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## JFK Assassination System Identification Form

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Agency Information

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FROM:

RATLIFF, ROB ROY

TO:

SCOWCROFT, BRENT

TITLE:

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR MAIL INFORMATION

DATE:

10/14/1975

PAGES:

S: 3

SUBJECTS:

**OPERATION MONGOOSE** 

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MEMORANDUM

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No attachments.

MEMORANDUM

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#### THE WHITE HOUSE

OUTSIDE SYSTEM INFORMATION

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WASHINGTON
TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE Attachments

14 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

ROB ROY RATLIFF

SUBJECT:

Justice Department Request for Mail Information

Jeanne Davis transmitted to me a request from the Department of Justice to survey 40 Committee and predecessor group files to determine any information of a list of subjects focused on operations involving mail. She asked that I transmit my findings directly to you.

I assume that Justice is interested in illegal use of the mails. As I understand CIA's admitted activity in this field, it was an intelligence collection operation and therefore would not be subject to review by the 40 Committee or its predecessors. We find no record that mail intercept operations were discussed by the 40 Committee or predecessors; however, there are references to mail operations in Committee records.

Jeanne Davis said Justice wanted material on "any use of mail techniques." These are representative items:

TAB A--Reports which indicate general mailings of propaganda and related material. There is nothing sinister in this--you put a book or pamphlet in an envelope, address it, put on postage and drop it in the mail.

TAB B--Letters were test mailed inside a denied area to see if they come out, or individuals mailed spontaneous letters to CIA-supported enterprises. Again, there is nothing unusual about this--regular use of the mail system.

TAB C -- Special covert operations which make use of the mails, including:

C-1A forged letter mailed	in [		
C-2Mailing of			***************************************
However (see page 5 of 9 May			
may have been inserted into t	he mail syst	em ostensibly as i	having
originated in the denied area.	•	CLASSIFIED BY	Signer
•	60 and 60 mg res 2000		GENERAL DI

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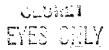
Note that the last item in this group (10 January 1972) refers to "letter-insert mechanisms." I can no elaboration of what this means, but it might represent interest the mail,  C-4-National Intelligence Estimates and other reports of intellimay refer to information, some part of which was gleaned from intercepts. On the basis of protecting sources and methods the would not normally be identified in a document. However if the question were asked at a meeting, the source might be orally it as a mail intercept (or SIGINT or whatever).  C-5-This category represents  The first item show sending letters ostensibly from groups in North Vietnam to othe countries. The second shows  In each of the C-5 cases, operational information was probably from a mail intercept operation which would enable one to
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TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE Attachments

more "hard" information on what was going on in Cuba.

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Mrs. Davis also said that Justice made reference to Walt Rostow's recollection of a general survey of all "intelligence programs country by country" made by the 303 Committee. I assume he means the general beginning-of-a-new-President's-term roundup (similar to the ones given Mr. Nixon and Mr. Ford). We find references to covert action reviews, but these appear to have been oral and we find nothing in writing, and no references to mail operations.

In summary, we have made a review of our files, with special reference to the general index of minutes and the country files deemed most likely to include references to "any use of mail techniques." Representative findings are cited above. We find no record of "illegal" mail operations being a subject of discussion or consideration within the 40 Committee and predecessor organizations (December 1958 to the present). However, there is evidence that the Committee was informed that mail intercept operations were conducted (TAB C-6).

Please advise if any additional material or presentation is desired.

Attachments TABs A-D

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