

January 26, 1998

Dear Barry,

Attached is the document I mentioned on the telephone this morning. As you will see, it contains extensive references to Harvey's "operational diaries," "operational notes," and reference memoranda on the subject. The question is: if Harvey kept extensive notes on the Matahambre Sabotage Operation, would he have also kept extensive notes on Task Force W, Castro assassination plots, AMLASH, etc.? Specifically, do these operational diaries, notes, reference memoranda exist for the period August to December 1963? Or any of 1963?

In addition, the 67 IG Report opens with the quotation,

This reconstruction of Agency involvement in plans to assassinate Fidel Castro is at best an imperfect history. Because of the extreme sensitivity of the operations being discussed or attempted, as a matter of principle no official records were kept of planning, of approvals, or of implementation. The few written records that do exist are either largely tangential to the main events or were put on paper from memory years afterward. **William Harvey has retained skeletal notes of his activities during the years in question and they are our best source of dates.**

Hersh's book refers to the destruction of Harvey's notes on Castro at Helm's order. Is there a record of their destruction? Hersh also refers to additional notes provided by Harvey to the Senate in 1975 which were "obtained without deletions for this book."

If these notes are not part of the Sequestered Collection, could you obtain them?

I'll see you Thursday. Thanks for your help. These questions will probably be added to the list of informal requests for the next Status of Requests letter.