

December 17, 1997

Mr. J. Barry Harrelson
Historical Review Group
Center for the Study of Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 02505

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).

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. However, 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. However, unless we specifically hear from you to the contrary, it is our presumption that the CIA will respond fully to the requests as posed. Many of these requests have been outstanding for over a year and several for two years. It should be noted that 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.

In response to your request, the ARRB staff has identified an additional seven of our outstanding requests as high priority issues. We would appreciate your forwarding to us as much responsive material as you are reasonably able to assemble during the upcoming month with regard to these

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issues. We wish to obtain a reasonably complete response to these requests within one month. These issues are identified in the text by double asterisks (**).¹

At a meeting in April 1997, you anticipated that all requests would be completed by the fall of 1997. As of the date of this letter, there are ten formal requests and twenty-nine informal requests still outstanding. Given that these requests will be incorporated into the Agency's final compliance declaration, it is necessary that these requests be completed prior to the end of the Board's existence. Accordingly, we submit that these ARRB requests for additional information, both formal and informal, be completed by April 1, 1998.

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. Please let me know if your understanding of any of the following points differs from ours so that we can resolve any potential discrepancies.

I. Formal Requests.

**CIA-1 Organizational Material.

CIA has collected information responsive to this request for Review Board action. On January 7, 1997, the ARRB staff identified records that it believes will enhance the historical understanding of the assassination by providing some background on CIA records.

CIA was to have reviewed the DO and DS&T organizational material during the spring and summer of 1997 to re-examine some of the proposed redactions. Several documents have been cleared by the directorate IRO's for either release in full or release with minor redactions. These are:

DCI

--Organization of the Office of the Director 1963

--Mission Statements for 1959, 1962, 1965 and 1966

¹As identified more fully below, the issues are: CIA-1 Organizational Material, CIA-13 Backchannel Communications, CIA-IR-04 Disposition of Angleton Files, CIA-IR-07 Claude Barnes Capehart, CIA-IR-15 Electronic "take" from Mexico City, CIA-IR-21 DRE Monthly Operational Reports, CIA-IR-22 "A" Files on Clay Shaw and Jim Garrison.

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- some Office of the Director notices
- OGC and IG Mission Statements for 1964, 1966, 1969, 1975, and 1976
- OLC Mission Statement for 1975 and 1976

DI

- Organization and Functions of the DI pre-1961
- Organizational Charts for 1961, 1964, and 1969
- Mission Statements for 1961, 1963, 1964, 1966, and 1970

DA

- Mission Statements 1957, 1958, 1960, 1963, and 1974
- Organizational Chart 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, and 1966
- Office of Security Organizational Charts for 1956, 1958, 1962, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1969, and 1975
- Office of Security Mission Statements for 1958, 1962, 1963, 1966, 1969, and 1975.

The ARRB staff is willing to consult with CIA as soon as the records are ready to determine whether these records should be designated "assassination records" or whether they can be made available publicly in a manner similar to the material from the 1996 Boston trip. CIA should be aware however, that these materials will be presented to the Board at its January meeting. Accordingly these materials must be ready for the Review Board staff by January 12, 1998.

CIA-2 through CIA-5.

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

CIA-6 Cables and Dispatches.

The Review Board first made this request on September 11, 1995. On September 11, 1995, CIA agreed to make these materials available by December 1995. On October 1, 1996, CIA agreed to make these materials available by November 1996. Most recently, CIA has stated that these cables are not available as a chronological group, if it is not possible or is unduly burdensome to retrieve these cables, CIA should write a memorandum to that effect.

We are aware that many of the cables requested are already in the JFK files, but not all are included. Those that we have not been able to locate in the collection include: Mexico

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City Station to Headquarters (September 26-30, 1963); Headquarters to Mexico City Station (September 26-30, 1963); JMWAVE to Headquarters (September 26-November 21, 1963); Headquarters to JMWAVE (September 26-November 21, 1963); and all traffic between the Mexico City Station and JMWAVE for the periods September 26-October 20, 1963 and November 22-December 30, 1963.

CIA-7 Histories.

