

VIA HAND DELIVERY

February 20, 1997

Mr. Harold J. Grasman
Special Agent in Charge
Forensic Services Division
U.S. Secret Service
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20223

Re: Forensic Examination of Original Notes of Frank Ragano

Dear Mr. Grasman:

Enclosed are several original notes of Frank Ragano which the Assassination Records Review Board ("Review Board") hereby requests be examined by the Forensic Services Division of the Secret Service to determine, to the extent possible, the date when these notes were made.

Allow me to provide some background for our request: Mr. Ragano is formerly an attorney from Tampa, Florida who has represented and known James Hoffa, Santo Trafficante, and Carlos Marcello, each of whom have been alleged to have some connection to the assassination of President Kennedy. In 1994, Mr. Ragano published his autobiography, entitled *Mob Lawyer*, in which he asserts that these individuals were complicit in the assassination of President Kennedy. We deposed Mr. Ragano earlier this month to determine whether he had contemporaneous notes of meetings he said involved discussions of President Kennedy's assassination. At his deposition, we asked Mr. Ragano when he made the notes. Although we do not have the transcript available yet, Mr. Ragano could not identify with specificity when he prepared the notes. Accordingly, Mr. Ragano has agreed to make available to the Review Board his original notes so that they could be examined further and, if possible, dated.

The notes concern meetings in 1963 and a conversation in 1987. To the extent that the Forensic Services Division can confirm or refute that these notes were made at about those dates, their analysis would be helpful. The Assassination Records Review Board is attempting to identify historical records that relate to the assassination of President Kennedy; to the extent that the enclosed notes are contemporaneous records of discussions that relate to the assassination, they would be of historical value and should be included in the JFK Collection; to the extent the notes were made after-the-fact in

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connection with the writing of a book, they would be of little historical value and should not be included in the JFK Collection. Any help your Division can offer to resolve this issue would be appreciated and would benefit the public's interest in an accurate historical record.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

the Review Board does not want to . establish the dates when they were prepared. his original notes available to the Review Board so that they could be further examined notes with any time within which these notes Thank you for your August 31, 1995, letter regarding the state of the U.S. Customs Service's compliance with the JFK Act. I was especially pleased to learn that the Customs Service has reviewed and approved for transfer to the Archives all assassination records that other agencies referred to U.S. Customs. In addition, thank you for loaning us materials regarding the organizational structure and background of U.S. Customs. The books and charts have been quite helpful.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron
Senior Attorney

cc: Frank Ragano