

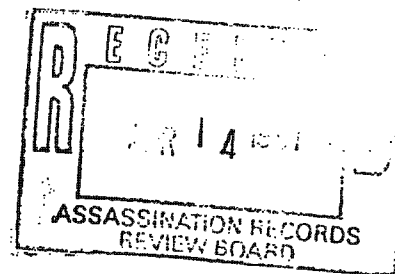


FYI

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 8, 1997



David Marwell
 Executive Director
 Assassination Records Review Board
 600 E Street, NW 2nd Floor
 Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Marwell:

Enclosed is the diplomatic note received from the Mexican government, dated March 12, 1997, which responds to the ARRB's request for any additional documents that the Mexican government might have relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Embassy evidently submitted the request to the Mexican government on June 13, 1996, but did not report the action through telegraphic channels. The reference in the telegram is to our recent query.

The Mexican government note conveys copies of the diplomatic notes exchanged between Mexico and the United States in 1963-1964 regarding the initial U.S. request for Mexican documents relevant to the investigation into Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to Mexico in the fall of 1963. Most of these notes were published in volume XVIII of the Warren Commission Report. They also duplicate copies of the same correspondence found in Legal Adviser's and Mexico City post files that are included in State's collection at NARA. I have stamped enclosed copies of pages bearing "confidential" classification markings. I am also enclosing a copy of Mexico City telegram 3078 of March 31.

According to my records, we have now received responses from all posts contacted through the A bureau. Minsk remains ongoing. Final responses have been received from Bonn, Paris, London, Moscow, and now Mexico City. Interim responses have been received from from Tokyo and Ottawa. As it has been some time since Tokyo reported that the Japanese government would be searching for documents, the ARRB might wish to prepare a followup cable.

Sincerely,

Nina J. Noring
 Department of State Liaison
 JFK Assassination Records
 Collection Act

Attachments:
 As indicated.



SECRET

Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW • 2nd Floor • Washington, DC 20530

(202) 724-0088 • Fax: (202) 724-0457

September 5, 1997

BY COURIER

Mr. John Pereira
 Director
 Historical Review Group
 Center for the Study of Intelligence
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Washington, DC 20505

Re: Request to CIA to contact [redacted] regarding LIENVOY intercepts of
Oswald telephone calls in Mexico City

Some time ago the Review Board requested informally that CIA contact [redacted] [redacted] in Mexico City for information related to Lee Harvey Oswald. During your recent visit here we discussed with you the feasibility of your making such contacts. I am writing in response to your request that we memorialize our request and provide some background information.

The Review Board believes that all reasonable steps should be taken to account for all telephonic intercepts of Oswald during his visit to Mexico City in September-October 1963. There is evidence that CIA intercepted some telephone calls through an operation named LIENVOY conducted [redacted]. We believe that it would be appropriate for CIA to contact directly [redacted] [redacted] to inquire as to whether the Mexican authorities retained copies of LIENVOY telephonic take, specifically the actual recordings of Oswald's telephone calls to the Soviet Embassy during the period of September 27 through October 3, 1963.

The Review Board previously has sought information from the Mexican Government through appropriate diplomatic channels. For reasons that are obvious to those familiar with Mexico City issues, the Review Board could not raise with Mexican officials nor with the U.S. State Department the possible existence of additional tape recordings that might be in the hands of certain officials. Thus, at the behest of the Review Board, the Department of State requested that the Mexican federal government and local government agencies conduct general searches of their files for records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Mexican government responded

SECRET

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Mr. John Pereira
September 5, 1997
Page 2

by sending copies of the same documentation and correspondence that the GOM had made available to the Warren Commission in 1964.

The basis for our interest in your contacting appropriate Mexican officials is found in CIA document 104-10004-10199, which was reviewed by the Board on September 19, 1995. On page 5 of this document (not including the cover sheet) information that the Board agreed to protect, due to the sensitivity of sources and methods involved, suggests that the Mexican security forces may have had their own copy of the October 1 intercept on Lee Harvey Oswald. It is unclear whether this statement refers to the transcript or to an actual tape containing the phone call. Nevertheless, it provides enough evidence to warrant additional inquiries on this matter.

