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June 1977

SUBJECT: Latin America Division/JFK Task Force How
Research was Conducted

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1993
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

1. The LA Division Task Force to investigate records in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy was formally organized in mid-October 1976. Its purpose, basically, was to research all Agency operations conducted against Cuba from 1 January 1960 to 1 January 1965 (concentrating on the period up to 22 November 1963) for any evidence that such operations might have provoked the Government of Cuba to take executive action against President Kennedy. Researchers were also alert to activities seemingly directed against the U.S./CIA.

2. Reference to material for this research was obtained from the LAD Registry, the Cuba Desk machine runs, and a special comprehensive file listing prepared for this purpose by ISS (Information Services Staff). It was originally thought that material pertinent to the search would number approximately 900 operational folders, plus related 201 dossiers. It was later determined, however, that a thorough review should include additional operational and subjective files which brought the total to well over two thousand files. In view of the date of the material, much of it, both operational

and subjective, has been retired to Archives at Warrenton, Virginia. The remainder is held at Headquarters in IP/Files or IP/Archives. All 201 dossiers are retained at Headquarters. This material is easily retrievable through the use of specific job numbers and file reference numbers recorded and retained in the LAD/JFK Task Force files (too numerous to cite herein.)

3. Following is a breakdown of the types and numbers of files reviewed, criteria employed in the research, the findings, and organization of the material:

a. Types and Number of Files Reviewed:

1. Operational	1,729	
(601 with findings and		
1,128 with no findings)		
2. Subjective	547	
(186 with findings and		
361 with no findings)		
3. Cuba Policy Files	101	
4. C/WHD Chrono Files (TFW Chronos)	37	(13 -49)
5. Official 201 dossiers	<u>100</u>	plus
TOTAL	2,514	

b. Criteria Used in the Research:

As a guide the research group followed some 33 Terms of Reference provided by the Deputy IG, which were compiled on the basis of issues raised in Book V,

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- 3 -

of the Senate Select Committee Final Report on the Assassination. (Book V, and a 23 May 1967 Memorandum for the Record by the Inspector General on Plots to Assassinate Fidel Castro, were required reading for the researchers.) In addition to the Terms of Reference, the group remained alert to other items of interest brought to its attention by the IG staff, on an ad hoc basis. A name trace was always run, and/or 201 dossier, if available, reviewed, on any individual allegedly involved in an assassination plot against President Kennedy or Fidel Castro. This task was made somewhat easier as the result of a memorandum prepared by the Cuba Desk, in August 1975, based on traces of the names in the Black Book that Fidel Castro passed to George McGovern which dealt with individuals allegedly involved in assassination attempts against Castro.

c. Findings and Organization of the Findings:

Each researcher submitted a draft paper noting the Subject of the folder (s) reviewed, a brief description of the activity, and a copy of the document (s) (findings) which contained information believed to be pertinent to the review. Also included were Job numbers, Official File numbers, inclusive dates of material researched, and number of volumes reviewed. Beginning in January 1977, at the request of the IG Staff, the researchers also began noting FBI and/or other government agencies knowledge of

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- 4 -

information. Separate, finished, memoranda were prepared, on the basis of these data, including the heading Findings. This heading lists the specific document number (s) and other pertinent data, and a few lines providing the gist of the document (s) for purpose of easy and quick reference. These memoranda, with a copy of the document (s) attached, are filed in alphabetical order, by project and subject, in hard-back green folders as part of the official LAD/JFK Task Force files under the official classification number 019-604-001 (Volumes XI through XX). Also included in the records are two folders (Volumes IX and X) containing 1,439 draft memoranda with negative findings.

4. Appended are the following:

- a) Report (125 pages) entitled Chronology of Findings, giving gist of the findings, in alphabetical order under the project or subject heading; with Top Secret UMBRA Annex (14 pages).
- b) List of Task Force participants and their functions;
- c) Outline of the complete LAD/JFK Task Force files and description of their contents.