

May 21, 1996

HAND DELIVERED

Brigadier General John W. Mountcastle
Chief of Military History
United States Army Center of Military History
1099 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-2402

Re: Historical Records Related to Operation Big Lift, 1963

Dear General Mountcastle:

With the help of your staff, I recently discovered a document filed at the Center of Military History which meets the definition of assassination-related material as defined by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). The document is the USAREUR annual historical report for 1963. Though this document carries an overall classification of Top Secret, the assassination-relevant material is entirely in Chapter 2, "Exercise Big Lift," and is classified no higher than Secret-NOFORN.

The relevance of this material comes from the fact that a few researchers, including Hollywood director Oliver Stone in his film *JFK*, have alleged a connection between Operation Big Lift and contingency plans for a military coup timed to coincide with the assassination of the president. (For your information, I have attached an extract from the book *JFK: The Documented Screenplay* that specifically includes this allegation and its purported "documentation.")

In accordance with the JFK Records Collection Act, I therefore request that the relevant portion of the document cited above be copied and provided to me so that I can initiate actions to have it declassified and included in the JFK Assassination Collection at the National Archives.

With your permission, I will coordinate with Dr. Bob Wright of your staff to obtain this material.
Thank you for your continuing courtesy and assistance.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Wray
Chief Analyst for Military Records

Enclosure