For your reference we are enclosing copies of the reference documents as well as copies of the correspondence between the DOS and the Mexican government.

We would appreciate your contacting appropriate officials to determine what reasonably can be known about this and related matters, and ask that you provide a response to this request by November 14, 1997. We are fully aware of the sensitivity of this type of request and do not wish to take any action that would compromise existing intelligence operations. If necessary, we would be pleased to discuss with you ways in which we might further elaborate on this request, including person-to-person discussions with appropriate officials either here or in Mexico.

Thank you for your continued assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel and Associate Director
for Research and Analysis

cc: J. Barry Harrelson, HRG

Enclosures

SECRET

Descriptive Name: CIA Request to J. Pereira
Descriptive Type: Letter (Class. SECRET)
Subject: CIA Request
Attachments: CIA Doc. 104-10004-10199, DOS correspondence
Blind Copy:
Carbon Copy: Barry Harrelson
Reference: Classified CIA memos a:\cia-mc.02wpd
Document Number: File: 4.20.4
Date Completed: 9/5/97 12:00:00 AM
Checked By: Jeremy Gunn
Typist: Cathy Rodriguez
Author: Irene Marr

SECRET - 4th page only**Assassination Records Review Board
Final Determination Notification**

AGENCY : CIA
RECORD NUMBER : 104-10004-10199
RECORD SERIES : JFK
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 201-289248
OSW10:V10B 1993.06.14.15:36:06:060000

September 19, 1995**Status of Document:** Postponed in Part**Number of releases of previously postponed information: 16**

Reason for Board Action: The Review Board's decision was premised on several factors including: (a) the significant historical interest in the document in question; (b) the absence of evidence that the release of the information would cause harm to the United States or to any individual.

Number of Postponements: 6

Postponement # 1 (Page RS):

Reason for Board Action: The text is redacted because it reveals the identity of an intelligence agent that properly may be withheld under Section 6(1)(A) of the JFK Act. The Board is awaiting additional evidence from the CIA, at which time it will reconsider the postponement.

Substitute Language: See Document**Date of Next Review:** 12/1995

Postponement # 2 (Page RS):

Reason for Board Action: The text is redacted because it reveals the identity of an intelligence agent that properly may be withheld under Section 6(1)(A) of the JFK Act. The Board is awaiting additional evidence from the CIA, at which time it will reconsider the postponement.

Substitute Language: See Document**Date of Next Review:** 12/1995

Postponement # 3 (Page 1):

Reason for Board Action: The text is redacted because it discusses sources and methods that properly may be withheld under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act.

Substitute Language: None: The redacted information contains no substantive information about the assassination of President Kennedy or about Lee Harvey Oswald.

Date of Next Review: 2017**SECRET**

Postponement # 4 (Page 2):

Reason for Board Action: The text is redacted because it discusses sources and methods that properly may be withheld under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act.

Substitute Language: None: The redacted information contains no substantive information about the assassination of President Kennedy or about Lee Harvey Oswald.

Date of Next Review: 2017

Postponement # 5 (Page 5):

Reason for Board Action: The text is redacted because it discusses sources and methods that properly may be withheld under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act.

Substitute Language: None: The redacted information references "the 1 October intercept on Lee Oswald" and the possible existence of another copy of that "intercept" that was discovered after the assassination. The redacted information contains no other substantive information about the assassination of President Kennedy or about Lee Harvey Oswald.

Date of Next Review: 2017

Postponement # 6 (Page 14):

Reason for Board Action: The text is redacted because it discusses sources and methods that properly may be withheld under Section 6(1)(B) of the JFK Act.

Substitute Language: None: The redacted information contains no substantive information about the assassination of President Kennedy or about Lee Harvey Oswald.

Date of Next Review: 2017

Board Review Completed: 08/03/95

UNCLASSIFIED

INTERNAL USE ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

[GPF]

SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: [SC&LSO]
C/WB/S

EXTENSION
5613

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PAGE
RELEASE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE RECEIVED FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
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11.				
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13.				
14.				
15.				

c/c/s

ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT IS A DRAFT OF A REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE CANADIAN SECURITY SERVICES IN THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. YOU WILL BE INTERESTED TO SEE THE DRAFT OF THIS REPORT. I AM WRITING THIS DRAFT FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND TO ALLOW YOU TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS OR CORRECTIONS. IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR CORRECTIONS TO MAKE, PLEASE WRITE THEM ON THIS DRAFT AND RETURN IT TO ME. I WILL RETURN THE DRAFT TO YOU IF YOU WANT IT.

