



Assassination Records Review Board
600 E Street NW • 2nd Floor • Washington, DC 20530
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December 18, 1997

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

CIA MEMORANDUM
DECLASSIFIED
RELEASED
IN THE
PUBLIC INTEREST

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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CIA-IR-32 AMWORLD.


The Review Board seeks information regarding the purpose of AMWORLD and its connection with the Cuban exile groups.

The Review Board has been provided some information in regard to this request that appears to be incomplete. The 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

Conclusion

Please let me know if you have any supplements or corrections to the lists above. We would very much like to ensure that these matters are handled expeditiously. As always, we appreciate your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,



T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

cc: Assassination Records Review Board
J. Barry Harrelson
Linda Cipriani, Esq.

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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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CL BY: 0232058/

CL REASON: Section 1.5 C

DECL ON: X1

DRV FRM: HUM 2-82

6 August 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Gary M. Breneman-Y-

FROM: [redacted] @ DO

OFFICE: AIRO/DO

SUBJECT: (C) CIA IR 32 - AMWORLD

REFERENCE: Description of AMWORLD as requested.

Original Text of [redacted] Y-
Original Text of [redacted] Y-

CL BY: 013872/

CL REASON: Section 1.5 C

DECL ON: X1

DRV FRM: HUM 2-82

From the Desk of [redacted]

Y

NOTE FOR: [redacted] @DO
FROM: [redacted] Y-
OFFICE: (U) DO/IRO/PRB
DATE: 08/05/98 02:06:16 PM

SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: (C) CIA IR 32 - AMWORLD

(C) In response to the AMWORLD follow-up questions posed by the AARB:

"Was part of the program to put in place a government in exile?"

"Was there ever a government in exile?"

I would offer the following as some suggested language.

(C) "Based on file reviews and recollections from officers involved in the Cuban program, there was never a Cuban Government in Exile. During the planning for the Bay of Pigs operation it was envisaged that after the invasion site had been secured, Miro Cardona and the Cuban Revolutionary Council would be flown to the area to establish a new Cuban Government. The invasion site was never secured.

(C) "The AMWORLD Project, begun well after the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion and after the release of Manuel Artime Buesa and other Bay of Pigs veterans from Cuban prisons, was designed to support and unite several Cuban exile groups under the control of Artime in an effort to enhance the cohesion of the exiles and augment Artime's capability to launch propaganda and paramilitary attacks against the Cuban mainland. The overall mission of AMWORLD was to foment a popular uprising in Cuba which could lead to the ultimate overthrow of Fidel Castro. There is no evidence that AMWORLD's mission even remotely came close to fruition and no evidence that a projected government in exile was ever considered as a viable option."

CC:**Sent on 5 August 1998 at 02:06:16 PM****CC:****Sent on 6 August 1998 at 10:47:47**

SECRET

CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
RELEASE IN FULL
190

file by

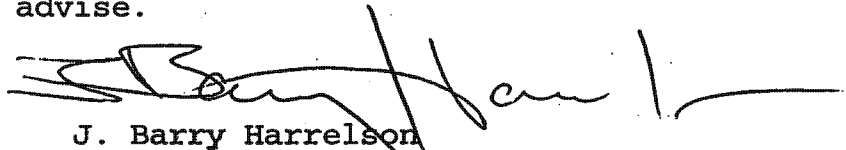
18 September 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Laura Denk
Executive Director, ARRB

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

SUBJECT: ARRB Request CIA-IR-32, AMWORLD

1. The following is responsive to referent request.
2. AMWORLD was a project designed to support and unite several Cuban exile groups under the control of Manuel Artime Buesa. Its purpose was to try to enhance the cohesion of the various exile groups and provide Artime more capability to launch propaganda and paramilitary attacks against the Cuban mainland, the ultimate goal being to cause a popular uprising in Cuba which would overthrow Fidel Castro's communist oriented dictatorship.
3. AMWORLD did not start until after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion and after the release of Artime and other invasion veterans from Cuban prisons. The goals and mission of AMWORLD, of course, were never fully recognized and the idea of Cuban government in exile not realized.
4. This completes our work on this request. If you have any questions, please advise.


J. Barry Harrelson