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#### JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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#### NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE

FORT GEORGE G MEADE MARYLAND 20755-6000 Serial: N5P/017/98

01 April 1998

Mr. T. Jeremy Gunn Executive Director Assassination Records Review Board 600 E Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Gunn:

(U) In response to your letter of November 28, 1997, we tasked appropriate elements of the NSA Operations and the NSA Archives elements to search for information responsive to your questions. In addition, a member of my staff reviewed our United States Intelligence Board (USIB) and USIB SIGINT Subcommittee record holdings. The following represents the composite response of these elements.

(TS CCC) Question #1: What were NSA targeting priorities and capabilities	
against Cuba during the period 1963-1964? Including	
records of the U.S. Communications Intelligence (COMINT)-Board,	
what records does NSA possess on tasking and results from these	44USC2107(5)(g)(2)(D)
capabilities? In particular, did NSA target communications between	b(iii)
Havana and (During the meeting Messrs: Hatch and	! !
Fogarty suggested that the Army-Security Agency had a facility	÷
in 1963 targeting although its	
operations did not meet with great success.) Mr. Hatch stated that'	
Mr. (Howard K.? Harold? Johnny?) Johnson, a former NSA employee,	
might have more specific knowledge of such an operation and that you	
could contact him.	
(TS-CCO) ANSWER: A record of the SIGINT Subcommittee of the USIB	
from August 1993 provides a recap of the USIB SIGINT, Subcommittee's Priori	ty
National Intelligence Objectives. Included in this recap are objectives	
[requirements] to obtain information on 1) Soviet and Cuban military	
capabilities, 2) Soviet and Cuban capabilities, intentions, and efforts	

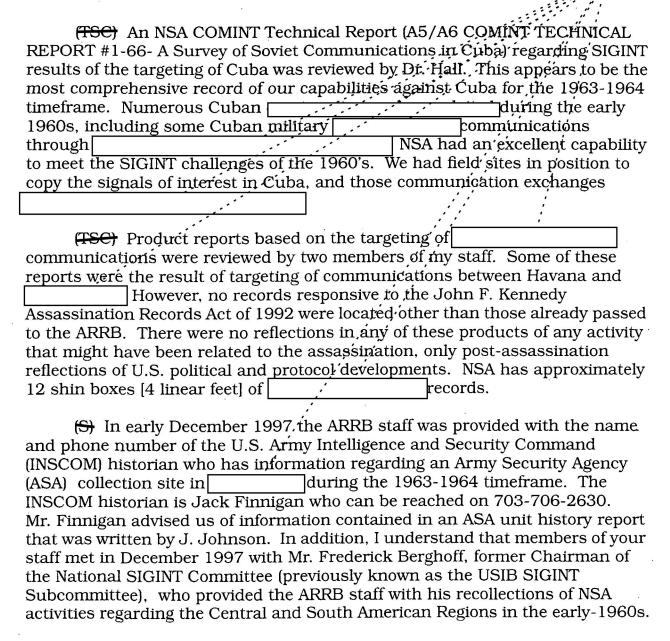
DRV FM: NSA/CSS Manual 123-2

Dated: 24 February 1998

**DECL ON: X1,X3,X5,X6,X7,X8** 

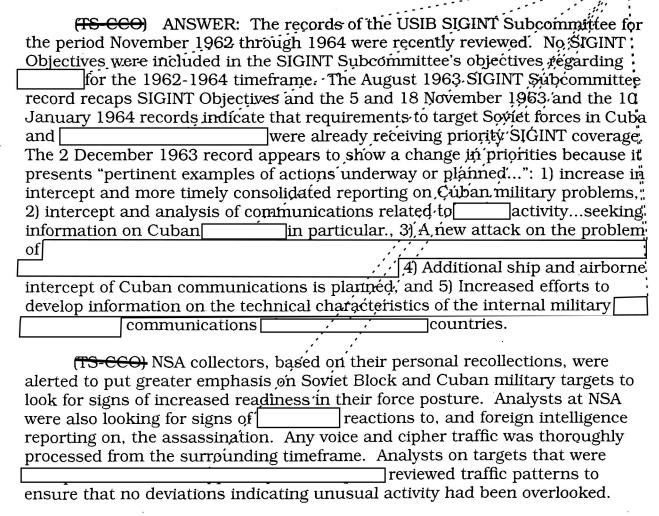
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(U) Question #2. What, if any, additional NSA capabilities were added to target communications sources within Cuba between November 1962 and the end of 1964? What information does NSA have on the targeting of communications sources within Cuba by CIA? Was there any liaison between NSA and CIA on this issue? NSA stated that it may have between six and twelve boxes of Cubarelated material. Of what do these records consist? May the ARRB staff examine these records?

