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ATTN : Chief, Domestic Collection Division (DIRECT)
Deputy Chief of Operations (Ed Watts) w/attach.
INFO : Office of General Counsel (John Greaney) w/attach.
Chief, Dallas Field Office
(New Orleans Resident Office)

Request for Guidance in Responding to News Media Inquiries

1. As is apparent in the attached copy of a New Orleans magazine article, former District Attorney Jim Garrison and his Kennedy assassination theories are enjoying a revival of interest by local news media. It is possible that the New Orleans R.O. may be contacted by newsmen for comments on Garrison's charges, especially in light of the recent disclosures of facts which were not made available to the Warren Commission. In the absence of more specific Headquarters guidance, we intend to respond to any such inquiries by saying that Mr. Garrison's charges of CIA involvement in the Kennedy assassination were false when he first made them in 1966, and they are still absurd today, and we prefer not to comment further. You may be able to suggest a better response than that, and if so we hope you will share your thoughts with us.

2. We are somewhat more concerned about how we should respond to any direct questions concerning the Agency's relationship with Clay Shaw, who as you know was unsuccessfully prosecuted by Garrison for conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy. Shaw, whom Garrison refers to as a CIA employee and who died about two years ago, was an active contact of Hunter Leake's during the period 1943-1956, presumably as a routine source of FPI. Despite the 30 some-odd contacts recorded on Shaw's contact card, however, his local file contains only three pieces of innocuous correspondence.

3. Since we cannot determine the nature of DCD's relationship with Shaw from our files, we would appreciate your summarizing it for us. We would also, of course, welcome your guidance in responding to any news media questions about our relations with Shaw, should they materialize.

J. WALTON MOORE

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[Pitcock] /jrs

Attach. as stated

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