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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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(3) Maheu involvement in CIA domestic activities

In 1954 Maheu was recruited by the CIA for use by the CIA's Office of Security for "extremely sensitive cases." He was paid \$500 per month on the condition that he move into his own private office (he had previously shared office space with Carmine Bellino -- associated in the past with illegal wiretapping) and be "on call" by the Office of Security for sensitive assignments. The CIA documents do not indicate how long a period Maheu was on the \$500 per month retainer, but it would appear that this retainer was only for the first year or two, i.e. 1954-55. It was at this time that Maheu was first starting out in the investigative area and in fact it was in the year 1954 that Maheu first formed his private investigations company of Robert A. Maheu Associates. Through the previous testimony of CIA official O'Connell we know that Maheu was used for wiretapping and surreptitious entries. O'Connell recalls one specific incident of Maheu entering **a student's apartment** in Washington, D. C. for the CIA. Maheu can provide detailed testimony on exactly what he did for the CIA, how often and where.

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(a) Wiretapping/Surveillance of Aristotle Onassis

In July of 1954 Maheu was hired by British shipping interests sponsored by Stavros Niarchos. During his employment for Niarchos Maheu conducted a surveillance of Aristotle Onassis in New York City. CIA documents indicate that Maheu stated that he had technical coverage (wiretap) of Onassis' New York apartment and that he used one of his employees, John Frank, to perform electronic surveillance. The CIA documents also indicate that Maheu hired a technician by the name of "Leon" to perform this surveillance and that the CIA "may have" been given some of the information received by Maheu from this technical coverage. Maheu can provide an explanation for exactly what he did and what connection he had with the Agency in this venture against Aristotle Onassis.

(b) Procuring Females and Producing Films of Foreign Leaders for the CIA

Maheu was used by the CIA in 1957, 1958, and 1959 on three different projects involving leaders of foreign countries, i.e. heads of state. The first such project was entitled "Project Happy Days" and occurred in 1957. In this project Maheu was requested by the CIA to rent a movie studio in California and make up an actor to look like a foreign

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~~head of state. Maheu was to produce a film with the actor and an actress simulating an intimate relationship.~~

The CIA then, through its Technical Division, provided a backdrop for the film, which would make the completed film appear to be a film of the foreign leader having an affair in Russia. The Agency was then to distribute the film in the leader's country to embarrass him and to make him angry at the Soviets. CIA documents indicate that while the film was completed and sent to the Office of Security of the CIA, it was never distributed abroad. The second project which the Agency asked Maheu to complete was entitled "Project HARPSTAR." In this 1958 project, Maheu was requested to and did obtain a woman to send overseas to try and "cultivate" the same foreign leader about which the film was made. The woman was apparently sent overseas but it is unclear exactly what she did with regard to the foreign leader. Maheu should be able to provide the details. Maheu was involved with the CIA in still a third project which was entitled "Project NORFOLK." In this project, Maheu was asked to and did provide "female companionship" in June of 1959 for foreign leader #2 (this head of state of a foreign country is different from the foreign leader heretofore referred to in Projects Happy Days and HARPSTAR). Maheu

introduced this woman, who was described as a "part-time actress" and she was instructed that the CIA "wanted her to go to bed" with the foreign leader. The CIA rented a house in Long Island for the female and the leader to stay at, and they did stay there during the month of June 1959. The CIA documents also reveal that mail sent between the female and the leader was opened and that they were otherwise surveilled! Maheu may explain upon whose authority this was done and to what extent the CIA was involved.

Maheu will be able to testify about the exact instructions he received and the persons he dealt with at the CIA in these three projects which were mounted against leaders of foreign countries. Maheu may also be able to provide any hearsay knowledge that he might have about the use of the CIA's Technical Services Division for other such projects or programs. Note: TSD also produced the poison pills for Castro and, allegedly, poison virus for Lumumba.

(c) Maheu's Provision of Commercial Cover Facilities for CIA Agents

Maheu provided the CIA with (1) use of Maheu's office as a live address for cover, (2) assistance in obtaining safehouses, (3) use of Maheu to provide cover employment for CIA personnel both in the United States and abroad.

In this regard, CIA documents establish that Maheu provided cover for a CIA employee in Washington, D. C. (who was ostensibly employed in Maheu's Washington office) from September 1964 to June 1966. It is unknown exactly what this employee did in the United States. Additionally, CIA documents establish that Maheu provided cover for a CIA employee in Ecuador from August 1968 to December 1970. Again, it is unknown exactly what this Agency employee did in that country. Maheu should know details.

(d) Miscellaneous Activities of Maheu for CIA

International Labor -- CIA documents seem to indicate that Maheu was requested to provide the CIA with an entree into the international labor field. The documents reference Maheu's involvement with David J. MacDonald, former President of the United Steel Workers, state that information was passed from CIA Commercial Cover Division employees to Maheu. The details and import of this are unknown at the present time, and, of course, Maheu should be able to elaborate on what, if anything, was involved in this.

Howard Hughes Organization -- Much of the contact between Maheu and the CIA occurred when Maheu was either attempting to line up Hughes as a major client or actually