

MEMORANDUM

January 29, 1996

To: Jeremy Gunn
cc: Mary McAuliffe

From: Robert J. Skwirot, Michelle Seguin, Eric Scheinkopf

Subject: CIA Team Research Project Mission Statement

Although the amount of CIA records awaiting review is staggering- approximately 17 boxes in the Oswald 201 files, 64 boxes in the JFK collection, and numerous CIA related documents in the 300+ boxes of the HSCA collection- the Review Board must consider the possibility that this mass of documents might, due to oversight or obfuscation, provide an account which remains incomplete or inaccurate. Not to address this possibility shifts to the CIA our responsibility for assuring the fullness of the historical record.

This CIA team research project will confront the prospect that additional assassination records might exist at the CIA or in CIA related files. Searching for leads to that end, we will survey open source materials and classified documents currently available to us and will consider questions and allegations brought forward by the research community.

The scope of this project could be huge, and it will not be possible to follow every conceivable lead during the limited life span of our agency. Thus our intent is to pursue topics which appear most promising or which are in greatest need of clarification. We provide the following list as a guide, noting that it is not comprehensive and that some of these subjects might not be addressed:

- MEXICO CITY. A number of issues in Mexico City need further clarification, among these are the tapes, the photos, and Win Scott's papers. We might also inquire if there are or were Mexican government files relating to the Oswald story. Furthermore, in this and in other contexts we should consider the possible existence of back-channel communication between station and headquarters.
- DEFECTORS. Oswald's Russian connection merits further attention. In this context we might consider examining CIA debriefing papers of other defectors and attempting to obtain files from the former Soviet Union.

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- INTERVIEWS & DEPOSITIONS. This project will also undertake research to identify former CIA employees or associates who may be able to clarify or expand the historical record. Additionally we will assist in preparations for interviews or depositions of these people. Possible subjects include Richard Helms, Robert Shaw, John Horton, and Walter Elder, as well as certain individuals who cannot be mentioned here since their names are classified.
- CIA GENERAL FILES and project files such as LIENVOY should be examined since they may contain information which can fill gaps or address apparent inconsistencies in the record.
- MKULTRA. Although MKULTRA is connected to a number of parts of the assassination, such as by the use of a product of MKULTRA research- LSD- on Yuriy Nosenko, by the poisons produced for the anti-Castro operations, and by the alleged New Orleans connection through Alton Oschner and Tulane University, our preliminary research suggests that inquiry into CIA's MKULTRA mind control program of the 1950s and 1960s will not yield undisclosed documents. However, should time permit or should new leads appear, MKULTRA will be further considered within this project.
- RESEARCHER'S RECOMMENDATIONS. A number of researchers have offered suggestions of topics which we might pursue. Among these were assertions that there was/were:
 - additional intercepts of Oswald's mail.
 - a CIA debriefing of Oswald.
 - investigations conducted by Helms and the CIA of the assassination including analysis of Zapruder film and of autopsy materials.
 - CIA involvement in a campaign to discredit Warren Commission

critics.

In conclusion, we view our task not as an investigation of the assassination but an inquiry concerning the completeness and accuracy of the record, a fine distinction but one that is important in justifying this work in terms of our mandate.