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DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System
Identification Form

Date: 3/31/201

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10368-10123

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 62C-HQ-1029205-47X1

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : RCMP
FROM : RCMP
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 03/18/1993
PAGES : 2

SUBJECTS :
JFKARCA OF 1992

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 02/11/1999

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS :

DATE: 11-14-2017



Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Security Classification / Designation
Classification / Désignation sécuritaire

321

Your file Votre référence

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Washington, D.C. 20535

Our file Notre référence
PA-790-2

March 18, 1993

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

John F. Kennedy

RE: RCMP/FBI RELATIONS REGARDING ATIP/FOIA

Thank you for your letter of March 3, 1993. I regret absence delayed this response until my return to duty this date.

I will address your query in two aspects. Firstly, while I am unable to confirm whether the original agreements and RCMP/FBI relationships were in fact once deemed top secret and non-disclosable, if they were, it would have been because Security Service then was part of the RCMP. In 1984, our Security Services were separated from the RCMP and became the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and therefore any premise for deeming our relationship top secret has largely disappeared.

Our continuing operational relationship (as opposed to security and intelligence relationship) is today largely a matter of public record and knowledge as I mentioned to Grant Harmon. We do not seek to keep the general relationship secret and it would not be acceptable under Canadian law to refuse to name the source of "in confidence" information, except on a case-by-case basis, where that identification in itself could prejudice law enforcement. This does not in anyway affect our ability to totally protect exchanges of information from the FBI and we continue to totally exempt all FBI communications. When consulted this morning, Assistant Commissioner McCONNELL, the RCMP Director of Enforcement Services, agreed that the relationship is such a logical and expected one given our geographic co-location and membership in the IACP and INTERPOL etc, that we would be embarrassed to acknowledge the absence of an operational relationship if one did not exist.

Notwithstanding the above, I am not proposing any changes to our agreement, I merely felt it would be useful for you to understand the above distinction in our approach to it.

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