

MHENO: 98-0480597

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STAFF

ACTION: [redacted] (021) INFO: [redacted]

[redacted] LIMITED, MDSX, ODPD, [redacted] FILE, [redacted]
[redacted] (7/W)

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IN 0480597

TOR: 091712Z FEB 98

[redacted] 17502

SECRET 091717Z FEB 98 STAFF

CITE [redacted] 17502

TO: IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR.

FOR: LIMITED DISSEM IMS/ESG INFO DO/IRO, CHIEF/EUR, DC/EUR,
CHIEF/LA, LA/FIG, LA/FIGSC, CIC/LA, EUR/SG, CIC/EUR, EUR/SGF,
C/CE/R/XO

SLUGS: WNINTEL

*SUBJECT: <JFK ASSASSINATION>RECORDS REVIEW BOARD (ARRB): CONTINUED
PROTECTION OF COVER

REF: DIRECTOR 674771 98 0430861

TEXT:

COMBINE: COMPLETE

1. ACTION REQUIRED: PLEASE ADVISE IF WE CAN BE OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE STATION RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED REF:

A. IF THE [redacted] WOULD THIS DISCLOSURE LEAD TO CLOSER EMBASSY SCRUTINY OF OTHERWISE INTERFERE WITH OPERATIONS?

WERE THE ARRB RELEASES TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE USE BY [redacted] THIS MIGHT CALL FOR FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES BY OUR UNILATERAL FACTORS: [redacted] BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING

[Large redacted area]

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IN WHICH [REDACTED] WERE REMOVED [REDACTED] WAS DRIVEN IN
LARGE MEASURE BY AN UNSCRUPULOUS POLITICIAN LOOKING FOR HEADLINES.

[REDACTED]

B. OTHERWISE IS THE CIA UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE PRESENCE, OR MORE FULLY DECLARE PRESENCE, OR UNDERTAKE NO UNDECLARED ACTIVITIES? DESCRIBE PRESENCE. DESCRIBE THOSE ACTIVITIES TO RESTRICT THE CIA (E.G. SERVICE TO SERVICE, LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES, OPPOSITION POLITICAL INITIATIVES, AND MEDIA ACTIVITIES.)

TO DATE, THE [REDACTED] HAVE NOT DEMANDED THE IDENTITIES [REDACTED]; HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY DUE TO OUR EXPECTATION THAT [REDACTED] MAY DECIDE TO MIRROR ACTIONS OF OTHER [REDACTED] WISHING TO RESTRICT CIA [REDACTED]. ARRB DISCLOSURES WOULD SERVE AS A POSSIBLE CATALYST FOR FORCING THIS ISSUE [REDACTED]

C. DESCRIBE SOME PARTICULAR ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD BE IMPERILED?

[REDACTED]

D. ARE THERE NEW INITIATIVES WITH [REDACTED] WHICH COULD BE IMPERILED? DESCRIBE.

[REDACTED]

E. IS CIA [REDACTED] INHERENTLY SENSITIVE BECAUSE OF HOSTILE POPULATION ELEMENTS OR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES?

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[REDACTED]

F. IS THERE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTILE USE (E.G. RUSSIAN OR CUBAN) TO DISCREDIT US EMBASSY AS A "NEST OF SPIES" OR SIMILAR?

THIS IS A POSSIBILITY, BUT WE WOULD EXPECT THAT ANY HOSTILE EXPLOITATION WOULD BE SEEN IN PRESS PLACEMENT/PROPAGANDA RE A "NEST OF SPIES" VICE A DIPLOMATIC PROTEST. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THAT SUCH PRESS COVERAGE, IF UNSUBSTANTIATED, WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR [REDACTED] GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS. IF SUCH PRESS EXPLOITATION BY HOSTILE SERVICES DREW ON SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF [REDACTED] IT COULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT OUR ABILITY TO SUSTAIN SOME UNILATERAL ACTIVITY DUE TO A POSSIBLE INCREASE OF [REDACTED] SCRUTINY OF OUR OFFICERS (SEE BELOW).

G. HAVE THERE BEEN PAST IMBROGLIOS OVER CIA PRESENCE OR ACTIVITIES THAT THIS RELEASE COULD RESURRECT?

[REDACTED]

H. HAVE OFFICIAL USG RELEASES SUCH AS FOIA EVER APPEARED IN THE LOCAL MEDIA [REDACTED]

CURRENT STATION PERSONNEL HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE RECENT PAST. WE DEFER TO HQS FOR ANY ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND [REDACTED]

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3. ~~PLEASE ADVISE IF~~ WE CAN PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND.

4. FILE: NONE. DECL ON: CL REASON: CL BY: 0707476

DRV

END OF MESSAGE

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