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January 6, 1994

Mr. Bryant:

JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS COLLECTION ACT
OF 1992 (THE ACT); PUBLIC LAW (P.L.) 102-526
DECLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

~~Classified "Secret" in its entirety.~~

Attached are copies of: DOJ 11/23/93 memo, FBI 11/4/93 memo, your note to Director Freeh dated 12/14/93, and a letter from Mrs. Morris Childs' attorney dated 12/7/93.

We advised DOJ we intend to release information from the CPUSA investigation, the two principal SOLO assets and other assets, and various technical surveillances; and that at least one document would identify these two SOLO assets. The DOJ memorandum noted these releases would affect the processing of all other CPUSA records in response to FOIA requests; and once the two SOLO assets are publicly identified they can no longer be protected as confidential sources in other CPUSA files, although some of the information may be withheld for other reasons.

DOJ believes it is in the national interest to release the SOLO story, but since Attorney General Bell decided in 1981 that the SOLO operation should remain classified, Attorney General Reno's approval is necessary for the proposed declassification of the SOLO assets. The Attorney General will be advised of the proposed release of other information set out in our 11/4/93 memo, and asked to consider whether any change in classification policy should be publicly announced by her and/or the Director. DOJ requested assurance that Director Freeh has been fully briefed on and concurs with the FBI's proposed release. DOJ will seek AG approval to proceed. Meanwhile the FBI is not to release information set out in our 11/4/93 memo.

On 12/27/93 Unit Chief Ron Klein and SSA Carl S. Valentine met with Gerald Schroeder of DOJ's OIPR to discuss the status of this matter. We came to three conclusions: 1) that no information could be released until the AG has decided whether to declassify information as we suggested; 2) that no response to Mrs. Childs letter be made pending AG decisions on releasing information identifying SOLO assets and claims of Privilege; and 3) that the Director be fully briefed on the expected ramifications of our release.

It is noted that Mr. Gallington mentioned this matter to the Director at a recent Christmas party.

DECLASSIFIED BY: 5668 SLJ/pde
ON: 2/8/99 OFF
Classified by: G-3
Declassify on: OADR
~~SECRET~~

Ray Mislock, Jr.

RM/bam

5-Valentine

~~SECRET~~

December 14, 1993

Director Freeh:

JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS COLLECTION ACT
OF 1992 (THE ACT); PUBLIC LAW (P.L.) 102-526
DECLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

~~Classified "Secret" in its entirety.~~

Under the stringent requirements of P.L. 102-526 we have processed documents which are ready for release.

These documents contain information which reveal that we had investigations and sensitive coverages of the CPUSA headquarters, and foreign establishments such as the Tass News Agency in New York and the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C., including pre-FISA technical coverage on Tass.

Other documents indirectly identify our two principal SOLO assets who acted as liaison and were an integral part of the funding mechanism between the CPUSA and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Both are deceased, but the widow of SOLO asset, Morris Childs, requested by attached letter that we not release any information that reveals the relationship of herself, her husband and brother-in-law with the FBI until six months after her death. A response to the letter is being prepared. Mrs. Childs is writing a book about the SOLO operation. After Morris Childs died, Gus Hall, head of the CPUSA, advised an asset that he had learned that the FBI attended the funeral services, therefore, he knew Morris Childs had worked for the FBI.

No damage to ongoing operations will result from these releases. Minimal damage is done to national security interests.

Every effort will be made to release all information that does not harm national security interests.

62C-HQ-1029205-
The Attorney General is being advised of the above by the Office of Intelligence Policy and Review because pre-FISA electronic surveillances were authorized by previous Attorneys General. These coverages and information from two of the SOLO sources have been the subject of Attorney General claims of Privilege in past legal actions against the FBI.

1 - Mr. F. I. Clarke	1 - Miss N. Gawley	Robert B. Bryant
1 - Mr. W. D. Gow	1 - Ms. Siford/Mrs. Leeper	
1 - Mr. W. E. Baugh	3 - Mr. R. B. Bryant	
1 - Mr. R. Bucknam	(1 - Mr. Mislock; 1 - Mr. Valentine	
1 - Mr. H. Shapiro	Classified by: <u>G-3</u>	
1 - Mr. J. Bucknam	Declassify on: <u>OADR</u>	
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