This report was written for internal use only and was not meant to be used outside the Agency.

[SC&LSO]
C/WB/S

*you may wish to see this
About 1 Dec 1953*

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERNAL USE ONLY

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

and other agencies may have taken based on our report. We surmise that the FBI may have made local checks through Mexican authorities to see if Lee OSWALD was actually in Mexico City on 1 October. Indeed, later investigation has confirmed all the details of his trip, where he stayed, and what he did. To avoid crossing lines with the FBI, our Mexico Station undertook no local investigation of its own. As we now know, OSWALD left Mexico on 3 October and was no longer there when our report was put out.

Since this telephone tap operation is a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Mexicans also had the 1 October intercept on Lee OSWALD, but it apparently slumbered in their files until the assassination took place.

22 November 1963

When word of the shooting of President Kennedy reached the offices of our operating divisions and staffs on the afternoon of Friday 22 November 1963, transistor radios were turned on everywhere to follow the tragedy. When the name of Lee OSWALD was heard, the effect was electric. A phone message from the FBI came at about the same time, naming OSWALD

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II II III III II

UNCLASSIFIED

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

Department of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PAGE 01 APR 24 084217 232106Z '96

SHC9833

STATE 084217 232106Z

SHC9833

INFO LOG-00 ARA-00 OAS-00 DIM-00 DINT-00 DS-00 FPC-01
IMMC-01 TEDE-00 L-00 ADS-00 M-00 DIS-01 CRYE-00
INIS-02 DSCG-00 /007R

(A) ANY AND ALL RECORDS RELATED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES DESCRIBED IN THE DIPLOMATIC NOTES TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY FROM THE MEXICAN SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS NO. 504826 DATED MAY 10, 1964, AND NO. 505583 DATED JUNE 9, 1964. THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

DRAFTED BY: A/IM/IS/FPC/PPA : MPRGRAFFED
APPROVED BY: A:PKKENEDY
A/IM/IS:EWILSON, A/IM:HGEISEL, A/IM/IS/FPC:PSHEILS
ARA/MEX:DURS

--CLOSURE OF THE BORDER BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963;

-----31D610 232110Z /38

--DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS THAT SAME DATE "TO TIGHTEN SURVEILLANCE IN THE BORDER AREA, ESPECIALLY AT REYNOSA, CIUDAD MIQUEL ALEMAN, NUEVO LAREDO, AND MATAMOROS;" AND

R 232107Z APR 96
FM SECSTATE-WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

--INVESTIGATION OF OSWALD'S TRIP TO MEXICO CITY IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1963, AND ESPECIALLY OF HIS MEANS OF ENTERING AND EXITING MEXICO AND HIS CONTACTS WITH SILVIA TIRADO DURAN, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CUBAN CONSULATE IN MEXICO CITY.

UNCLAS STATE 084217

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY KENNEDY

(B) ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS THAT IDENTIFY AMERICAN REQUESTS TO MEXICO FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION AND THE MEXICAN RESPONSES TO THOSE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: AINF
SUBJECT: JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS COLLECTION ACT OF 1992

REQUESTS.

1. THE ASSASSINATION RECORDS COLLECTION ACT OF 1992 (THE "ACT") WAS SIGNED INTO LAW ON OCTOBER 26, 1992. THE ACT ESTABLISHED A PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING AND SECURING ALL RECORDS RELATING TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND COLLECTING THEM IN THE

(C) ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, STUDIES, INQUIRIES OR INVESTIGATIONS BY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ENTITIES OF THE ASSASSINATION. TALBOTT

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS COLLECTION AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND. THE ACT ALSO ESTABLISHED THE ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD (ARRB) TO COORDINATE AND OVERSEE THE PROCESS. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE ARRB TO ENSURE FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS AND OVER A YEAR AGO PRODUCED ITS COLLECTION FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

