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Off. of Public & Cong. Affs.
Director's Office

To : Mrs. Morris

Date: 10/31/95

From : John A. Hartingh

Subject : JFK TASK FORCE

PURPOSE: To advise that on or about 11/6/95, the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) will order release of information in nine FBI documents, previously postponed (redacted) to protect nine individuals - three identities concealed by request and six identities concealed to protect established FBI sources (persons who were contacted on a regular basis but were not informants); and to request Criminal Investigative Division (CID) and National Security Division (NSD) positions on the release as to appeal.

RECOMMENDATION: That CID and NSD addend this memo with their positions as to appealing the ARRB decision to disclose the nine persons named herein and so advise the JFK Task Force and Office of General Counsel (OGC) by 11/6/95.

MTG 10/31/95

62-HQ-1029205

Enclosure

62F-HQ-1029205-3303

- 1 - Mr. R. Bucknam, Room 7176 (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. Kennedy, Room 7142 (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. Shapiro, Room 7427 (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. P. Kelley, Room 7338 (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. Bryant, Room 7110 (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. D. Evans, Room 4230 (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. Loturco, Room 4026 (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. Esposito, Room 7116 (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. Divers, Room 4944 (Enclosure)
- 1 - IRD Front Office, Room 5829 (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mrs. Keeley, Room 6712 (Enclosure)
- 1 - Ms. Siford, Room 7176

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TREAT AS ORIGINAL

Memorandum from John A. Hartingh to Mrs. Morris, dated 10/31/95
Re: JFK TASK FORCE

RFF 7. HQ 62-109060-4NR 1244, NAR 124-10027-10059, identifies Merle Fainsod, Professor of Government and Director of the Russian Research Center at Harvard University, as an established source of the FBI. Fainsod provided minimal information regarding Priscilla Johnson, a well-known newspaper woman and author who spent time in Russia. Johnson was of interest to the FBI in its efforts to interview individuals possessing knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald.

RFF 8. HQ 62-109060-1581, NAR 124-10027-10044, identifies two Cuban sources of the Chicago Office. Ebelia Echevarria and Jesus Martinez were described in this document as sources who provided information concerning the Cuban community.

RFF 9. HQ 62-109060-1NR 2321, NAR 124-10030-10093, identifies Richard Hunter as an informant of the Cincinnati Police Department who provided information regarding the illegal sale and possession of automatic weapons. Hunter stated a fear of being killed in retaliation by those people with which he associated, and his identity was protected at his request.

The FBI provided written justifications arguing the need to protect the individuals listed above. However, the ARRB supports the position that the information at issue is relevant and significant to the assassination and that it outweighs any harm that would be caused to the individuals to be disclosed.

As experienced in the prior appeal to the President, we are experiencing difficulty meeting the statutory burden of protecting FBI symbol number informants, PSI's and PCI's. It would be far more difficult, if not impossible to meet that burden that these nine individuals currently require protection, under the JFK statute as interpreted by this board. We would have to determine whether they are alive, locate them and/or their relatives, interview them for their position on disclosure and identify specific harms that would result from their disclosure. If, however, CID and/or NSD recommend appeal, they are requested to provide their opinion and reasons to the JFK Task Force and OGC by 11/6/95, as the FBI only has 7 days to appeal upon receipt of the letter.