

July 27, 1998

HAND DELIVERED

Mr. J. Barry Harrelson
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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 you on the Review Board's understanding of the status of CIA's responses to our formal and informal requests for additional information and records that the ARRB Staff has requested pursuant to 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 noted in earlier letters, these requests will be incorporated into the Agency's final compliance declaration. As you know, in requesting these materials, we are not designating them "assassination records" at this time and we are not requesting that CIA provide copies to the Review Board. As we have noted, all outstanding ARRB requests for additional information, both formal and informal, were scheduled to be completed by April 1, 1998. Although the April 1 deadline has passed, the Review Board still intends to complete all necessary work on the outstanding requests as soon as possible. The Review Board is currently in the process of drafting its final report to the President and to Congress and it considers the issue of CIA requests for additional information and records a crucial one. At a meeting with the Review Board staff on July 16, 1998, the CIA made a commitment to complete all but three of the outstanding requests, formal and informal, by August 1, 1998. Due to Review Board staff commitments, we are willing to extend that deadline to no later than Friday August 7, 1998.

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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.

Formal Requests

CIA-1 Organizational Material.

The Review Board staff has marked these materials for processing as assassination records and CIA provided a written response. This request is complete.

CIA-2 through CIA-5.

These requests are complete.

CIA-6 Cables and Dispatches.

This request is complete.

CIA-7 Histories.

Michelle Combs, of the Review Board staff, is continuing to review the approximately sixty histories designated for review. The Review Board 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 Review Board.

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, this request has been outstanding for more than two years. The Review Board has not yet received any substantive response. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

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. 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, Review Board has requested that CIA check a provided list of names against the Interagency Source Register. The Review Board staff requested several files of individuals 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 should document its search process in a written response for the record.

CIA-13 Mexico City Backchannel Communications.

This request is complete.

CIA-14 Mexico City Station Annual Reports.

CIA provided its written response. This request is now complete.

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

This request is complete.

CIA-16 Oswald Pre-Assassination Files.

The Oswald Security File was released to the JFK Collection at the National Archives. The Review Board 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 Review Board understands that HRP received an initial response. CIA should document all computer searches for these documents and provide the written response to the Review Board.

This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

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 files that James Jesus Angleton possessed or controlled that related to the assassination and to Lee Harvey Oswald. Because of the controversy surrounding the disposition of Angleton's files, the Review Board believes it prudent to obtain from CIA a clear understanding of the types of files that he maintained and their ultimate disposition. (The Review Board does not

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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. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

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

The Review Board informally requested CIA 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 provided an update on this request in June 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 provided some information informally by CIA with regard to this request that we now believe 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 CIA provides its written response, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-07 Claude Barnes Capehart.

This request is complete.

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

Michelle Combs of the Review Board staff has identified pages from the "Family Jewels" memoranda for inclusion in the JFK Collection. Review Board has received confirmation from CIA that these pages will be processed as assassination records. This request is complete.

CIA-IR-09 George Bush Computer Search.

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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. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

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. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

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 by the Review Board staff at the DO follow-up briefing on April 1, 1997. CIA has not responded has not provided a time frame for a response. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

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 by the Review Board staff. The Review Board staff has marked documents in this file for processing as assassination records. The Review Board has received confirmation that CIA has placed these documents in the review process.

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 is not publicly available in court records, such records *are being requested for review by the Review Board.*

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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. Once we receive this written response, 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 not responded and has not provided a time frame for a response. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

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

The Review Board has for some time been attempting to determine whether CIA has provided 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. Audio surveillance tapes from the period after the assassination have been identified by CIA and the Review Board staff. On numerous occasions, the Review Board has asked CIA 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 has checked for records filed under Richard Bissell's name. Michelle Combs, of 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.

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-18 DO Office.

The Review Board has made oral requests from CIA for information about a particular DO office. Since January 1997, CIA has not responded and has not provided a time frame for a response. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

CIA-IR-19 Computer Searches.

The Review Board has requested that full computer searches be conducted on all of the following people and organizations. CIA should document the results of its searches. Once CIA formally documents its completed searches, the request will be complete. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

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

Name	Results/Comments
9. Paul Garbler	Review Board awaits documentation.
10. Verna Deane Brown	Review Board awaits documentation.
11. George Stanley Brown	Review Board awaits documentation.
12. Howard Guebler	Review Board awaits documentation. HRP will check for files.
13. Gordon Duane Novel	Review Board awaits documentation. HRP will check for files.
14. Ed Butler	Review Board awaits documentation. HRP will check for files.
15. INCA (Information Council of the Americas)	Review Board awaits documentation. HRP will check for files.
16. Permindex	Review Board 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 also 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 the Review Board staff and we have marked them for processing as assassination records. 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. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

CIA-IR-26 Jordan James Pfuntner.

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-27 Security Files for Five Individuals.

The entire Office of Security files for Gordon Novel, Jack Ruby, and Richard Case Nagel and portions of the Office of Security files for Harold Weisberg and Walter Sheridan have been designated assassination records. ARRB has now received confirmation that these records have been put into the review process as assassination records. This request is complete.

CIA-IR-28 McCone Files.

Michelle Combs, of the ARRB staff, has examined the requested files and designated certain records as assassination records. CIA provided confirmation that these records have been put into processing. This request is complete.

CIA-IR-29 Oswald Le Winter.

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This request is complete.

CIA-IR-30 Cherepanov Papers.

On April 2, 1998, Michelle Combs examined the English translation of the Cherepanov Papers. She did not designate any pages as assassination records. This request is complete.

CIA-IR-31 Dulles Calendar.

Michelle Combs has examined the Dulles calendars for January 1959 through November 29, 1961. She designated some pages as assassination records and marked those pages for processing. This request is otherwise complete.

CIA-IR-32 AMWORLD.

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

The CIA has provided the Review Board with some information in response 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 CIA provides a written statement, this request will be complete. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

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

The CIA has provided to the Review Board its written response to this request. 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 (DDP), 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.

The Directorate of Operations has provided indexes to the records of the DDP and specifically to the records of Richard Bissell, Richard Helms, and C. Tracy Barnes. Michelle Combs has marked specific files for review and has designated documents as assassination records. The review of the DDO records is expected to be completed shortly. The CIA should make available the additional files on or before August 7, 1998.

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

On April 2, 1998, Michelle Combs of the ARRB staff reviewed the 201 on this source. She did not designate any assassination records from the reviewed material. As a follow-up, the Review Board has requested access to the 201 of Boris Vladimirovich Zhuravlev, who is also named in the document. The Review Board requests that the records on the possible information on Lee Harvey Oswald mentioned in RIF 104-10151-10206 be located on or before August 7, 1998.

CIA-IR-36 Handling of cables in 1963.

This response is complete.

CIA-IR-37 William Pawley.

The Review Board requests access to review all files on William Pawley and any files on his

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possible connection with Cuban exile groups in the 1962-1963 time frame. The CIA should document its search process. This request must be completed by August 7, 1998.

Conclusion

Please let me know if you have any supplements or corrections to the lists above. We are interested in a prompt resolution to each of the requests. As always, we appreciate your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

Laura Denk
Executive Director

cc: Assassination Records Review Board
Mr. James Oliver
Linda Cipriani, Esq.