

14 May 1996

Barry -

Ref the ARRB staff request for information pertaining to Project OKENCHANT. (U)

In the attached "Enclosure 21," the cryptonym is mentioned in paragraph 11, as it pertains to one J. Monroe Sullivan in relation to Clay Shaw. For the staff's background use only, OKENCHANT was an indicator used by Central Cover Staff and the Office of Security with a program for clearing attorneys and "Cover for Action" providers (businesses, etc.) with access to classified material. (S)

The size of the project file is approximately three to 4,000 classified documents, 6 cubic feet, with dates ranging Dec 74 - Nov 91. (C)

Ellie

CL BY: 611637
Cl Reason: 1.5(c)
DECL ON: X1
DRV FM: AHB 70-9 MULTIPLE

Enclosure 21

SUBJECT: Clay L. SHAW (201-213493)

1. Subject was born on 17 March 1913 in New Orleans, Louisiana.
2. Standard background information on Subject (parents, marital status, records of education and employment, etc.) is lacking because SHAW was a contact of the Domestic Contact Service.
3. Traces on Subject have been run in RID/Main Index, the Index of the Office of Security and the Central Cover Staff. The first showed only a 1951 FBI interview with SHAW about a former employee of the New Orleans International Trade Mart. The second showed that CI/Contacts Division had requested a name trace about 1949 and that the check of FBI records then conducted was negative. Central Cover Staff had no record.
4. Some of the OO-S reports based on SHAW's reporting are on hand. They are the following. (It is noted that the source description identifies the source by job title.)
 - a. OO-S 47952, 25 March 1952, concerns a letter written to the public relations director of the International Trade Mart by one Dr. Justin SCHALLER, a trade consultant to the Donn Government. The letter is a follow-up of discussions held in New Orleans during December 1951. The letter said that Soviet production and export trade were being advertised and

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

in various downtown New Orleans restaurants, meetings were exchanged. The last such casual encounter was just before SHAW's retirement in 1965.

9. On 7 March 1967 Pravda published an article called "Clay Shaw of the CIA" datelined Rome, 6 March 1967, written by V. YERMANOV. The article charged that CIA made use of the services of Clay SHAW for CIA's own interests in Italy. The Pravda piece notes that the DA in New Orleans is accusing SHAW of participation in the assassination conspiracy. It says SHAW spent "some years" in Rome as a World Trade Center leader. It claims that the Center was a cover for financing anti-Communist activity. CIA gave directives to SHAW. The World Trade Center was a branch of "Permindex" (sic), "which the newspapers in Switzerland openly accused of 'criminal operations'...." (Comments: It appears that all of the Pravda charges are untrue, except that there was a CIA-SHAW relationship. So far as is known, SHAW was never asked to use his relationship with the World Trade Center for clandestine purposes and, in fact, he has not been in Italy.)

10. Memorandum from C/SUR/I to C/CI/R & A, 8 March 1967 subject: Italian Aspects of the Clay Shaw Affair. The Corriere della Sera of 5 March 1967 has an article about SHAW, the assassination, and the World Trade Center. Contains no relevant information.

11. A memorandum marked only for file, 16 March 1967, signed M.D. Stevens, says that J. Monroe CULLIVAN, #260207, was granted a covert security approval on 10 December 1962 so that he could be used in Project OXERCHANT. SHAW has #402097-A.

12. Memorandum from C/SUR/I to C/CI/R & A, 24 March 1967, Subject: "Trace Results on Persons Connected with Centro Mondiale Commerciale" (World Trade Center), filed CI/R & A folder, Clay SHAW - working papers.

