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07 MAY 1996

Ms. Patricia Lambert  
5720 Owensmouth, Unit 168  
Woodland Hills, California 91367

Reference: F95-1533

Dear Ms. Lambert:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your 6 September 1995 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for information on Clay Shaw and in which you ask several questions regarding Clay Shaw's "association with the CIA, " and "a CIA project named QKENCHANT (or QXENCHANT...)." Please accept our apology for the length of time it has taken us to respond to your 6 September letter.

Please be advised that the FOIA does not authorize or require federal agencies to answer questions on behalf of requesters, nor does the FOIA require us to perform research or create records for a requester. Neither are we required to study a body of material to see if it is related to a specific event, activity, or incident or individual. The FOIA provides for public access to reasonably described records. Documents must be described sufficiently to enable a professional employee familiar with the subject to locate documents without an unreasonable amount of effort. This, with few exceptions, means that the documents must be locatable through the indexing to our various records systems.

Notwithstanding the above, we conducted a search of our database of previously released records and have enclosed listings obtained under the title Shaw which may be of interest to you. This material was located as a result of previous thorough and diligent searches conducted in our other records systems on behalf of earlier requesters in response to FOIA requests and subsequent litigation for information on the same subject. No records were located under the titles QKENCHANT or QXENCHANT. As a requester in the "commercial" category you are entitled to any pages available at a cost of ten cents per page for copying fees. If you want to order any of these items, please check the items you want and return the listings to this office. Please keep in mind that there may be duplicative documents and inaccurate page counts. Therefore, we will advise you of the total amount due, if any, when we send you the requested

material. A copy of our schedule of fees is also enclosed. Please note that since the FOIA neither authorizes nor requires us to conduct research on behalf of a requester, it will be your responsibility to examine the material to determine if it contains information specific to your particular concerns.

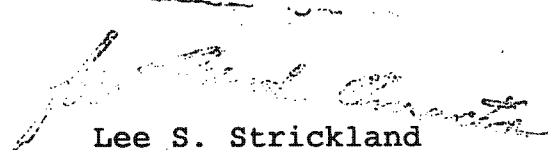
In addition, please be advised that this Agency's records on the assassination of President Kennedy have been reviewed under the less restrictive disclosure provisions of the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992. These re-reviewed records have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in compliance with the Act.

These records are currently being re-reviewed by the Presidentially-appointed Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) which, in accordance with the Records Collection Act, has the authority to make new determinations regarding the release of information. Following review by the Board, these records are returned to NARA to be made available to the public. Therefore, to obtain the most complete versions of the records you want, you should submit your request to NARA at the following address:

JFK Assassination Records Collection  
National Archives at College Park  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

We hope we have been of assistance with your request.

Sincerely,

  
Lee S. Strickland  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

OIT/MSG/IP&CRD/RPM/blo/18APR96

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