2. THERE REMAINS, HOWEVER, ONE PROVISION OF THE ACT FOR WHICH THE SECRETARY MUST RELY ON YOUR OFFICE FOR IMPLEMENTATION. THE ACT ENVISIONED AN APPROACH TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS FOR ANY RECORDS THAT THEY MIGHT POSSESS. SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 10 (B) (2) OF THE ACT STATES THAT IT IS THE "SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD CONTACT... ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT THAT MAY HOLD INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE ASSASSINATION AND SEEK DISCLOSURE OF SUCH INFORMATION."

3. IN ITS CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED SEARCH FOR ASSASSINATION RECORDS, THE ARRB WISHES TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN MEXICO MAINTAIN RECORDS THAT ARE RELATED TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. THE ARRB NOTES THAT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD, AND THAT THE RESPONSE OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO THE EVENT WOULD BE OF INTEREST. IN ADDITION, RECORDS OF MEXICAN AUTHORITIES CONCERNING LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S VISIT TO MEXICO CITY IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1963 WOULD BE OF IMMENSE INTEREST.

4. WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF THE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF POTENTIALLY RELEVANT MEXICAN FILES, THE ARRB CANNOT PROVIDE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ON THE APPROPRIATE STRATEGY FOR ENSURING A COMPREHENSIVE SEARCH. THE ARRB IS WILLING TO PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MAY BE REQUIRED. ANY SEARCH FOR RECORDS SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

SECRET

(DRAFT)

CSI 1997-444

25 September 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] DO/LA
Fred Wickham, DO/IMS

FROM: John F. Pereira
Chief, CSI/HRG

SUBJECT: Priority Request from Chairman,
JFK Assassination Records Board

1. (S) The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you of a priority request from the Chairman of the JFK Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB). The request concerns records related to Lee Harvey Oswald that may be held by the Mexican Government.

2. (S) At his initiative, I met recently with the ARRB Chairman, Judge John Tunheim. He said the reason for the meeting was to ask that CIA assist the Board by making inquiries [REDACTED] to determine if the Mexican Government has certain records related to Oswald's activities in Mexico in late 1963. Of particular interest to the Board is whether [the Mexicans have copies of tapes from joint tel-tap operations, including coverage of Oswald's telephone calls to the Soviet Embassy.] He said that locating such records is "the highest priority of the Board." (The attached letter from the ARRB's General Counsel explains the Board's interest.)

3. (S) Earlier this year, the Board sought unsuccessfully to obtain information about Oswald from the Mexican Government via the State Department. (See attached cable.) Mexico responded by providing copies of the same material that had been made available to the Warren Commission in 1964. The problem for the Board was that, in making the request to Mexico, it did not want to reveal information about [REDACTED] that the Board knew of from CIA records. Being sensitive to the Agency's request to protect this information, Tunheim would like the Agency to contact [REDACTED] directly on the Board's behalf.

CL BY 0185904
CL REASON 1.5 (b, c, & d)
DECL BY X1
DRV FRM LIA 2-82

SECRET

SUBJECT: Priority Request from Chairman,
JFK Assassination Records Board

4. (FOUO) During the meeting with Tunheim, I said that we would discuss his request with the appropriate people in the Agency. In view of the priority that Tunheim places on this matter, I recommend that our JFK Project Leader (Barry Harrelson) and I meet with you or other appropriate DO representatives soon to discuss possible options for responding to the request.

John Pereira

Attachments

CL BY 0185904
CL REASON 1.5 (b,c,&d)
DECL BY X1
DRV FRM LIA 2-82

SECRET

CL BY: 611637

CL REASON: Section 1.5 d

DECL ON: X5

DRV FRM: LIA 2-82

1 December 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[REDACTED] @ DO
Frederick C. Wickham @ DO

FROM:

J. Barry Harrelson
JFK Project Officer

OFFICE:

CSI/HRG

SUBJECT:

JFK Board Request - Mexico City

REFERENCE:

Request from ARRB Chairman, Judge Tunheim re Intercepts of Oswald's calls;
Letter fr ExDir, ARRB, to C/HRG dated Sept 5, 1997 same subject

I provided copies of the two Oswald telephone intercepts received from the Station to the ARRB staff. The ARRB staff has responded with a number of questions for the Station to ask [REDACTED]. The list of questions is being faxed to you; please call if you have not received it by noon today (Monday). Judge Tunheim will be in Washington on 15 December and has ask for an update on the status of the request.

