agency, the ARRB, to oversee the project of declassifying records.

No member of the Review Board or Staff was a Federal employee

ARRB makes decisions independently from agencies

Although agencies have resisted Review Board releases, every review Board decision ultimately has been accepted

Review Board has declassified CIA, FBI, ONI, NSA records

Congress wanted foreign governments to be asked for records 10(b)(2)

We have spoken to Belarus, Russia, and others

The Review Board is not attempting to reach any conclusions, but just to collect records and information.

Explanation of the posture of this meeting

The request is coming from an independent Agency of the US government. We are not diplomats and we have no role to play in any diplomatic or political issues between the United States and Cuba other than regarding records related to the JFK assassination.

Although the State Department is officially supporting our effort, the State Department did not initiate our contact. The request is therefore not coming from the President or from the State Department, but from an independent US agency

2. Cuba is important to the story of the assassination.

Oswald

Contacts with Cuban exiles who were opposed to Castro

He engaged in Pro-Castro activities in the US

Visit to Cuban consulate in Mexico City in 1963

Allegations he met with Cubans in Minsk

“Solo”

Assassination attempts against Castro

CIA’s involvement with organized crime figures

Cuban exile groups in the early 1960s

raids on Cuba

activities in the US

3. The types of records in which the ARRB would be interested:

Oswald’s contacts with Cuban consulate

Communications between Mexico City; Havana; and USSR about Oswald’s visit

Any post-assassination analysis

Records on SOLO visits to Cuba

Trafficante in Trescornia Prison

Information on Cuban exile activities in US between 1959-64

Assassination plots against Castro

4. Previous contacts between US and Cuba on this issue.

First investigations was the Warren Commission. It is our understanding that there was no contact between the US and Cuba at this time.

Second investigation was the HSCA. The HSCA made two visits to Cuba in 1978 and interviewed several witnesses. President Castro met with members of the delegation. Some documents were provided.

5. ARRB would like to explore with the Cuban government the possibility of the US obtaining copies of records that may be of relevance to the assassination.

It is our understanding that the American Interests section has been contacted and that it has or will be informing the Cuban government that we are making contact with you in Washington.

We would like to have the opportunity of speaking to people in Cuba who may have information about the types of records that might be available.

The types of people whom we would like to meet are:

- Archivists
- People familiar with records
- Historians
- People who may have created records

We are willing to give the Cuban government copies of declassified records that may be of interest to Cuba.

If your government would like to cooperate, we are willing to:

meet with you in Washington;

meet with people in Cuba;

provide you with written requests.

6. Follow-up.

We would like to obtain an initial understanding of whether your government wishes to proceed with negotiations on this issue.

What would you like us to do to facilitate this process?