



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

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.

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request. Once the formal statement documenting this search and its results is provided, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-27 Security Files for Five Individuals.

The ARRB staff has reviewed Office of Security files for Richard Case Nagel, Gordon Novel, Jack Ruby, Harold Weisburg, and Walter Sheridan. The entire files for Gordon Novel, Jack Ruby, and Richard Case Nagel have been designated assassination records. Portions of the files for Harold Weisberg and Walter Sheridan will be designated assassination records. The Novel, Ruby, and Nagel files should be sent to HRG for processing. The Weisberg and Sheridan files should be sent to HRG for ARRB review.

CIA-IR-28 McCone Files.

In August 1997, the ARRB staff reviewed an index for the files of former DCI John McCone and identified some files to be reviewed for assassination records. A meeting should be set up to examine these files.

CIA-IR-29 Oswald Lewinter.

In November 1997, CIA provided a preliminary oral response to whether it has files on Mr. Oswald Lewinter. CIA should document its findings in writing. Once formal documentation of the completed searches has been provided, the request is complete.

CIA-IR-30 Cherepanov Papers.

In the fall of 1963, Paul Garbler, Chief of Station Moscow, copied a series of KGB papers from the American Department of the KGB's Second Directorate which had arrived at the embassy from Aleksandr Cherepanov. The Review Board requests to review these papers.

CIA-IR-31 Dulles Calendar.

In testimony before the Church Committee on May 4, 1977, Richard Bissell made reference to the existence of a calendar for former DCI Allen Dulles which would reflect all of Dulles' meetings. The Review Board requests the Dulles calendar for January 1959 through his resignation as DCI on November 29, 1961.

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From the Desk of David S. Robarge
DCI/CSI/HS

NOTE FOR: [redacted] @ DA
FROM: David S. Robarge
OFFICE: CSI
DATE: 08/18/97 12:33:55 PM
SUBJECT: Records re John McCone and JFK

I am the staff historian currently working on a study of John McCone and was asked by Barry Harrelson of the JFK assassination declassification group here at CSI to track down some stray records on the subject. [redacted] of our staff phoned the Executive Registry and then asked me to write you with the details. Barry gave me a list of some documents and/or job numbers from an untitled, handwritten page of notes from a member of the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978. A verbatim rendering of those notes follows. Some of the material mentioned in items 5 and 6--such as memos for the record, memos of meetings with the President, and transcripts of telephone calls--are in the McCone DCI files in my office, but under different job, box, and file numbers. The job numbers given in items 4-6 below do not correspond to anything in our job number listing. If you have any thoughts on what those jobs are, or on anything else on the following list, please let me know.

- 1) Envelope labeled "Dulles Papers--for CIA files only--miscellaneous assortment of material for 1964 & 1965" including CIA correspondence (Box 9)
2. Folder labeled "Dulles, Allen W--1953-1966," CIA and other miscellaneous documents and correspondence (Box 14)
3. 7 folders of material--mostly correspondence between Dulles and Rocca (Box 15)
- 4 Dulles correspondence of:
 - a) 4/24/63 & cy--Helms/DDP from Elder--notes
ER #64-2925
 - b) 11/13/63--orig w/att--ER files from O/DDCI
ER #216/?
5. "Telephone Calls--Eyes Only #2
4 March 64-19 May 64
Box 11 of 75-B-698 (McCone file)
6. Box 8 of 75-B-698/McCone
 - a) meetings w/the Pres 1964
3 April-20 May 64, 1 Jan-2 April 64,
21 May-5 Oct 64
 - b) meetings w/Pres. Johnson
23 Nov 63
- 6 JOB 75-B-698
 - a) Box 2 (Memo for Record)
 - b) Box 6 (Pres'l Brief)
 - c) Box 11 (Telephone calls)
 - d) Box 12 (DCI memo and DCI briefing)
 - e) Box 6 78-B-01454R

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Thanks for whatever you can do on this matter. You could also discuss it with Barry Harrelson if you are unable to reach me. Regards.

CC: J. Barry Harrelson
Sent on 18 August 1997 at 12:33:55 PM

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ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

18 August 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: Kathryn Dyer @ DCI

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson

OFFICE: CSI/HRG

SUBJECT: ARRB Request for DCI McCone's Files

REFERENCE:

Michelle Combs will be at IP Tuesday 19 August to review records and pending requests. What is the status of the ARRB request for DCI files? I have located Job number 80-B01285 A (10 boxes), "Files of Director John A. McCone, 1962-1965 in the History Staff. Do you personally plan to review the files before giving access? Normally we restrict access to sensitive files to Gunn and Michelle Combs. Files have to be reviewed in Agency offices and all notes are left with the Agency for review. When boxes contain both relevant and non-relevant folders, we usually give them access to the shelf list and they select the folders they want to review. How do you want to handle these files?

Barry

CC: [redacted] @ DO
John Pereira @ DCI
David Robarge @ DCI

Sent on 18 August 1997 at 11:39:05 AM

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IR - 28

25 August 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: Kathryn Dyer @ DCI

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson

OFFICE: CSI/HRG

SUBJECT: ARRB Request - Access to McCone's Files

REFERENCE:

CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
RELEASE IN FULL
2000

David Robarge, History Staff, has reviewed the Shelf List for Job # 80B01285A (DCI McCone's Files). He identified 28 folders that fall into JFK assassination related time-frames and that potentially could contain assassination-related documents or information. I am faxing a copy of the shelf list with the folders marked. The request for access appears reasonable. If you approve, access will be limited to Jeremy Gunn and Michelle Combs and the review will take place at IP. Any notes taken or memos prepared will be reviewed for classification. Please advise if there are any additional restrictions to be placed on Jeremy's and Michelle's access to the files.

Thanks and again congratulations on your new job.

Barry

CC: John Pereira @ DCI

Sent on 25 August 1997 at 01:14:56 PM

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file cy

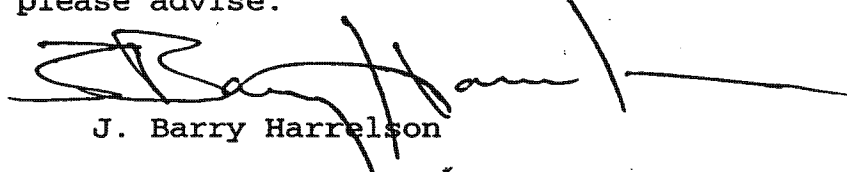
12 September 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Laura Denk
Executive Director, ARRB

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

SUBJECT: CIA-IR-28, McCone Files

1. This is in response to referent request.
2. Searches were made for information responsive to the request and materials were provided for examination by ARRB staff. From that examination, staff members selected a number of documents to be included within the JFK Collection. Those documents have now been included within the JFK Collection and are being processed for release to NARA.
3. This concludes the Agency's action on this request. If you have any question, please advise.


J. Barry Harrelson