

MEMORANDUM

January 23, 1996

To: Jeremy Gunn
cc: Mary McAuliffe, Christopher Barger

From: Robert J. Skwirot

Subject: Questions for Richard Helms.

Christopher submitted the following questions for Mr. Helms, with the qualifier that, since they were composed on short notice, they are questions which might have been asked before and which may require further refinement:

1. Did you ever personally tell President Kennedy about the assassination plots against Castro? To the best of your knowledge, did Allen Dulles? [Direct question: *did President Kennedy know about the plots?*]
2. Whose decision was it to not discuss with the Warren Commission the assassination plots against Castro? To omit mention of the Cuban surveillance?
3. Was there, at any point, an attempt to ascertain the reasons for some of Oswald's apparent anti-Castro connections in New Orleans?
4. We understand that you have been asked this before: beyond being on the watch list for HTLINGUAL, and beyond the material compiled on him after the assassination, was there ANY connection between Lee Oswald and an intelligence service of the United States, to the best of your knowledge? If such a tie, even an informal one, existed, we need to find records of it and add them to the collection.
5. Was there, to your knowledge or that of any one in CIA [that you learned of after becoming DCI], a false defector program set up to infiltrate American agents into the USSR? If so, do you recall the crypt or name of this program?
6. Was Lee Harvey Oswald briefed by anyone in CIA upon his return to the United States? Would it have been standard procedure to do so for any returning American defector? Who would have done so?
7. What does the digraph "ZR" indicate? Why is it used in so many seemingly unrelated crypts?

8. Other than the investigation coordinated by John Scelso in 1963-64, were there ever any investigations by the CIA into any aspect of the assassination story that may have been brought to light at a later date? For example, in 1967 with the advent of the Garrison trial and the Jack Anderson columns, or in the early 1970's with the revelation of some Agency operation and with the Congressional and Rockefeller committees? To wit: did any of the "new evidence" being proffered by critics of the Warren Commission ever strike the CIA as significant enough to warrant further investigation?

9. Is there anywhere or anything that you believe the ARRB should look at concerning this case? [Ed. Note: re-read the "assassination record" definition to be certain that Helms understands that records include more than docs that refer to LHO or the shooting.]

10. Did the CIA, to your knowledge, continue operations against Castro and Cuba after President Kennedy indicated he wanted such raids stopped after the Missile Crisis?