The Review Board first requested access to several internal CIA histories and to indices of histories on November 8, 1995. On August 8, 1996, after reviewing a list of histories that you provided, the ARRB staff designated approximately sixty histories for which further review was sought. To date, the ARRB staff has reviewed twelve histories that CIA has made available and has made suggestions with respect to further processing of some of those histories. The ARRB staff appreciates the cooperation it has received from HRG 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.

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

The LBJ Library has identified several publications for mandatory review.² The DI has provided additional documents which were requested. Michelle Combs reviewed the

²They include:

Intelligence Report (11/22/63; 11/23/63; 11/24/63; 11/26/63; 11/27/63; 12/11/63; 12/13/63; 12/18/63; and 12/20/63).

Intelligence Memorandum (11/23/63; 11/24/63; 11/25/63; 11/25/63; 4/20/64; and 10/16/64).

President's Intelligence Checklist (11/23/63; 11/24/63; 11/25/63; 11/26/63; 11/27/63; 11/28/63; and 11/30/63).

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materials and identified some that should become available to the public. No further DI tasking is anticipated on this request.

CIA-10 Interagency Source Register.

CIA has provided a full description of the ISR, which should now be submitted as a formal response to the Review Board's request. Once the formal statement is provided, this request will be complete. (Under separate cover, the Review Board provided an additional request for information and records, CIA-17-Draft, which provided a list of names that we requested you check against the Interagency Source Register. Several files 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 only one of the five individuals. We are still awaiting the files on Ted Shackley, Ron Cross, Bart Henry, and Doug Gupton

**CIA-13 Mexico City Backchannel Communications.

This request, dated November 1, 1996, was raised at the DO follow-up briefing on April 1, 1997. An additional clarification question as to whether a "privacy" channel for sensitive communications existed during the period 1959-1964 was submitted on October 28, 1997. CIA has provided no response and no time frame for a response.

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CIA-14 Mexico City Station Annual Reports.

This request, dated December 23, 1996, was raised at the DO follow-up briefing on April 1, 1997. CIA has provided no response and no time frame for a response.

CIA-15 Win Scott files identified in Russ Holmes Files.

This request is complete.

CIA-16 Oswald Pre-Assassination Files.

The ARRB has reviewed the Oswald file from the Office of Security and declared it to be an assassination record. Our understanding is that this file will be processed for review under the JFK Act. HRG reportedly received a lengthy answer from the Office of Security on the LHO files and a formal response to the Review Board's request is in process. Once the formal statement is provided, this request will be complete.

II. Informal Requests.

All of the following informal requests have previously been made to CIA. For future 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. To date, no response has been received by ARRB. All computer searches for these documents should be documented in a formal letter for the record.

**CIA-IR-04 Disposition of Angleton's files.

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The Review Board seeks to ensure that it has taken all reasonable steps to account for any 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 no. 95, 109-116, 120, 121; and from the Denied Documents file: documents no. 496, 498, 499, 500, and 510. The Review Board is awaiting confirmation that these documents are at HRG 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.

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 formal response to this request. Once the formal statement is provided, this request will be complete.

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**CIA-IR-07 Claude Barnes Capehart.

The ARRB staff has reviewed all records that CIA has been able to locate to date. During the course of this review, additional questions were raised that you agreed to pursue. You also agreed to conduct additional searches to determine whether there may be additional retrievable records on Mr. Capehart. The Review Board seeks a full and accurate formal response to this request. Once the formal statement is provided, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-08 Unredacted copy of the "Family Jewels" memoranda.

ARRB has reviewed a redacted version of the "Family Jewels." Additional questions have been raised. At meeting between HRG, 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.

The Review Board provided CIA with a copy of an FBI document, dated November 29, 1963, prepared under the name of John Edgar Hoover, which states: "The substance of the foregoing information [on the assassination of President Kennedy] was orally furnished to Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency" We have been informed that the DO has no record of a "George Bush" being in the employ of CIA in 1963 with the exception of Mr. George William Bush who has already given a sworn affidavit that he is not the "George Bush" in question. It is our understanding that the CIA has confirmed that the search query included George Herbert Walker Bush prior to 1970. CIA should determine whether George Herbert Walker Bush is the person to whom the memorandum refers and should provide a definitive statement regarding the scope of its search and the basis of its conclusion. Once the formal statement is provided, this request will be 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.

