

April 1, 1998

Mr. J. Barry Harrelson
Chief, JFK Project
Historical Review Program
Office of Information Management
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Re: Status of CIA Responses to Assassination Records Review Board's Requests for Additional Information and Records

Dear Barry:

I am writing to update the Review Board's understanding of the status of CIA's responses to our formal and informal requests for additional information and records that have been requested pursuant to the Review Board's authority under Section 7(j)(1)(C)(ii) of the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994) (JFK Act).

We appreciate recent CIA efforts to respond to our outstanding requests. As we have written in our formal requests and as we have said to you orally, you should interpret our requests in the broadest reasonable sense. To the extent that you believe that a request poses an unreasonable burden that we may not have anticipated, or to the extent that you have suggestions to modify or to amend our requests in such a way as to better reach our goals, you should not hesitate to make suggestions or seek clarification. As has been noted in earlier letters, these requests will be incorporated into the Agency's final compliance declaration. In requesting these materials, we are not designating them "assassination records" at this time and we are not requesting that copies be given to the Review Board. All outstanding ARRB requests for additional information, both formal and informal, are scheduled to be completed by April 1, 1998. As noted in your meeting with Michelle Combs on February 27, 1998, we recognize that some requests, such as CIA-7, are ongoing and will continue. In addition, the ARRB has formulated some new requests, CIA-IR-34 and IR-35, which should be completed as quickly as possible.

The remainder of this letter is divided into two parts involving first, the formal requests for information and records, and second, the informal requests for information and records.

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Formal Requests

CIA-1 Organizational Material.

As of February 1, 1998 and with the exception of the Directorate of Operations records, HRP has provided ARRB with the records identified by the ARRB staff which have been cleared by the directorate IRO's for either release in full or with redactions. Consultations are now underway between HRP and ARRB as to the best means of making these documents publicly available. Additional consultations are in process with the DO for the release of their records.

CIA-2 through CIA-5.

These requests have been completed and no further action is needed by CIA.

CIA-6 Cables and Dispatches.

CIA's formal response has been received. ARRB is evaluating this response.

CIA-7 Histories.

After reviewing a list of histories that CIA provided, the ARRB staff designated approximately sixty histories for which further review was sought. The ARRB staff is reviewing these histories on an ongoing basis and continues to make suggestions with respect to further processing of some of those histories. The ARRB staff appreciates the cooperation it has received from HRP in our review of the histories. CIA should continue to make the remaining histories available in consultation with the ARRB.

CIA-8 Intelligence Community Staff Records.

The Review Board first requested information on the Intelligence Community Staff on March 1, 1996. On October 1, 1996, CIA agreed to report on the status of this request within two weeks. While we understand that this request turned out to be more difficult and complicated than originally envisioned, the Review Board has not yet received any substantive response.

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CIA-9 Intelligence Community Publications on Cuba or USSR (November 20-30, 1963).

Michelle Combs is reviewing these materials to identify those which will become assassination records. Once identified, these records should be marked for processing as soon as possible. This request is otherwise complete.

CIA-10 Interagency Source Register.

CIA has submitted a classified description of the ISR as a formal response to the Review Board's request. As a follow up, ARRB has requested that CIA check a provided list of names against the Interagency Source Register. Several files of individuals were requested from this search. Additional biographical material to narrow the search on several names will be provided by the ARRB staff.

CIA-11 Sylvia Duran Materials.

This request is complete.

CIA-12 JMWAVE and David Sanchez Morales.

On May 22, 1996, the Review Board requested access to "all 201 files, personnel files, Office of Security files, P-files, or any other files" relating to five persons allegedly connected to JMWAVE. In response to this request, CIA has provided numerous records which were located in the Sequestered Collection. Since that time CIA has provided the requested files on three of the five individuals: David Morales, Theodore Shackley, and Doug Gupton (P). We are still awaiting the files on Ron Cross (P) and Bart Henry

CIA-13 Mexico City Backchannel Communications.

CIA has provided a formal response to this request. This request is complete.

CIA-14 Mexico City Station Annual Reports.

This request, dated December 23, 1996, was raised at the DO follow-up briefing on April 1,

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1997. CIA has provided an oral response. Once a written response is received, this request will be complete.

