

☐ UNCLASSIFIED

☐ INTERNAL
USE ONLY

☐ CONFIDENTIAL

☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Proposed Letters to Potential Agency Witnesses

12

FROM:

S. D. Breckinridge

EXTENSION

1046

NO.

OLC-78-5105

DATE

21 August 1978

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. OGC

8/23/78

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

2. DDCI

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1993
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM



20439

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18 August 1978

OGC 78-5511
8-22-78

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MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : S.D. Breckinridge
SUBJECT : Proposed Letters to Potential Agency
Witnesses

1. Action Requested: That you review the attached draft letters to present and former Agency employees for use in the near future.

2. Background: The question of preparing a notice to former employees about their non-authorization to testify on classified matters at public hearings had been considered earlier. Attached are draft letters prepared by the Office of the General Counsel.

3. My only problem with the letters is the last sentence in the next to last paragraph in each of them. I believe it desirable that the statement to the effect that the Agency will intercede in behalf of the employee be replaced by a statement that you or the Director, personally, will intercede in their behalf if necessary.

4. Recommendation: That the attached letters be reviewed for approval in the event that the decision is taken to send them to potential witnesses. Your particular attention to the question of intercession, as noted above, is requested.


S.D. Breckinridge

Attachments (A&B)

APPROVED: 
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: 
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: _____

EX-EMPLOYEE

CIA HISTORICAL-REVIEW PROGRAM

Dear _____,

It is the Agency's understanding that you may have been contacted by representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) in conjunction with the Committee's investigation into the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As part of the Agency's effort to be fully responsive to the Committee's investigation, you were authorized to disclose classified information to Committee representatives. This was possible because of arrangements worked out between the Agency and the Committee whereby the Committee would obtain this information in secure surroundings and handle it properly once it was acquired.

The Committee has now begun its scheduled public hearings in conjunction with the investigation. These hearings are expected to continue over the next several months. The Agency, of course, has no way of knowing whether you will be called to appear during these public hearings.

You are hereby advised that the Agency's agreement with the Committee under which you have been authorized to disclose classified information to Committee representatives does not extend to public circumstances. Consequently, you are not authorized to disclose classified information during any public hearing in which you may be called to appear.

If you are called to appear in these hearings, and if you are asked a question which would require that you disclose classified information, you are entitled to point out this fact to the Committee and indicate that you are not authorized to reveal classified information in public circumstances. You should also indicate to the Committee that you are quite prepared to answer the question in an executive session, and you may request that the Committee convene such a session to hear your response.

If the Committee were to insist upon your testimony at this point, you are entitled to request that the Committee grant you an opportunity to confer with the Director of Central Intelligence before answering the question.

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It is my opinion that the Committee would not continue to insist in the face of these responses from you. However, were it to do so, you are hereby reminded that you are not authorized to make public disclosure of classified information in these or any other public circumstances. You have my assurance that this Agency will intercede in support of your position in the event the Committee were to continue to demand classified testimony of you in a public session.

Of course, the Agency's ability to support your position, if that were to become necessary, depends upon our being aware that you are being called to testify. Therefore, if you are notified that you are to appear before the Committee in these public hearings, please notify the Agency of this fact promptly. You may do so by making a collect telephone call to the Agency at (703) 351-6161. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please indicate that fact when you call and arrangements will be made for an appropriate Agency officer to return your call.

Yours truly,

PRESENT EMPLOYEE

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Dear _____,

This letter concerns your contact with the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) and its staff members. You, of course, have been contacted by representatives of the Committee, in conjunction with its investigation into the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As part of the Agency's effort to be fully responsive to the Committee's investigation, you were authorized to disclose classified information to Committee representatives. This was possible because of arrangements worked out between the Agency and the Committee whereby the Committee would obtain this information in secure surroundings and handle it properly once it was acquired.

The Committee has now begun its scheduled public hearings in conjunction with the investigation. These hearings are expected to continue over the next several months. The Agency, of course, has no way of knowing whether you will be called to appear during these public hearings.

You are hereby advised that the Agency's agreement with the Committee under which you have been authorized to disclose classified information to Committee representatives does not extend to public circumstances. Consequently, you are not authorized to disclose classified information during any public hearing in which you may be called to appear.

If you are called to appear in these hearings, and if you are asked a question which would require that you disclose classified information, you are entitled to point out this fact to the Committee and indicate that you are not authorized to reveal classified information in public circumstances. You should also indicate to the Committee that you are quite prepared to answer the question in an executive session, and you may request that the Committee convene such a session to hear your response.

If the Committee were to insist upon your testimony at this point, you are entitled to request that the Committee grant you an opportunity to confer with the Director of Central Intelligence before answering the question.

It is my opinion that the Committee would not continue to insist in the face of these responses from you. However, were it to do so, you are hereby directed not to reveal any classified information during a public hearing conducted by the Committee. You have my assurance that the Agency will act promptly to intercede in support of your position, in the event the Committee were to continue to demand classified testimony of you in a public session.

If you are notified that you are to appear before the Committee in these public hearings, you are to inform the Agency of this fact promptly. Please do so by making that information available to your immediate supervisor. If you have questions concerning this letter, please make that fact known to your supervisor and arrangements will be made for answering your questions.

Yours truly,