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(S CCO) A review of the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) records held by NSA shows CIA and NSA top-level Agency cooperation/coordination on intelligence targeting via the USIB. However, according to recollections of individuals working at NSA in the mid 1960s, liaison between CIA and NSA for the 1962-1964 timeframe was limited and no record of CIA/NSA cooperation/ coordination at the working levels of the agencies was located. We searched for records of CIA targeting of Cuban communications, but no records were located. However, the USIB records make repeated reference to Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance (COMOR) Biweekly Report on High-Level Coverage of Cuba with the caveat that the information was distributed through restricted channels. Because we do not have copies of the COMOR reports, we are unable to determine if the tasking of these missions was limited to PHOTINT, or if SIGINT was also performed from the overhead vehicles. COMOR was the predecessor of the SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance Subcommittee (SORS). The SORS committee is a subcommittee of the current U.S. SIGINT Committee. The Chairman of the SORS is Mr. John Berwin (phone number: 202-496-9828).

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(TSC) Regarding the "six to twelve boxes" discussed during our meeting	
with Dr. Hall and members of the ARRB Staff in November 1997, these boxes	
referred to are records regarding As	
mentioned in response to Question #1, a recent review of these records did not	
result in locating any records not already identified as responsive to the JFK	
Assassination Records Act. The ARRB staff is welcome to examine these;	
records as well as any other of the records mentioned in this letter. The records	
pertaining to Cuba and for this timeframe held by NSA have been	
researched and those believed to be responsive to the John F. Kennedy Records	
Act of 1992 have been provided to the ARRB.	
(S-CCO) Question #3. What capabilities and targeting priorities did NSA have against	
Cuba outside of and Cuba itself during the time period 1960-1964?	
What records of this targeting and any results might still exist?	
(TSC) ANSWER: For the timeframe 1960-1964 NSA targeted and was	
successful in collecting Cuban communications	
We maintain copies of SIGINT product reports, which are NSA	
reports based on the intercept of communications, for this period. Those	
reports deemed responsive to the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Act of	
1992 have been forwarded to the ARRB.	
(TS-CCO) Question #4. What policy recommendations from the time period 1960-64	
might still exist which reflect NSA policy making or tasking on Cuban	
military communications outside of Cuba?	
The Average A section of the Holle Ground Call is been as a section	
(U) ANSWER: As stated previously, the USIB SIGINT Subcommittee	
records show the objectives (requirements for targeting) and are available for	
review by ARRB members or staffers.	
(S-660) Question #5. Are there any COMINT Board recommendations or tasking on	
the targeting ofcommunications during the period 1,963-1964? Does	
NSA have any other independent knowledge of these targets?	
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(S-CCO) ANSWER: No recommendation specific to was located,	
however, the USIB SIGINT subcommittee record of 2 December 1963 presents	
as one of the "pertinent examples of actions underway or planned:"	
"Increased efforts to develop information on the technical characteristics of the	
internal military communications	
countries".	

44USC2107(5)(g)(2)(D) b(iii)

(TS-CCO) Question #6. Including all records of the COMINT Board, what records does NSA have that refer to the targeting of any Soviet	
(S-CCO) Question #7. Did NSA produce a Technical SIGINT Report (TSR) on	
capabilities in 1963?	
(S-CCO)- ANSWER: A search for any Technical SIGINT Reports or similar documents was performed in January 1998 but no records documenting NSA's capabilities against target for the period 1960-1964 were located.	
(\$-CCO) The ARRB staff was provided with the name and phone number of an INSCOM historian, Mr. Jack Finnigan (Phone Nr. 703-706-2630), who has information regarding an Army Security Agency collection site in during the 1963-1964 timeframe. In addition ARRB staff members met with Frederick Berghoff, the former Chairman of the National SIGINT Committee, to obtain some "recollections", from Mr. Berghoff regarding NSA's interest and capabilities regarding in 1963.	
(U) If you have any questions or need additional clarification regarding the information provided, please contact either Lee Schroyer or Claudia Collins of my staff on (301)688-6798.	

Sincerely,

JOANN H. GRUBE
Deputy Director of Policy