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10 November 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 8 November Meeting with Mr. Blakey

1. On 8 November, Ed Sapp visited Mr. Robert G. Blakey, Chief Counsel and Staff Director for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, to receive questions concerning a former Air Force enlisted man's allegation that he had intercepted information linking an assassination plot against President Kennedy with a figure in organized crime. Mr. Blakey had been referred to NSA (GC, Dan Silver) by Ms. Judy Miller, Special Assistant to John Kester, OSD.
2. Mr. Blakey indicated that David F. Christensen had communicated with a friend of his named Sgt Michael B. Stevensen at "Corry" Field, Florida. Mr. Christensen has been committed to a mental institution due, he asserts, to pressures arising from an incident occurring in 1963.
3. At that time, Christensen was in the Air Force assigned to Kirknewton, Scotland. Sometime before November, 1963, in his work as an interceptor of international commercial communications, he intercepted the communications referred in paragraph 1. Mr. Blakey stated that he did not know who the crime figure is. Christensen's supervisor, Sgt Praeter (actually "Prater") refused to send this traffic to NSA and this, he alleges, eventually caused him to have a mental breakdown.
4. Mr. Blakey stated that NSA had already acknowledged the existence of such a facility during this period, but he didn't indicate to whom such a statement had been made.
5. Mr. Blakey posed the following questions for NSA:
 - (a) What is NSA's capability for retrieving communications from this time and place?
 - (b) How quickly can we make this retrieval?
(His Committee completes its work in December. If NSA can easily provide the answers to a number of questions, he will do some preliminary investigation before formally requesting the information, but if we indicate that much time will be required, he will task us now.)
 - (c) What additional information does NSA need from Mr. Blakey to speed the retrieval process?
 - (d) Is the data still available for retrieval?

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(e) Was Christensen really employed by the Air Force, working for Praeter (Prater), and actually doing this kind of work at that location during that period?

6. He asked for the responses, or at least, a status of what can be provided and how soon, by Monday, 13 November.

7. On 7 September, the General Counsel sent a copy of David Christensen's letter to the FBI (GC/335/78), along with a letter from AF Security Service (to which Sgt Stevensen had sent the letter). In the General Counsel's letter he noted that Security Service was intercepting international commercial communications at Kirknewton in 1963 and that links between Lisbon and other parts of the world were monitored.

8. On 9 November, Ed and I met with Dan Silver and decided Dan should respond initially to Mr. Blakey's questions by phone. After coordinating with EXEC/DDO, Ed asked G9 to provide input for a response.

9. Harold Parrish (5649) of G809 condish an initial review of the availability of data from USA-SS covering the first eleven months of 1963. From a computer file listing maintained by N3, 20 boxes of data were identified. Cross-checking assures that this is all and the contents column helped eliminate 17 of the boxes. The remaining three will be manually reviewed on 13 November. If they, in fact, do contain traffic there will be some 2000 sheets per box.

10. I notified ~~Don Silver who called~~ Mr. Blakey with the news, and he requested that I put our reply in writing. I agreed to do so upon receipt of a written request from him.

E. F. Yeates
EUGENE F. YEATES
Chief
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