MEMO: RELEASE OF JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS—PERCEPTION PROBLEM

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SUBJECTS: JFK ASSASSINATION
DELETIONS
NEGATIVE PRESS

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**ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**

**SUBJECT:** (Optional)

RELEASE OF JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS--PERCEPTION PROBLEM

FROM: John F. Pereira  
C/Historical Review Group/CSI  
404 Ames Bldg.

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)  

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<td>D/CSI 433 Ames Bldg.</td>
<td>1 to 5: Tom, please take a careful look at paragraph three. If the DO can agree to declasification of most of the categories listed, the Agency can avoid a major problem with Congress, the press, and the JFK Review Board.</td>
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Operations

VIA: Director
    Center for Study of Intelligence

FROM: John F. Pereira
    Chief, Historical Review Group

SUBJECT: Release of JFK Assassination Records—Perception Problem

1. This is to advise you of a potential credibility problem facing the Agency with regard to release of the President Kennedy assassination records. Paragraph 5 contains a request that you make a determination as soon as possible to solve this problem.

2. As we near the completion of the first review of the hard copy documents related to the Kennedy assassination, it has become apparent that a potentially serious credibility problem looms. This concerns the negative press, congressional, and public reaction that may well be caused by the extensive deletions in the documents that CIA will release to the National Archives and the public.

3. The problem arises from the fact that we are still trying to resolve differences with the Directorate of Operations reviewers as to what information can be released in several broad categories. By and large, these categories do not contain sensitive information, but the accumulative effect of deleting numerous words and numbers in these categories wherever they appear may well give the impression that CIA is not forthcoming and is withholding a lot of relevant information.

Examples of the categories are:

- cable, dispatch, intelligence report and file numbers
- cryptonyms no longer in use
- methods that are well known, e.g., telephone taps, surveillance (fact of)
- pseudonyms of former employees
SUBJECT: Release of JFK Assassination Records—Perception Problem

- source descriptions used on disseminated reports
- old organization designators, phone and room numbers

(Attached are examples of documents that appear to have been excessively sanitized because of deletions of this type of information.)

4. We have been negotiating these points with the DO reviewers one by one for several months. Given the deadline of 22 August 1993 for release of the JFK records, there is not enough time left to continue trying to resolve all the specific differences.

5. Thus, we appeal to you to make a blanket determination as soon as possible as to which of the above categories of information may be released. The Executive Director is aware of this problem and has asked us what should be done to solve it.

John F. Pereira

Attachments
SUBJECT: Release of JFK Assassination Records--Perception Problem

DCI/CSI/HRG/JFPereira:hfs/x30335 (1 Jun 93)

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