

The number of assassination records in DEA files is undetermined. There was apparently no contemporaneous investigation by DEA predecessors, and the extent of cooperation with other agencies (such as the Secret Service) may be unknowable because of some recent records destruction.

From our file of HSCA correspondence with the DEA, we have thirty-six names which appeared in files reviewed by HSCA staff. We sent the DEA a letter in July which listed thirty-six names (twenty-eight from a DEA letter which listed positive references in DEA files and eight Ruby family siblings) and asked to see all files in which they appeared. In a subsequent meeting we were shown the computer generated results of a new search on the thirty-six names. The results were mixed. Some names which yielded positive file references in 1978, did not yield any references in the most recent search. Our DEA contact could not explain this discrepancy, but promised to work on it. Of the names which yielded positive results, we have only looked at the computer search slips, not the actual files. In effect, we have one standing formal request to the DEA which has not been fulfilled.

We also have an informal request for materials which would help us understand DEA recordskeeping generally.

The DEA has been cooperative generally in that they now understand that they have an obligation under the statute. But this project, which is being handled by an Attorney-advisor in their FOIA division, is by no means a priority to the DEA.