

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. _____
 Dep. AD Adm. _____
 Dep. AD Inv. _____
 Asst. Dir.:

- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

TO : The Director

DATE: 1/18/79

FROM : Legal Counsel *JAM*

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise of a contact with a Staff Director for the captioned Committee regarding the Committee's unauthorized release of informant reports and other documents. Pursuant to the request of Associate Director Adams dated January 11, 1979, Special Agent Danny O. Coulson of the Legal Counsel Division contacted G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel, captioned Committee.

DETAILS:

By letter dated December 6, 1978 (copy attached), HSCA Chairman Louis V. Stokes was furnished a copy of an FBI document dated May 26, 1971, an informant report from the St. Louis Field Office file of former informant Oliver Patterson. This informant report, along with three related items of correspondence, was furnished to the FBI via the Department of Justice (DOJ) by Harold Weisberg, a private citizen, author and self-styled assassination prober. Mr. Weisberg received the document from Patterson.

The informant report in question was furnished the HSCA in response to the Committee's request dated January 26, 1978, for all retrievable information concerning Patterson. Our letter to Mr. Stokes expressed concern that a document of this nature entered the public domain in such a manner and requested that the HSCA, in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding, afford proper and necessary security to our documents during the course of future public hearings and the HSCA final report.

CONTINUED - OVER 1431

*ENCLOSURE - Cancelled
mail*

*Enclosure - detached &
filed with memo dtd 1-5-79 REC-110*

- 1 - Mr. Adams - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Bassett - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Ryan - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Foster - Enclosure
- 2 - Mr. Coulson - Enclosure

62-117290-1431

2/16/79

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3/18/80 [Signature]



Memorandum Legal Counsel to the Director
Re: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

In his letter of December 13, 1978, Mr. Blakey, writing on behalf of Chairman Stokes, explained that since the informant report in question stemmed from Patterson, it was his (Blakey's) understanding that our release of materials would include no objection to Patterson having what he had originally given to the FBI. Mr. Blakey expressed regret that this instance caused any concern and assured the Director that the HSCA would continue to afford FBI material all measures of confidentiality in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding.

Upon receipt of Mr. Blakey's letter, the Director attached a routing slip, noting "Are you satisfied with this response? Anything further required?"

Mr. Blakey was contacted on January 11, 1979, and was questioned whether or not any other material had been released by the Committee. Mr. Blakey advised that no other release had been made and that he understood that no documents should have been released without Bureau approval pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Blakey has advised that material of this ^{type} may be available through FOI/PA.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

ave

<i>WCB</i>	APPROVED: <i>WCB</i>	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. <i>JM</i>
	Director <i>WCB</i>	Crim. Inv. _____	Plan. & Insp. _____
	Assoc. Dir. _____	Ident. _____	Rec. Mgmt. _____
	Dep. AD Adm. <i>JM</i>	Intell. _____	Tech. Servs. _____
	Dep. AD Inv. <i>WCB</i>	Laboratory _____	Training _____
			Public Affs. Off. _____

1 - Mr. Adams
 1 - Mr. McDermott
 1 - Mr. Bassett
 1 - Mr. Mintz
 Attn: Mr. Coul
 1 - Mr. Ryan
 1 - Mr. Foster
 January 10, 1979

Mr. G. Robert Blakey
 Chief Counsel and Director
 House Select Committee on Assassinations
 U. S. House of Representatives 20515

Dear Mr. Blakey:

Reference is made to your letter of December 13, 1978, concerning materials furnished to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from Harold Weisberg.

You are correct that the informant report in question was prepared by Mr. Patterson and given the Bureau in 1971. However, the FD-306 cover sheet was attached by the FBI upon filing and, therefore, did not originate with Mr. Patterson. Further, at the time of our release of documents to the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) concerning Mr. Patterson, under the Memorandum of Understanding, these documents could not be publicly disclosed without prior approval of the FBI. Since this would include documents stemming from Mr. Patterson, your understanding is incorrect that we do not object to Mr. Patterson having what he originally furnished the Bureau.

It is requested that any other FBI documents in your possession which may have been similarly provided to Mr. Patterson or any other outside party be identified, along with the identities of the recipients.

Your reassurance that the Committee will in the future afford FBI material all measure of confidentiality is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Webster
 Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

3/10/86

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- Assoc. Dir. _____
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- Director's Sec'y _____

JTA:cfb

(7)

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APPROVED:

Director _____
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 Training _____

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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

ENCLOSURE

44-17270-149

FBI/DOJ

G. Robert Blakey
House Select Committee on Assassinations
U. S. House of Representatives

NOTE: See memorandum D. Ryan to Mr. Bassett, 1/5/79, captioned "House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA)," prepared by JTA:cfb.

~~APPROVED: Adm. Serv. _____ Legal Coun. _____
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