

December 4, 1995

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Harold:

I am writing in response to your November 13, 1995 letter. I am enclosing a document that cross-references the file numbers that you requested. The list includes the thirteen-digit NARA Record Identification Numbers cross-referenced to the corresponding FBI serial number. If you would find such lists of use, we will be pleased to provide them to you in the future.

We publish only the NARA RIF numbers in the Federal Register for essentially three reasons. First, the RIF numbers are the only numbers that uniquely identify documents. Because the RIF numbers are unique, they are the only numbers that can be used accurately to convey information among the agencies, the National Archives, and the Review Board. People in the research community also may search for documents at the Archives by using the RIF numbers. (We hope that the Archives will have dial-in access to the RIF numbers before too long.) Second, we have found that there is an unacceptable risk of error if the cross-referenced numbers are printed, and it would entail too much staff time to ensure that the cross-referenced numbers are always accurate. Third, publishing in the Federal Register is expensive, and this would add an incremental cost to us.

To assist people such as yourself, we will be pleased to provide a computer-generated cross-referenced list such as I am enclosing. You should be aware, however, that although the FBI serial numbers should be correct, we cannot guarantee that they are necessarily accurate in every case. For most practical purposes, however, you should be able to rely on the FBI numbers.

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Up to this point, in terms of FBI records, the Board has been focusing on review of the Oswald and Ruby files (including HQ and field offices). We expect that in the near future many other files will be opened. In terms of CIA records, the Board initially focused on Mexico City records (including parts of the Lopez Report) and it is now moving through the Oswald 201 file.

Best wishes for the holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

T. Jeremy Gunn

Enclosure