

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

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Assassination Records
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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

AGENCY ORIGINATOR : CIA
FROM : BRIAN LATELL
TO : EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TITLE : MEMO: JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD
DATE : 06/02/1995
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SUBJECTS : JFK ASSASSINATION
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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10331-10070

C/HRG

~~SECRET~~

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RELEASE IN FULL
2000~~

CSI-0032/95
2 June 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

FROM: Brian Latell
Director, Center for the Study of
Intelligence

SUBJECT: JFK Assassination Records Review Board

1. Action Required: None. This is for your information. (U)

2. One of this Center's major responsibilities over the past year has been as the Agency's intermediary with the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board (AARB). The presidentially appointed Board was created by 1992 legislation with broad authority to review assassination records held by government agencies and privately with the objective of publicly disclosing the maximum possible number of documents. The five member Board is chaired by John Tunheim, the Principal Deputy Attorney General of Minnesota. The substantial staff is headed by David Marwell. Currently, four cleared members of the staff are at this Center virtually full time for the purpose of reviewing the Kennedy records which we maintain here in the Ames Building. (U)

3. Needless to say, CIA records--Lee Harvey Oswald's 201 file, Mexico City Station records, and large quantities of operational material--are of keen interest to the Board. Our Historical Review Group, headed by John Pereira, has done an impressive job of coordinating Agency relations with the Board and overseeing the declassification and release to the National Archives of Kennedy-related records. About 220,000 pages already have been released, a large percentage of them with redactions to protect intelligence sources and methods. The Board is not due to complete its work for about another two years and our support for its mission will continue to be a major, time-consuming responsibility. (S)

CL BY: 195387
DECL: OADR

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SUBJECT: JFK Assassination Records Review Board

4. It is likely that the Board eventually will want us to declassify operational details from our records that Agency components will not want to release. If we were unable to broker a satisfactory solution--as John Pereira has been able to do in all such cases thus far--we would, of course, bring the issue to you and the DCI. The law stipulates that in such instances the President "shall have the sole and nondelegable authority to require the disclosure or postponement of such record..." (S)

5. At some point you may want John and me to brief you on this entire matter, although I do not believe it is urgent to do so. The Board has advised us that it will want to meet with the DCI, probably in the next two months or so. Finally, for your information I am attaching a memorandum from John providing a recent update on Board activities.
(C)


Brian Latell

Attachment

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SUBJECT: JFK Assassination Records Review Board

D/CSI/DCI/BLatell:aw/30214 (2 June 95)

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CSI-0333/95
26 May 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Center for the Study
of Intelligence

FROM: John Pereira
Chief, Historical Review Group

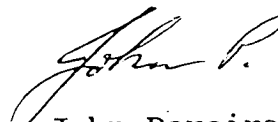
SUBJECT: Meeting with JFK Assassination
Records Review Board

This memorandum is for your information.

1. On 18 May 1995, members of the Directorate of Operations and the Historical Review Group met with the JFK Assassination Records Review Board to discuss the declassification of CIA records. The Board had requested the meeting for purposes of educating its members as to the categories of information that probably will require continued protection, i.e. by deleting words or inserting substitute language.

2. The discussion focused on some 30 documents that describe CIA operations in Mexico City at the time of the assassination. Among the categories of information discussed were: locations of stations, surveillance methods, intelligence liaison relationships, names of agents and staff officers, and pseudonyms and cryptonyms. In a number of instances we suggested alternative ways of describing sensitive information, which the Board seemed to find a reasonable approach.

3. No decisions were made by the Board during the three and half hour meeting, but the session was highly productive in terms of providing the Board a basis for understanding material in documents related to sensitive sources and methods. Board Chairman John Tunheim told me that the Board found the discussion very helpful in helping them fulfill their responsibility for approving or disapproving all recommendations to withhold information. The Board's Executive Director, David Marwell said it was a valuable meeting, and he complimented the Agency representatives for being willing to engage in an open-minded discussion that was "not scripted."


John Pereira