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re IR-06



Assassination Records Review Board
600 E Street NW • 2nd Floor • Washington, DC 20530
(202) 724-0088 • Fax: (202) 724-0457

December 18, 1997

Mr. John Pereira
Chief
Historical Review Group
Center for the Study of Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 02505

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT
OK 3/3/98

Re: Status of CIA Responses to Assassination Records Review Board's Requests for
Additional Information and Records

Dear John:

I am writing to follow-up on our telephone call earlier today and to convey my serious concern about the status of CIA's responses to the Review Board's requests for additional information and records. Although CIA has completed its responses to several requests, and many others have been answered in part, a significant number of requests have not been answered — including some that were made more than two years ago. On many occasions we have been assured that responses would be forthcoming, only to have promised dates come and go without answers. It is now extremely important that these requests be answered promptly so that we may conduct a proper follow-up if necessary. The issues that we can now identify as being of the highest priority are identified in the text below by double asterisks (**)¹ and we request that they be answered within the next month. We request that the remaining requests be answered by April 1, 1998.

The remainder of this letter is divided into two parts: first, a listing of the formal requests for information and records, and second, a listing of the informal requests for information and records. Please let me know if your understanding of any of the following points differs from ours so that we can resolve any potential discrepancies.

¹As identified more fully below, the issues are: CIA-1 Organizational Material, CIA-6 Cables and Dispatches, CIA-13 Backchannel Communications, CIA-IR-03 HTLINGUAL Documents, CIA-IR-04 Disposition of Angleton Files, CIA-IR-07 Claude Barnes Capehart, CIA-IR-15 Electronic "take" from Mexico City, CIA-IR-21 DRE Monthly Operational Reports, CIA-IR-22 "A" Files on Clay Shaw and Jim Garrison.

Mr. John Pereira
December 18, 1997
Page 7

Documents file: documents Nos. 496, 498, 499, 500, and 510. The Review Board is awaiting confirmation that these documents are at HRG for processing.

CIA-IR-05 Possible Foreign Source for Records on Oswald.

CIA was informally requested to use its contacts to pursue certain records related to Oswald that were orally described to CIA. The Review Board understands that the CIA has taken steps to pursue these records.

CIA-IR-06 QKENCHANT.

The Review Board seeks information regarding the purpose of QKENCHANT and its connection with Clay Shaw, Howard Hunt, and Monroe Sullivan.

The Review Board was initially provided some information in regard to this request that now appears to be incorrect. CIA is now seeking additional information to correct or to clarify its previous answers. The Review Board seeks an immediate, full, and accurate formal response to this request. Once the formal statement is provided, this request will be complete.

****CIA-IR-07 Claude Barnes Capehart.**

The ARRB staff has reviewed all records that CIA has been able to locate to date. During the course of this review, additional questions were raised that CIA agreed to pursue. CIA also agreed to conduct additional searches to determine whether there may be additional retrievable records on Mr. Capehart. The Review Board seeks a full and accurate formal response to this request. Once the formal statement is provided, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-08 Unredacted Copy of the "Family Jewels" Memoranda.

ARRB has reviewed a redacted version of the "Family Jewels." Additional questions have been raised. At meeting between HRG, ARRB and the DCI/IRO on December 11, 1997, specific redacted pages were identified for ARRB staff review. These pages should be made available as soon as possible.

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2 February 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Fredrick C. Wickham @ DO
Lee S. Strickland @ DA
[redacted]
John F. Pereira

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson
JFK Project Officer

OFFICE: OIM/HRP

SUBJECT: ARRB Requests - Priorities

REFERENCE: ARRB letter dtd 18 Dec 1997, Status of ARRB Request for Additional Information

I have been advised by the ARRB staff that an updated "Status of Requests" letter will be sent to the Agency early next week. The following requests will be listed as priorities to be completed in February:

CIA-14 Mexico City Station Annual Reports (DO)
CIA-IR-06 QKENCHANT (DO)
CIA-IR-08 "Family Jewels" (DCI/IRO and DO)
CIA-IR-09 George Bush (DO, DA, DCI/IRO)
CIA-IR-11 Warren Commission Critics (DA, DO)
CIA-IR-27 Security Files for Five Individuals (DA)
CIA-IR-32 AMWORLD (DO).

I have partial responses to some of these requests; call me if you have questions or need the status of your response.