CIA-15 Win Scott Files Identified in Russ Holmes Files.

This request is complete.

CIA-16 Oswald Pre-Assassination Files.

CIA has placed the Oswald Security File in process for inclusion in the JFK Collection. ARRB awaits a formal, full, and complete response to this request.

Informal Requests

Each of the following informal requests was previously made to CIA. For reference, they will be referred to by the "Informal Request" (IR) number provided below.

CIA-IR-01 Personnel Assigned to Post from 1959-64 (*see* RIF 104-10065-10199).

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-02 Location of Cable Identified in JFK 1993.07.20.10.18:29:650630.

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-03 Full Computer Search for List of Documents in HTLINGUAL File.

CIA agreed to undertake a computer run for all HTLINGUAL documents in April 1997. The ARRB understands that an initial response from the Directorate of Operations has been received by HRP but that responses from other CIA entities are incomplete. All computer searches for these documents should be documented in a written response for the record.

CIA-IR-04 Disposition of Angleton's Files.

The Review Board seeks to ensure that it has taken all reasonable steps to account for any

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files that James Jesus Angleton possessed or controlled that related to the assassination and to Lee Harvey Oswald. Because of the perceived controversy surrounding the disposition of Angleton's files, the Review Board believes it prudent to obtain a clear understanding of the types of files that he maintained and their ultimate disposition. (The Review Board does not seek to explore any subjects in Angleton's files beyond those that may have pertained to the assassination.) To date, CIA has made available certain documents provided by the CIC and the case files for *Mangold v. CIA*. The Review Board requests any additional information in the possession of CIA that would explain the disposition of Angleton's files.

In addition, the ARRB staff's review of the *Mangold v. CIA* files designated additional documents from those files as assassination records. These documents are: Tab D, documents Nos. 95, 109-116, 120, and 121; and from the Denied Documents file: documents Nos. 496, 498, 499, 500, and 510. ARRB has now received confirmation that these documents are either already in the Sequestered Collection or have been marked for processing.

CIA-IR-05 Possible Foreign Source for Records on Oswald.

CIA was informally requested to use its contacts to pursue certain records related to Oswald that were orally described to CIA. The Review Board understands that the CIA has taken steps to pursue these records. An update on this request was provided in February 1998.

CIA-IR-06 QKENCHANT.

The Review Board seeks information regarding the purpose of QKENCHANT and its connection with Clay Shaw, Howard Hunt, and Monroe Sullivan.

The Review Board was initially provided some information in regard to this request that now appears to be incorrect. CIA is now seeking additional information to correct or to clarify its previous answers. The Review Board seeks an immediate, full, and accurate response to this request. Once a written response is provided, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-07 Claude Barnes Capehart.

This request is complete.

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CIA-IR-08 Unredacted Copy of the "Family Jewels" Memoranda.

At meeting between HRP, ARRB and the DCI/IRO on December 11, 1997, specific redacted pages were identified for ARRB staff review. These pages should be made available as soon as possible.

CIA-IR-09 George Bush Computer Search.

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-10 IG Reports.

CIA will determine whether the IG's office maintains an index or inventory of its reports and determine whether the IG's office prepared a report on the handling of Oswald. Since April 1997, CIA has had no response and no time frame for a response.

CIA-IR-11 Warren Commission Critics.

We are asking that CIA determine whether it possesses any files or records on Warren Commission critics Edward J. Epstein, Josiah Thompson, Mark Lane, Harold Weisberg, or Sylvia Meagher. The Review Board is not requesting information *per se* regarding any FOIA requests by these individuals or any Public Affairs news clippings.¹ Since April 1997, CIA has had no response and no time frame for a response.

CIA-IR-12 Contacts with Journalists or Publishing Houses.

The Review Board seeks to determine to what extent, if any, CIA might have attempted to influence any journalists or publishers regarding public discussion of the assassination. This request, originally discussed in March 1997, was raised at the DO follow-up briefing on April 1, 1997. CIA has had no response and no time frame for a response.

CIA-IR-13 Office or Person Dealing with Organized Crime and Cuba.

¹To the extent that CIA possesses FOIA files or records on any of these individuals, and to the extent that those records contain information that was not filed with the courts, such records *are being requested for review by the Review Board*.

