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ASST. COUNSEL HSCA
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OLC 77-1971
16 May 1977

Ind - Brooten

H S C A
77-0041

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Mr. Kenneth Brooten, Former Assistant Counsel, House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA)

1. On 11 May 1977, the Office of Legislative Counsel received a telephone call from the office of Representative Henry Gonzalez (D., Texas) asking that this office contact Mr. Brooten, who is now practicing law in Florida. It was stated that he had information of interest about the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The undersigned responded to this request but was unable to reach Mr. Brooten until this date, since he was out of town.

2. I reached Mr. Brooten in his office in Florida and identified myself to him as representing the Office of Legislative Counsel of the CIA. I reminded him of the last time we had met in December 1976 when he was still a member of the HSCA staff. He said that he recalled that meeting. Mr. Brooten stated that he had been receiving "dribbles of information", which he termed as third hand and hearsay, indicating to him that someone who purported to represent CIA was making general inquiries about the modus operandi of Mr. Richard A. Sprague, the former Chief Counsel of the HSCA. When I learned the intent of his call, I asked Mr. Brooten for his permission to have my secretary monitor the conversation so that we could have an accurate transcript. He agreed to this. The purpose of his contacting us was to offer his views on how Sprague and his people had operated in the past and would operate in the future. I declined his offer. When I mentioned that Mr. Sprague was no longer with the Committee, Brooten answered most emphatically by saying Sprague "hired most of the people on that staff except me." I responded that the HSCA was George Cary's and my account and that I knew nothing about any such inquiries nor would I even know why such questions would be asked.

3. We ended the conversation on a pleasant note and I tried to leave the impression with him that we would not be contacting him further on this matter.

Douglas T. Cummins
Chief, Coordination and Review Staff
Office of Legislative Counsel

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