

MHFNO: 97-7145484 SENSIND: SECRET PAGE: 1

/ / SECRET FRP: STAFF

CONF: C/OCC INFO: DC/OCC, LA/FIG, LA/FIGCC, LIMITED, MDSX, OCDORECORD, ODPD, FILE, C/LA/RB5, DC/LA/RB5 (3/P)

97 7145484 ASP PAGE 001 TOT: 052149Z MAR 97 DIRECTOR 256618

SECRET STAFF 052149Z DIRECTOR 256618 TO: PRIORITY FROM: LIMITED DISSEM CHIEF/OCC INFO LA/FIGCC SLUGS: WNINTEL SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR STATION ASSISTANCE

REF: NONE.

TEXT:

- 1. ACTION REQUIRED: REQUEST STATION CONTACT FORMER EMPLOYEE WHO RETIRED UNDER COVER AND RESIDES IN COSTA RICA.
* 2. IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE PRESIDENT <JFK ASSASSINATION> RECORDS COLLECTION ACT OF 1992, HQS REQUESTS STATION'S ASSISTANCE IN DELIVERING THE INFORMATION BELOW TO IDEN.

-----TEAR LINE-----

4 MARCH 1997

DEAR COLLEAGUE:

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOUR NAME APPEARS IN DOCUMENTS THAT ARE BEING REVIEWED FOR RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC UNDER PUBLIC LAW 102-526 OF 26 OCTOBER 1992, THE PRESIDENT <JOHN>F. <KENNEDY ASSASSINATION> RECORDS COLLECTION ACT OF 1992. THIS MANDATES THE PUBLIC RELEASE OF ALL INFORMATION IN THESE DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING YOUR NAME WHERE IT APPEARS, UNLESS THE ORIGINATING AGENCY CAN PROVE BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE TO A PRESIDENTIALLY-APPOINTED BOARD THAT ONE OR MORE LIMITED EXCEPTIONS APPLY. EVEN THEN, THE RELEASE OF THE INFORMATION MAY ONLY BE POSTPONED FOR NO MORE THAN 25 YEARS. THOSE EXCEPTIONS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE ACT FOLLOW. THE ACT IS VERY PRO-RELEASE AND REQUIRES A BALANCING OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

UNDER THE BOARD'S INTERPRETATION OF THE ACT, YOUR NAME CANNOT BE REDACTED FROM THE DOCUMENTS TO BE RELEASED UNLESS WE CAN PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT THIS RELEASE WOULD POSE A CREDIBLE THREAT TO YOU PERSONALLY, YOUR FAMILY, OR ANY SENSITIVE ACTIVITY OR PERSON(S) YOU MAY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH IN THE PAST. IF YOU

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BELIEVE THAT ANY OF THESE CONCERNS WOULD BE RAISED FROM THE PUBLIC
RELEASE OF YOUR NAME, PLEASE CONTACT BETH MILLS AT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE PERTINENT DETAILS SO THAT A
COMPELLING CASE CAN BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD. (SEE FOLLOWING
GROUNDS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OR RECORDS.) IF THE
BOARD ORDERS THE RELEASE OF YOUR NAME, ITS RULING CAN BE REVERSED
ONLY BY THE PRESIDENT. BECAUSE THE BOARD MUST COVER HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS OF DOCUMENTS IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS, IT WILL BE
CONSIDERING DOCUMENTS AT AN ACCELERATING PACE AND WE CANNOT
PROJECT WHEN IT MAY REVIEW A DOCUMENT CONTAINING YOUR NAME.
THEREFORE, PLEASE CONTACT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF APPROPRIATE.

SINCERELY,
(SIGNED BETH MILLS)

FOLLOWS ARE THE GROUNDS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF
RECORDS:

*DISCLOSURE OF <ASSASSINATION> RECORDS OR PARTICULAR INFORMATION IN
* <ASSASSINATION> RECORDS TO THE PUBLIC MAY BE POSTPONED SUBJECT TO
THE LIMITATIONS OF THIS ACT IF THERE IS CLEAR AND CONVINCING
EVIDENCE THAT--

(1) THE THREAT TO THE MILITARY DEFENSE, INTELLIGENCE
OPERATIONS, OR CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES
*POSED BY THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE <ASSASSINATION> IS OF SUCH
GRAVITY THAT IT OUTWEIGHS THE PUBLIC INTEREST, AND SUCH PUBLIC
DISCLOSURE WOULD REVEAL--

(A) AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT WHOSE IDENTITY CURRENTLY REQUIRES
PROTECTION

(B) AN INTELLIGENCE SOURCE OR METHOD WHICH IS CURRENTLY
UTILIZED,
BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND WHICH HAS NOT BEEN
OFFICIALLY
DISCLOSED, THE DISCLOSURE OF WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH THE
CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES; OR

(C) ANY OTHER MATTER CURRENTLY RELATING TO THE MILITARY
DEFENSE,
INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS OR CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF
THE
UNITED STATES, THE DISCLOSURE OF WHICH WOULD DEMONSTRABLY
IMPAIR
THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