CC: [redacted] @ DO
Becky L. Rant @ DA
Kathryn I. Dyer @ DA (bcc: Bonnie K. Hunter-Y-)

Sent on 2 February 1998 at 01:26:47 PM

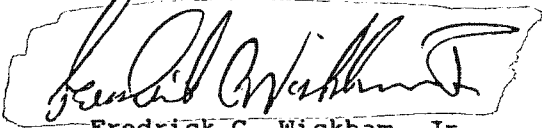
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SUBJECT: DO Response to Informal Request CIA IR 06

d. (C) After Howard Hunt's retirement from the Agency, he went to work for the [redacted] Company. The [redacted] had for years cooperated with the Agency by providing [redacted]. [redacted] Hunt was cleared for QKENCHANT by the Agency so that he could deal with administrative matters when necessary during [redacted] absences from his firm in Washington.

e. (C) J. Monroe Sullivan, Clay Shaw's boss, was granted a CSA in December 1962 so that he could be used in Project QKENCHANT.



Fredrick C. Wickham, Jr.

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27 February 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: (U) Chief, JFK Declassification
Project/HRP/OIM/DA

FROM: (U) Fredrick C. Wickham, Jr.
Chief, External Support Group/IMS/DO
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: (U) DO Response to Informal Request CIA IR #06

REFERENCE: (U) ARRB's Memorandum dated 18 December 1997,
RE: Status of CIA Responses to
Assassination Records Review Board's
Requests for Additional Information and
Records

(U) This memorandum is submitted in response to informal request number 06 (CIA IR #06) from the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB).

**CIA-IR-06 QKENCHANT

a. (U) Per the Review Board's request regarding the purpose of QKENCHANT and its connection with Clay Shaw, Howard Hunt, and Monroe Sullivan, the following information is provided.

b. (S) QKENCHANT was a project for obtaining clearances, that is, Provisional Covert Security Approvals (PCSA) and Covert Security Approvals (CSA), with the Office of Security in connection with the acquisition of Corporate Cover for Action (CCA). In connection with the acquisition of CCA, Directorate of Operations guidelines require that a PCSA/CSA be obtained in most instances before a corporate entity can be used as a Cover for Action (CFA) sponsor.

c. (U) With regard to Clay Shaw and his association with the QKENCHANT project: A review of Shaw's security file indicates that he received a "five Agency" clearance on 23 March 1949. Our records indicate the QKENCHANT project did not begin until sometime in 1952, therefore, Shaw in all probability was not cleared by the QKENCHANT program.

CL BY 0563956
CL REASON 1.5 (c)
DECL ON: X1
DRV FROM: MIS 5-82

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Subject: DO Response to Informal Request CIA IR #06

C/IMS/ESG Fredrick C. Wickhamx44448:mjk (3March1998)

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File 07

CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
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2000

18 September 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Laura Denk
Executive Director, ARRB

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson
JFK Project Officer, HRP/OIM

SUBJECT: CIA-IR-06, QKENCHANT

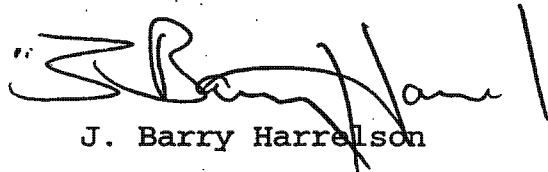
1. QKENCHANT was the name of an Agency project used to provide security approvals on non-Agency personnel and facilities. Such approvals were required so that Agency personnel could meet individuals to discuss proposed projects, activities, and possible relationships.

2. Clay Shaw received an initial "five agency" clearance on 23 March 1949 and Agency records indicate the QKENCHANT project did not begin until sometime in 1952. Thus, in all probability he was not cleared by that program, at least initially.

3. Monroe Sullivan, Clay Shaw's boss, was granted a security approval in December 1962.

4. With respect to Howard Hunt, following his retirement from the Agency, he went to work with a company which had previously cooperated with the Agency. Hunt was granted a clearance so he could deal with administrative matters in the absence of others within that company.

5. The Agency believes it has fully answered the questions asked within this request and considers it completed.


J. Barry Harrelson