

# MEMORANDUM

September 12, 1998

To: Laura Denk  
Executive Director

cc: Bob Skwirot  
CIA Team Leader

From: Michelle Combs  
Associate Director for Research and Review

Subject: CIA-IR-11 Warren Commission Critics

In an effort to determine whether the CIA opened or maintained files on Warren Commission critics because they criticized the Warren Commission's work and findings, the Review Board requested access to all extant records on Edward J. Epstein, Josiah Thompson, Mark Lane, Harold Weisberg, or Sylvia Meagher. The Review Board did not request information *per se* on Freedom of Information Act requests by these individuals or any Public Affairs news clippings.

In response to the Review Board's Informal Request for Additional Records and Information CIA-IR-16, the CIA provided the following files or information on the requested individuals. Each file was examined by the Review Board staff and relevant records were designated as assassination records for inclusion in the JFK Collection at the National Archives.

Edward J. Epstein: CIA located an Office of Security file and a Publications Review Board file on Epstein as well as three indications of records destroyed under a standard records destruction schedule. The destroyed records involved three Freedom of Information Act requests. None of the requests were for information on Epstein. The Review Board staff did not designate any additional records as assassination records.

Josiah Thompson: The CIA has a small 201 file on Thompson which indicates that he was considered to be of possible operational interest to the Agency in 1962 while he was living overseas. Interest was dropped, however, and Thompson never worked for the CIA in any capacity. The Review Board staff did not designate any additional records as assassination records.

Mark Lane: The CIA did not open a 201 file on Lane. The Agency's records on Lane consist of: a dispatch dated January 23, 1970, an Office of the General Counsel letter dated March 29, 1977, six Freedom of Information Act requests, and one Public Affairs request. These documents were not designated as assassination records. An additional reference to Lane was found in a document from a foreign government. That information was designated an assassination record and has been processed for release to the JFK Collection at the National Archives.

Harold Weisberg: CIA holds several files on Weisberg. An Office of Strategic Services (OSS) history form 1003a indicates that he served in the OSS from January 15 to September 30, 1945, first as a consultant and then as a research analyst, until he transferred to the Department of State. CIA also holds an eight-page 201 file which contains newspaper articles, one reference to the Garrison investigation, a reference to the fact that Weisberg corresponded with "Julius Mader," and administration documents. This file is a part of the CIA sequestered collection and has been processed for release to the JFK Collection at the National Archives. An Office of Security file on Weisberg was reviewed by the Review Board staff and a small number of documents were marked as assassination records. Finally, Agency records show Weisberg has made more than 40 Freedom of Information Act requests.

Sylvia Meagher: CIA no longer has any records on Meagher. At one time the Office of Security had a file on Meagher and a 1968 *Ramparts Magazine* article. A reference to a Privacy Act request made by Meagher was also found. The Privacy Act request and the Office of Security folder have been destroyed under normal record control schedules.