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The Review Board requested that CIA make a particular personnel file available. The file was made available by CIA for review. Documents in this file have been marked for processing as assassination records. The Review Board seeks confirmation that these documents have been placed in the review process. The Review Board also seeks a full and accurate written response to this request detailing any and all searches made and the results of those searches. As soon as CIA provides a written statement that the searches are complete and confirms that the identified documents are being processed, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-14 Breckinridge Files.

CIA (OGC) will determine the disposition of the files of Scott D. Breckinridge. CIA has had no response and no time frame for a response.

CIA-IR-15 Electronic "take" from Mexico City Station.

The Review Board has for some time been attempting to determine whether it has had access to all of CIA's surveillance "take" from the Cuban and Soviet facilities in Mexico City at the time of the Oswald visit and in the immediate wake of the assassination. On numerous occasions, the Review Board has asked whether there was any surveillance take in addition to what is currently in the collection.

On March 18, 1997, the Review Board provided additional leads to CIA to assist it in answering these questions. The DO has agreed to check Headquarters records for the file referenced in HMMW 12454, to search for the crypts cited in this document, and to search for HMMA 20307 and other cables or dispatches cited in this document.

CIA has provided a partial response to this request and additional specific questions have been conveyed to HRP by the Review Board. In addition, the Board is still awaiting a response on the present location of Staff D records. Regardless of the outcome of these particular searches, the Review Board continues to seek a full accounting for all surveillance conducted during the relevant time periods.

CIA-IR-16 U-2 Files.

DS&T has provided a folder title printout of U-2 materials for Review Board examination and

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has checked for records filed under Richard Bissell's name. The Review Board staff continues to review these indexes. In addition, a new index has been provided to the Review Board for examination. The DS&T should continue to search for OSP files.

CIA-IR-17 DS&T Records on Castro Assassination Plots.

This request is now complete.

CIA-IR-18 DO Office.

The Review Board has requested orally information about a particular DO office. Since January 1997, CIA has had no response and no time frame for a response.

CIA-IR-19 Computer Searches.

The Review Board has requested that full computer searches be conducted on all of the following people and organizations. The results of the searches should be documented. Once formal documentation of the completed searches has been provided, the request is complete.

Name	Results/Comments
1. Spas Raikin	This request is complete.
2. Leo Cherne	ARRB awaits documentation.
3. Hunter Leake	ARRB awaits documentation. HRP is checking for a DCD file.
4. Marilyn Dutz Murret	This request is complete.
5. John McVickar	ARRB awaits documentation.
6. Andy Anderson	ARRB awaits documentation.
7. Byron B. Morton, Jr.	ARRB awaits documentation.
8. Marie Cheatham	ARRB awaits documentation.
9. Paul Garbler	ARRB awaits documentation.

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Name	Results/Comments
10. Verna Deane Brown	ARRB awaits documentation.
11. George Stanley Brown	ARRB awaits documentation.
12. Howard Guebler	ARRB awaits documentation. HRP will check for files.
13. Gordon Duane Novel	ARRB awaits documentation. HRP will check for files.
14. Ed Butler	ARRB awaits documentation. HRP will check for files.
15. INCA (Information Council of the Americas)	ARRB awaits documentation. HRP will check for files.
16. Permindex	ARRB awaits documentation. HRP will check for files.

CIA-IR-20 Monster Plot.

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-21 Monthly Operational Reports for DRE.

In March 1997, the Review Board requested that the CIA search for monthly operational reports for the Cuban exile group Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE) records for the period 1960-1964 with particular emphasis on the reports for August and November 1963. The CIA has provided a response to this request on the issue of the DRE reports for December 1962-1964 and the identity of the "Howard" mentioned in the DRE records.

CIA has now provided the Office of Personnel file of Mr. George E. Joannides, the case officer responsible for the DRE during the December 1962 to April 1964 time period. The documents for the relevant time period have been reviewed by Michelle Combs and marked for processing as assassination records. Once confirmation is received that these records are in process for review, this request is complete.

CIA-IR-22 "A" File on Clay Shaw and Jim Garrison.

This request is complete.

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CIA-IR-23 Watch Committee Files.

This response is complete.

CIA-IR-24 Defector File.

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-25 Zapruder Film.

