
Agency Information

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RECORD SERIES : MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 07-M-12

Document Information

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SUBJECTS :
O'DONNELL, JUSTIN
BISSELL, RICHARD

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

MEETING 9 JUNE 75
2 pm

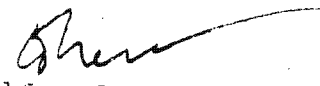
Box 418

AGENDA

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

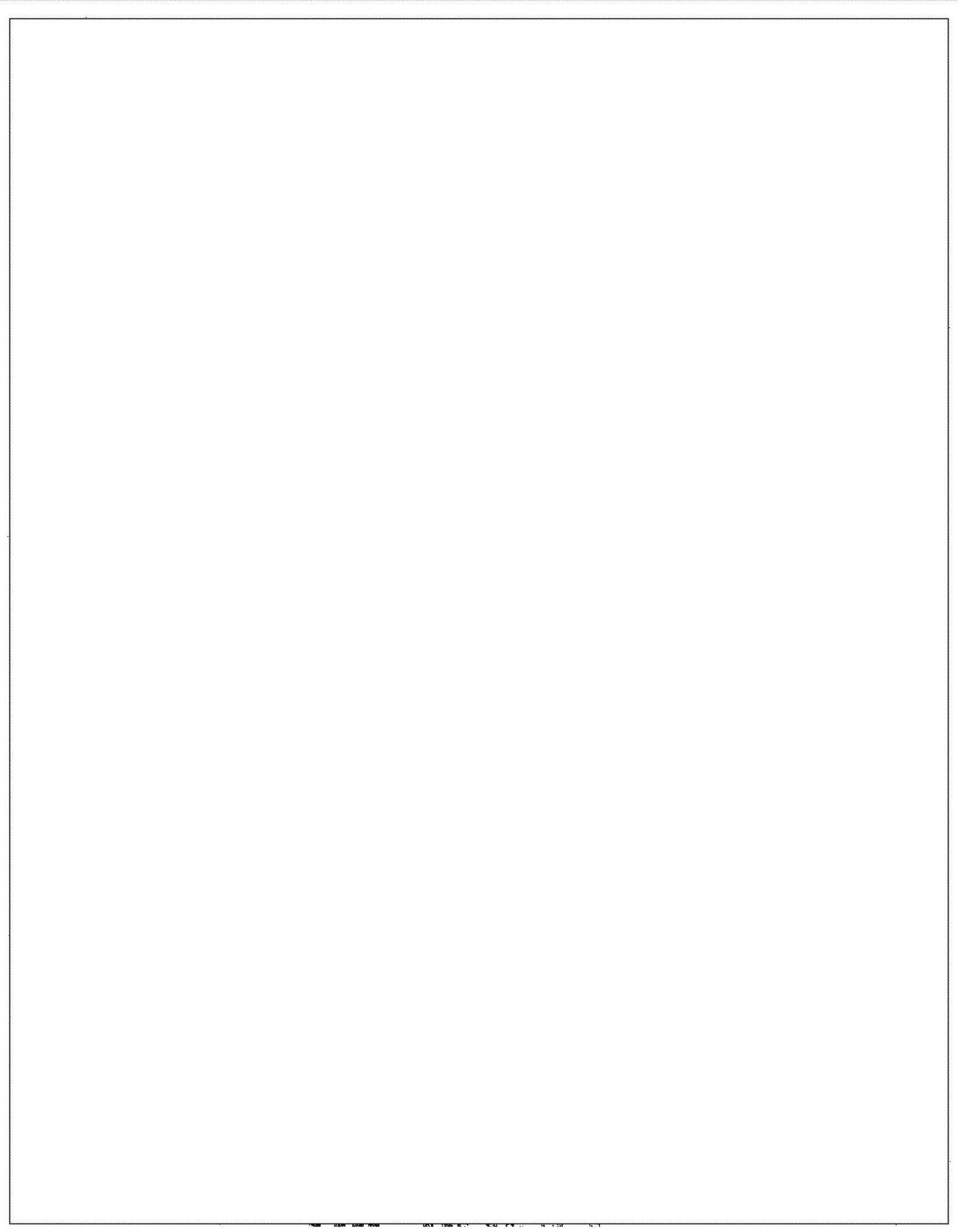
JUNE 9, 1975, 2:00 P.M. IN S-407 IN THE CAPITOL

Testimony by Mr. Richard Bissell
Former Deputy Director, Plans,
Central Intelligence Agency

INVENTORIED: 

ON MAR 15 1977

BY _____



GENERAL NOTES ON RICHARD BISSELL

- A. Background: Academic. Supposedly brilliant. Economics Professor
- B. General re Career at CIA (1952-1962)
 - 1. 1952-59: Personal Assistant to Dulles
 - a. Guatamala Operation
 - b. Credited with moving Agency toward technological intelligence gathering, recognizing classical espionage of little value vs. USSR.
 - (i) U-2
 - (ii) Satellite beginnings
 - 2. 1959-1962: Deputy Director for Plans *
 - a. Intimately involved in Bay of Pigs
 - b. Removed (allegedly because of Bay of Pigs) spring 1962 +

* Allegations have been made of his involvement in Castro, Trujillo, Lumumba specifically and "Executive Action" generally.

+ Note Bay of Pigs occurred in 4/61. According to the 1967 CIA study, Bissell reinstated the Mafia operation in 11/61. If true: what was his relationship to higher authority at that time?

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BISSELL

CASTRO*

I. Statements re Bissell (B) in CIA's 1967 Study

A. 8/60 Mafia Connection

1. B asks Edwards (E) to get ~~for~~ syndicate (14)

B claims J.C. King originated. (At least shows B involved).

2. Says by late Sept., E. O'C & B only to know

B. Late Sept. or Oct. 1960 Alleged Dulles Briefing

Apparently based on E. Note vagueness (18)

Also note that in 1961 E. told the FBI Dulles didn't know of use of Mafia.

C. _____ has record being approached by Harvey in 2/61 in connection with sensitive project for B. (27)

D. B ~~places~~ termination 6 months before Bay of Pigs (33)

In fact it continued.

E. Executive action (37)

1. Harvey("H") briefed by B 2/61.

2. H says early in JFK administration B called in re Exec Action i.e. "a general standby capability to carry out assassinations when required"

* The "Executive Action" story is mentioned (somewhat confusingly in the CIA study in the midst of the Castro story (see D below).

- a. Harvey's notes quote B as saying "the White House has twice urged me to create such a capability."
- b. "B recalls discussing the question of developing a general capability with Harvey."
- c. ZRRIFLE. QJWIN

Does this mean he didn't recall the WH part?

F. H's notes say on 11/15/61 he discussed with B application of ZRRIFLE to Cuba. And B instructed him to take over E's contact with the criminal syndicate and run against Castro. (39)

II. Justice Department

A. 5/22/61 FBI report re 5/3/61 meeting with E

- 1. Said only B and 2 others were aware of Giancana/Maheu. "Dulles was completely unaware"
- 2. Said B told AG during recent briefings to RFK and Taylor that "some of CIA activity involved use of G and underworld."

N.B. at this time E was telling the FBI only that the G/M operation was in connection with gathering intelligence.