Thank you for your assistance with this request; if you have any questions please call me on 31825.

Barry

CC:

John Pereira @ DCI

Sent on 1 December 1997 at 10:14:23 AM

SECRET

FAX'd 10:25 AM
12/1/97

SECRET

Classification of Material Transmitted

HISTORICAL REVIEW GROUP
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF INTELLIGENCE

Phone # 703-613-1806

PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

CLASSIFIED FAX

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS FOR CDS

FROM: BARRY HARRELDSON, DCTICSI/HR6

SENDING FAX NO. 703-613-3060

DELIVER TO: [REDACTED], X47149 DD/LA

RECEIVING FAX NO. 703-734-7096

DATE TRANSMITTED: 12/1/97 PAGES TRANSMITTED: 2
(including cover sheet)

TRANSMITTED BY: BONNIE HUNTER

MESSAGE:

PRIORITY

SECRET

Classification of Material Transmitted

Secret
Classification of Material Transmitted

FAX COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Questions

FROM: Michelle Combs

SENDING FAX NO: 202-638-4274

DELIVER TO: Barry Hanelson

RECEIVING FAX NO: 703-613-3060

DATE TRANSMITTED: 7 Nov 97

PAGES TRANSMITTED (including cover sheet) 2

TRANSMITTED BY: Kluebnick

SECRET

Barry,

These are our questions to be passed to the COS with our thanks.



1. Can we have the original documents?
2. Does the date and location appear on the original documents? is there any indication as to when and where they were added?
3. Is there a Spanish version of the transcripts? Can we have it if one exists?
4. Where were the two transcripts found? What file or box? Who found them?
5. What else is in the file or box where these two transcripts were found?
6. Are there any additional files on the assassination or any post assassination investigation still in existence?
7. Were any files on the assassination or any post assassination investigation destroyed under a routine records destruction schedule?
8. Are there any teltap tape recordings from the era 1960-1963 still in existence?
9. Are there any individuals who were involved in the teltap, the Sylvia Duran interrogation, and/or any post assassination investigation who could be interviewed by the ARRB?
10. Are there any persons knowledgeable about the filing system and records management both in 1963 and to the present who could be interviewed by the ARRB and might have some knowledge of the disposition of any teltap information, any Sylvia Duran interrogation records, and/or any assassination or post assassination records in the archives?

SECRET

206.

/Please see the Spanish transcription/. MO while waiting speaks in English to someone in the background: He said was

(R.E. 28 Sep 63, p 3)

..Do you speak Russian? Yes. Why don't you talk to him?..

I don't know.. /MO takes the phone and says in broken Russian/
I was in your Embassy and spoke to your consul. Just a minute
MI takes the phone and asks MO in English what does he want?

MO: /in Russian/ Please speak Russian.

MI: What else do you want?

MO: I was just now at your Embassy and they took my address

MI: I know that.

MO: /speaks terrible, hardly recognizable Russian/ I did not
know it then. I went to the Cuban Embassy to ask them for
my address, because they have it..

MI: Why don't you come again and leave your address with us, it
not far from the Cuban Embassy.

MO: Well, I'll be there right away.

28 September 1963
Soviet Embassy

151.

In at 1:12 (?) MO / the same person who phoned a day or so ago and spoke in broken Russian/ speaks to OBYEDKOV.

MO: Hello, this LEE OSWALD (phon) speaking. I was at your place last Saturday and spoke to a consul, and they said that they'd send a telegram to Washington, so I wanted to find out if you have anything new? But I don't remember the name of that consul.

OBY: KOSTIKOV. He is dark /hair or skin?/.

LEE: Yes. My name is OSWALD.

OBY: Just a minute I'll find out. They say that they haven't received anything yet.

LEE: Have they done anything?