* (2) THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE <ASSASSINATION> RECORD WOULD
REVEAL THE NAME OR IDENTITY OF A LIVING PERSON WHO PROVIDED
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO THE UNITED STATES AND WOULD POSE A
SUBSTANTIAL RISK TO THAT PERSON;

* (3) THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE <ASSASSINATION> RECORD COULD
REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO CONSTITUTE AN UNWARRANTED INVASION OF

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 PERSONAL PRIVACY, AND THAT INVASION OF PRIVACY IS SO SUBSTANTIAL
 THAT IT OUTWEIGHS THE PUBLIC INTEREST;

* (4) THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE<ASSASSINATION>RECORD WOULD
 COMPROMISE THE EXISTENCE OF AN UNDERSTANDING OF CONFIDENTIALITY
 CURRENTLY REQUIRING PROTECTION BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT AGENT AND A
 COOPERATING INDIVIDUAL OR A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT, AND PUBLIC
 DISCLOSURE WOULD BE SO HARMFUL THAT IT OUTWEIGHS THE PUBLIC
 INTEREST; OR

* (5) THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE<ASSASSINATION>RECORD WOULD
 REVEAL A SECURITY OR PROTECTIVE PROCEDURE CURRENTLY UTILIZED, OR
 REASONABLY EXPECTED TO BE UTILIZED, BY THE SECRET SERVICE OR
 ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING GOVERNMENT
 OFFICIALS, AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE WOULD BE SO HARMFUL THAT IT
 OUTWEIGHS THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

-----TEAR

LINE-----

3. IF STATION WANTS, YOU MAY OFFER IDEN THE POSSIBILITY OF
 COMMUNICATING WITH HEADQUARTERS VIA CABLE TRAFFIC RATHER THAN BY
 TELEPHONE OR LETTER. IN MANY CASES THE RESPONSE CONTAINS
 SENSITIVE IF NOT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. ALL PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS
 OF THIS LETTER HAVE HAD CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS; FOLLOWING ARE
 ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

*A. WHY IS MY NAME IN THE<JFK ASSASSINATION>RECORDS?
 WE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY BUT YOUR NAME MAY HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN A
 CABLE OR DOCUMENT, OR YOU MAY HAVE COORDINATED OR SIGNED A CABLE
 *OR DOCUMENT WITH REFERENCE TO THE<ASSASSINATION.>

B. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
 IT MEANS YOUR NAME WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC RELEASE OF ALL
 *DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE<ASSASSINATION.> THE DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN
 RELEASED TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
 (NARA) WITH THE NAME REMOVED AND IF WE DO NOT MAKE A COMPELLING
 CASE THE PRESIDENTIAL BOARD WILL RELEASE NEW VERSIONS OF THE
 DOCUMENTS WITH THE NAMES. THE FIRST REVIEW OF NAMES WILL BE THIS
 SUMMER AND IT WILL CONTINUE AS DOCUMENTS ARE REVIEWED. ONCE THE
 BOARD RULES THE DOCUMENTS IN QUESTION MUST BE RELEASED IN 30 DAYS.

C. WHAT EXACTLY DOES "RELEASE" MEAN?
 IT MEANS THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE DOCUMENT VIA
 NARA. THERE ARE PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHERS WAITING FOR ACCESS TO
 THE MATERIAL SO THAT THEY CAN RESEARCH THE VARIOUS CONSPIRACY
 THEORIES. WE KNOW OF SOME ORGANIZATIONS THAT WILL MOST LIKELY PUT
 THE INFORMATION IN COMPUTER SYSTEMS SO IT CAN BE EASILY SEARCHED.

D. WHAT IF I DON'T WANT MY NAME RELEASED?
 YOU AND WE WILL HAVE TO CONVINCING THE PRESIDENTIALLY APPOINTED
 REVIEW BOARD THAT YOUR SITUATION MEETS THE CRITERIA PROVIDED IN
 THE GROUNDS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS. (TO
 BE ABSOLUTELY FRANK, THIS IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DO AND THE
 VERY FEW CASES WHICH WE HAVE WON HAVE BEEN BASED ON VERY SPECIFIC

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AND COMPELLING REASONS.)

E. WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

IF RELEASE OF YOUR NAME IS NOT A PROBLEM, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING. IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME RELEASED, YOU NEED TO ADVISE US OF THAT FACT AND EXPLAIN IN DETAIL WHY RELEASE WOULD BE HARMFUL TO YOU AND NATIONAL SECURITY. WE HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST RELEASE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE COVER MECHANISM WITHOUT SUCCESS TO DATE, AND WE WILL CONTINUE THE EFFORT. THE BOARD HAS NOT BEEN AND IS NOT LIKELY TO BECOME SYMPATHETIC TO A PRINCIPLE BASED ARGUMENT.

F. IF MY NAME IS RELEASED, WHAT ABOUT MY COVER STATUS?

THE IMPACT OF THE RELEASE OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF YOUR TRUE NAME AND THE AGENCY WILL HAVE TO BE LOOKED AT CAREFULLY TO DETERMINE THE VIABILITY OF CONTINUED COVER PROTECTION.

FILE: NONE. CL BY: 2224018, CL REASON: 1.5(C), DECL ON: X1, DRV FROM: HUM 4-82.

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END OF MESSAGE

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