

May 11, 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 has been noted in earlier letters, these requests will be incorporated into the Agency's final compliance declaration. As before, 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. As has been noted, all outstanding ARRB requests for additional information, both formal and informal, were scheduled to be completed by April 1, 1998. At the same time, we recognize that some requests, such as CIA-7, CIA-IR-16 and CIA-IR-34 are ongoing and will continue. There may also be additional new requests. We request that the remainder of the requests be completed by June 15, 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.

Formal Requests

CIA-1 Organizational Material.

These materials have been marked for processing as assassination records and a written response has been received from CIA. This request is complete.

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.

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

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.

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, 1997. CIA has provided an oral response and it is our understanding that the reports for 1962-1963 cannot be located. CIA should document its search process. Once a written response is received, this request will be complete.

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

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This request is complete.

CIA-16 Oswald Pre-Assassination Files.

The Oswald Security File is ready 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 has been received by HRP. 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 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

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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.

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.

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

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

CIA-IR-09 George Bush Computer Search.

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-10 IG Reports.

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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.

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 has now received 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. This request is otherwise 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.

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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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 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 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.
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.

Name	Results/Comments
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.

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

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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 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 now examined the requested files and designated certain records as assassination records. Once confirmation has been received that these records have been put into review as assassination records, this request is complete.

CIA-IR-29 Oswald Le Winter.

This request is complete.

CIA-IR-30 Cherepanov Papers.

On April 2, 1998, Michelle Combs examined the English translation of the Cherepanov Papers. No pages were designated 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. Some pages have been designated as assassination records and marked 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 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.

The Review Board has now received a 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.

The additional files requested should be made available as soon as possible.

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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. No documents were designated assassination records. 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 as soon as possible.

CIA-IR-36 Handling of cables in 1963.

CIA provided a written 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.