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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

Historical Data:

McManus retired in May 1970 after some 20 plus years of covert/ clandestine agency service. In the early 1950s he headed up the CIA's European [redacted]

[redacted] He was subsequently appointed [redacted] Canadian Station Chief and later Director of the Cover Staff.

In mid-December 1961, Helms asked McManus to apply his European expertise to the Agency's Cuban Defector Interrogation Center. McManus headed for Florida on Christmas Day and spent the following week at the Opa Locha Center. He reported directly to Helms on his findings, conclusions, and suggestions in a memorandum dated January 3, 1962.* McManus recalls that the "center" was then inoperative; he called for an immediate operational restructuring. McManus stressed the importance of the positive intelligence that the Center could, and indeed eventually did provide at the time of the Missile Crisis.

It was not until early January 1962 that Helms formally brought McManus "on board" as his assistant for "Cuban activities. The initial weeks were dedicated to ensuring that the revitalized Center got off the ground; subsequent

*This afternoon I requested a copy of McManus' January 3 memorandum.

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26-6-94 [signature]