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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.³ 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.

The Review Board requested that CIA make a particular personnel file available. The file was made available by CIA for review. The Review Board seeks a full and accurate formal response to this request detailing any and all searches made and the results of those searches. Once a formal statement is provided, 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

³To 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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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.

In addition, the DS&T will query its offices for possible records on Mexico City and Cuba and for 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 print out of U-2 materials for Review Board examination and has checked for records filed under Richard Bissell's name. The Review Board staff continues to review these indexes. The DS&T should continue to search for OSP files.

CIA-IR-17 DS&T Records on Castro assassination plots.

The DS&T records should be searched for any records on Castro assassination plots. The Review Board will provide possible search query suggestions from the 1967 IG Report.

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
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Name	Results/Comments
1. Spas Raikin	This request is complete.
2. Leo Cherne	ARRB awaits documentation.
3. Hunter Leake	ARRB awaits documentation. HRG 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.
10. Verna Deane Brown	ARRB awaits documentation.
11. George Stanley Brown	ARRB awaits documentation.
12. Howard Guebler	ARRB awaits documentation. HRG will check for files.
13. Gordon Duane Novel	ARRB awaits documentation. HRG will check for files.
14. Ed Butler	ARRB awaits documentation. HRG will check for files.
15. INCA (Information Council of the Americas)	ARRB awaits documentation. HRG will check for files.
16. Permindex	ARRB awaits documentation. HRG 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

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period 1960 - 1964 with particular emphasis on the reports for August and November 1963. While some of the reports for this period already exist in the JFK Collection, others, including the reports for December 1962- April 1964, are missing. We understand that the CIA has done some research on the missing reports. We request a comprehensive memo on the creation and disposition of DRE records be provided for the Board. In addition, we request that the CIA work to discover the identity of "Howard," the CIA officer mentioned in the DRE files. We request his full name and Office of Personnel file be provided to the Board.

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

In July 1997, the ARRB staff was shown an "A" file on Clay Shaw which pre-dated a 201 file. We were also told that an "A" file on Jim Garrison also existed. The Shaw file was declared to be an assassination record and it was our understanding that both files were to be sent to HRG for processing. We have not yet received confirmation from HRG that the files are in process as assassination records.

CIA-IR-23 Watch Committee Files

In his memoirs, George Ball reports that upon first hearing of the shots in Dallas he called DCI John McCone and asked him to activate the Watch Committee. McCone replied that he already had. The Review Board requests the files of the Watch Committee for the period January 1963-May 1964.

CIA-IR-24 Defector File

The ARRB staff has identified documents on Lee Harvey Oswald from the Office of Security's "Defector File." It is our understanding that these documents are now being processed as assassination records. No further tasking on this subject is anticipated.

CIA-IR-25 Zapruder Film

The Board has requested any and all records, not previously located in the Sequestered Collection, on any handling by the CIA of the Zapruder Film. In particular, we are interested in any records of NPIC's handling of the Zapruder Film or copies of the Zapruder Film in November and December 1963. Any log books or indexes which would indicate the

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individuals involved in the processing and handling of any assassination films should be included in this request.

CIA-IR-26 Jordan James Pfuntner

The Review Board requested that a complete search for any records on this individual be undertaken, including a search of the Interagency Source Register. The ARRB staff provided HRG with additional identification data on this individual. The Review Board seeks a full and accurate formal response to this request. Once the formal statement documenting this search and its results is provided, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-27 Security Files for 5 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 Weisburg and Walter Sheridan will be designated assassination records. The Novel, Ruby, and Nagel files should be sent to HRG for processing. The Weisburg and Sheridan files should be sent to HRG for ARRB review.

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.

CIA-IR-29 Oswald Lewinter

In November 1997, CIA provided a preliminary oral response to whether it has files on Mr. Oswald Lewinter. CIA should document its findings in writing. Once formal documentation of the completed searches has been provided, the 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 to review these papers.

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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 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-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 formal response to this request. Once the formal statement is provided, this request will be complete

Conclusion

Please let me know if you have any supplements or corrections. 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: Linda Cipriani, Esq.