

27 November 1976

Date

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WALLER

Leader for Task Force file

From: SDBreckinridge

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29 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Task Force (Augmented)

1. Bob Wall, Russ Holmes, Bill Sturbitts, Chris Hopkins, Ray Reardon and Launie Ziebell met with John Leader and me this afternoon for about an hour and 20 minutes. The subject of the meeting was to discuss the problems posed by possible unclassified release of Agency documents concerning Oswald and related subject matter. Some of the points made are summarized below.

2. Ziebell said that he had been engaged since April 1976 going through the so-called Oswald file page by page. He estimates that 75% will be declassified by mid-December. The kind of material being deleted for FOI release are as follows: station references from cable traffic to avoid showing the location of stations; information identifiable as having come from Liaison; information identifying clandestine operations; information identifying persons whose positions might be impaired. He noted that the telephone taps in Mexico City were among the deleted materials. He noted that there are still some files to be reviewed in addition to the Oswald file, including some 2-1/2 safe drawers in the Office of Security, the Mexico City Station files, soft files, and "the Rocca collection," CIA/SIG, and OGC and DCI files.

3. Bill Sturbitts noted that Mexico will soon have a new president, a man who has had control of [Liaison] for a number of years. He can be expected to not look favorably upon 24 publicity of that relationship. Sturbitts noted that [the telephone tap] was involved in this relationship. Sturbitts also noted that the photographs of the unidentified man at the Soviet Embassy, if released without "cropping" to delete the background, would reveal the location from which photograph surveillance was conducted and make possible the identification of the person in whose name the property was rented.

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4. We discussed the size of the file problem, in addition to the so-called Oswald file which is being declassified by Ziebell. The Cuban Ops file being reviewed by the Task Force in LA Division does not, for the most part, have any relation to assassinations; however, there were basically some 900 file folders which in turn led to another 300 folders. Because these are basically operational files their release poses problems.

5. There was discussion about sending a cable to the Mexico City Station inquiring both as to what records are still there relating to the period of Oswald's visit to Mexico and afterwards, and also for a statement on the reaction of [Liaison]²⁴ and the Mexican government if materials on this subject were released to the public. The feeling was that such a cable should come from the IG.

6. Bob Wall felt that the IG and the DDO should consider the matter in preparation for discussions with the DDCI. Those present agreed to assemble some material that would give some feeling for the size of the problem, of reviewing for unclassified release, and samples of the kinds of information that would be released and the significance of it in security terms and in terms of the Agency's equities.


S. D. Breckinridge

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