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**From:** CN=Dave Montague/O=ARRB  
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**ComposedDate:** 02/07/1997  
**ComposedDate\_Time:** 11:03:19 AM  
**Subject:** 1st attempt to clarify existence of secretly preserved HSCA records  
Jeremy...how should we proceed: ! !...Chardak wrote us a letter saying he doesn't have anything, but Lewis is offering to deal w/him for us...Lewis doesn't know of Chardak's letter to us...  
CALL REPORT Issue # 79Document's  
Author: Dave Montague & Brian Rosen/ARRB Date Created: 02.06.1997Who initiated the call? Review Board's representative in the call: Brian Rosen & Dave MontagueHSCA Staff Project Subject: 1st attempt to clarify existence of secretly preserved HSCA recordsDescription of the Call \_\_\_\_\_ We spoke w/former HSCA staffer Alvin B. Lewis today to clarify info in his 01.29.1997 letter to David Marwell. Lewis was cordial & we discussed the events surrounding the HSCA during circa 1977. Lewis repeated the story he previously told Anne Buttmer re: Chairman Gonzales & his efforts to control the investigation. Lewis made the following statements re: the status at the time of Gonzales' takeover:-they had formed the pathologists panel-they had broken certain Mexican & Cuban connections-they dealt w/ a few secretive witnesses-they were close to DeMorenschildt (prior to his death)-they were fighting the FBI over the bullet fragment-they encountered individuals who were scared to give statements We asked Lewis about the compilation of tapes, notes, memoranda & indexes of leads collected prior to Sprague's departure. Lewis described the incident as "...the most important unusual event...", meaning the staff was asked to create tape recordings summarizing the work up that point. Lewis said they were fearful that Gonzales might try to destroy records of some of their work. Lewis said he & Burt Chardak assembled all JFK & MLK material worked or planned to be worked (w/in 2 1/2 days) & that no staff knew why this material was being collated. Lewis said he & Chardak were fearful of listening devices (which they did find), so they went to a "borrowed apartment" to listen, compile & index the staff's tape recordings into a single collection. Lewis recalls that Chardak was the last person to have the final version. Lewis said he possesses his personal notes from that 2 1/2 days of work & agreed to allow our review of them at his home or office, but did not comment on whether we may add them to the Collection. Lewis mentioned he asked Sprague if he knew the disposition of the tapes, to which Sprague said he doesn't know & doesn't care to remember. Lewis asked if Chardak is alive & we told him our office sent Chardak a letter. We did not mention to Lewis the discrepancy in Chardak's response to our letter. Lewis volunteered to speak w/Chardak about the possible disposition of the final material. We told him we'd discuss this issue w/ our General Counsel & will contact him soon, to which he agreed. Lewis also said he has some personal correspondence, notes & memos re: the HSCA, but they mostly postdate his work on the committee. He feels they are not significant, but we are free to review them during any visit to his office/home to review the other  
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