OBY: Yes, they say that a request has been sent out, but nothing has been received as yet.

LEE: And what...? /OBY hangs up/.

249.

(previously transcribed)

1 October 1963
Soviet Embassy

SECRET

CL BY: 0185904

CL REASON: Section 1.5 d

DECL ON: X5

DRV FRM: LIA 4-82

NOTE FOR: Edmund Cohen @ DA
[redacted] @ DA
Lee S. Strickland @ DA

FROM: John F. Pereira
OFFICE: CSI/HRP
DATE: 01/23/98 05:19:59 PM
SUBJECT: Meeting with Chair, JFK Board

(S) At his request, I met with the Chairman of the JFK Board, Judge Jack Tunheim this morning for more than an hour. A principal topic of discussion was the status of the Agency's response to Tunheim's request that we ask [redacted] to provide records and other information related to Oswald's time in Mexico. (The station is following up on a preliminary response [redacted])

(FOUO) Tunheim described efforts the Board is making to obtain records directly from the KGB, with State Department assistance. Not much success so far.

(FOUO) We also discussed the general relationship between the Board and CIA, about which he was very positive. He is aware that we have added resources to step up the pace of our review in view of the 1 September deadline. He said that he does not see much chance that Congress would extend the Board's charter again.

Ed: Tunheim asked that we set up a meeting with you on 18 Feb, when he'll be in town for a meeting of the Board.

CC: J. Barry Harrelson [redacted]
Sent on 23 January 1998 at 05:19:59 PM

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
RELEASE IN FULL

September 19, 1998

2000

To: Laura Denk
Executive Director

cc: Bob Skwirot
CIA Team Leader

From: Michelle Combs *Michelle Combs*
Associate Director for Research and Review

Subject: CIA-IR-05 Possible Foreign Source for Records on Oswald

The Review Board requested that the CIA assist in locating and acquiring records relevant to Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination of President John Kennedy which might exist in the files of a foreign government agency. Due to the foreign liaison sensitivity of this request, information on this issue was passed between the CIA, Review Board Chairman Judge John Tunheim, and one Review Board staff member.

On September 15, 1998, Chairman Tunheim and I flew to Houston to consult with CIA Directorate of Operations officers on the likelihood of the existence of additional records and the possibility that the CIA would be successful in acquiring these records. These CIA officers demonstrated that they had consulted numerous times with the senior officials of the foreign government but had, thus far, been unsuccessful in obtaining additional records or in confirming, visually, the existence of additional records. The CIA agreed to continue to work to obtain these records.



Assassination Records Review Board
600 E Street NW • 2nd Floor • Washington, DC 20530
(202) 724-0088 • Fax: (202) 724-0457

December 18, 1997

CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
RELEASE IN FULL
2000

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

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.

Mr. John Pereira
December 18, 1997
Page 7

Documents file: documents Nos. 496, 498, 499, 500, and 510. The Review Board is awaiting confirmation that these documents are at HRG for processing.

CIA-IR-05 Possible Foreign Source for Records on Oswald.

CIA was informally requested to use its contacts to pursue certain records related to Oswald that were orally described to CIA. The Review Board understands that the CIA has taken steps to pursue these records.

CIA-IR-06 QKENCHANT.

The Review Board seeks information regarding the purpose of QKENCHANT and its connection with Clay Shaw, Howard Hunt, and Monroe Sullivan.

The Review Board was initially provided some information in regard to this request that now appears to be incorrect. 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.

****CIA-IR-07 Claude Barnes Capehart.**

The ARRB staff has reviewed all records that CIA has been able to locate to date. During the course of this review, additional questions were raised that CIA agreed to pursue. CIA also agreed to conduct additional searches to determine whether there may be additional retrievable records on Mr. Capehart. The Review Board seeks a full and accurate formal response to this request. Once the formal statement is provided, this request will be complete.

CIA-IR-08 Unredacted Copy of the "Family Jewels" Memoranda.

ARRB has reviewed a redacted version of the "Family Jewels." Additional questions have been raised. At meeting between HRG, ARRB and the DCI/IRO on December 11, 1997, specific redacted pages were identified for ARRB staff review. These pages should be made available as soon as possible.