CIA has provided a partial oral response to this request. There is no record of a "William Green" at NPIC in November 1963 and CIA has been unable to locate any log books or indexes from the period still in existence. It is the Board's understanding that CIA is still completing its search of NPIC records. When complete, CIA should document its searches in a final response.

CIA-IR-26 Jordan James Pfuntner.

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-27 Security Files for Five Individuals.

The ARRB staff has reviewed Office of Security files for Richard Case Nagel, Gordon Novel, Jack Ruby, Harold Weisburg, and Walter Sheridan. The entire files for Gordon Novel, Jack Ruby, and Richard Case Nagel have been designated assassination records. Portions of the files for Harold Weisberg and Walter Sheridan will be designated assassination records. A meeting has been set for March 6, 1998 to designate these files. Once confirmation is received that these five files have been marked for processing as assassination records, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-28 McCone Files.

In August 1997, the ARRB staff reviewed an index for the files of former DCI John McCone and identified some files to be reviewed for assassination records. A meeting should be set up to examine these files.

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CIA-IR-29 Oswald Le Winter.

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-30 Cherepanov Papers.

In the fall of 1963, Paul Garbler, Chief of Station Moscow, copied a series of KGB papers from the American Department of the KGB's Second Directorate which had arrived at the embassy from Aleksandr Cherepanov. The Review Board requests access to review these papers.

CIA-IR-31 Dulles Calendar.

In testimony before the Church Committee on May 4, 1977, Richard Bissell made reference to the existence of a calendar for former DCI Allen W. Dulles which would reflect all of Dulles' meetings. The Review Board requests the Dulles calendar for January 1959 through his resignation as DCI on November 29, 1961.

CIA has reported that this material has been located and will be made available for review.

CIA-IR-32 AMWORLD.

The Review Board seeks information regarding the purpose of AMWORLD and its connection with the Cuban exile groups.

The Review Board has been provided some information in regard to this request that appears to be incomplete. The CIA is now seeking additional information to correct or to clarify its previous answers. The Review Board seeks an immediate, full, and accurate response to this request. Once a written statement is provided, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-33 FBIS-USR-92-112.

In January 1998, the Review Board requested a review of FBIS-USR-92-112 and any other files or information on the Kennedy assassination which might exist in FBIS files and are not already in the public domain. CIA has been provided with a copy of an FBIS report with this number which consists of a translation of an Izvestiya report entitled, "Case No. 31451:

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What Information Does the KGB Dossier on the Man Known as the Murderer of U.S. President John Kennedy Contain?"

On February 1, 1998 CIA reported that all FBIS material is unclassified and in the public domain and that FBIS has no past or current file on Lee Harvey Oswald or the Kennedy assassination. The Review Board seeks a written response to this request. Once the formal statement is provided, this request is complete.

CIA-IR-34 Files of CIA Officials and/or Offices.

The Review Board requests the office files of the individuals occupying the following positions during the period 1959-1964:

files of the Office of the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, 1959-1964.
General Charles Cabell 1953-1962
General Marshall Carter 1962-1965
files of the Office of the Deputy Director for Plans, 1959-1964.
Richard Bissell 1958-1962
Richard Helms 1962-1965
the Chronological files of C. Tracy Barnes 1959-1964.
Office of the General Counsel, Lawrence Houston 1959-1964.
Operational Diaries of William Harvey 1962-1963.

CIA-IR-35 Source identified in RIF number 104-10151-10206.

On February 27, 1998, the Review Board requested information about a source and possible information on Lee Harvey Oswald given by this source to the CIA.

CIA-IR-36 Handling of cables in 1963.

As a follow up question to CIA-6, on February 27, 1998, the Review Board requested an explanation or any official document or regulation concerning the handling of chronological cables by the Directorate of Operations divisions which was applicable in 1963.

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CIA provided a response to this request on March 4, 1998. This response is now complete.

CIA-IR-37 William Pawley.

The Review Board requests access to review all files on William Pawley and any files on his possible connection with Cuban exile groups in the 1962-1963 timeframe.

Conclusion

Please let me know if you have any supplements or corrections to the lists above. We would very much like to ensure that these matters are handled expeditiously. As always, we appreciate your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

cc: Assassination Records Review Board
Linda Cipriani, Esq.