

MEMORANDUM

To: Tim Wray

From: Christopher Barger

Subject: Brad Ayers

File: 4.0.2 (JMWAVE)

The purpose of this memo is to give you background on who Brad Ayers is and the story he tells. His story is accepted to differing degrees, depending on who one talks to, but the basics of his story check out, according to our research.

Ayers was an infantry officer in the U.S. Army during the early 1960's, specializing in paramilitary training. In early 1963, (records checks indicate it was in early April) Ayers was "loaned" by the Army to the CIA, which assigned him to the JMWAVE station. Ayers' job was to train Cuban exiles and prepare them for an invasion of Cuba. This much of his story is borne out by checks of his military and CIA files.

From here, the veracity of Ayers' claims are less easy to discern. He claims to have seen many figures at JMWAVE who were not there, according to the official record; these include Johnny Roselli and William Harvey (former Task Force W/SAS chief for CIA, who was removed from that position by Kennedy after Harvey overstepped his authority after the Missile Crisis). Ayers also claims to have gone on several raiding missions with his proteges, and to have come under fire from Castro's forces in the summer of 1963. This is significant because according to the official record, all government sanctioned action against Castro had ceased by that point.

Ayers says that many of his colleagues at the JMWAVE station built up a strong resentment of President Kennedy, and says that he believes several of them to have played roles in the assassination. Foremost among these, he says, was David Morales, the operations officer for CIA in Miami.

The HSCA interviewed Ayers, and performed searches for his records. In doing so, they discovered five sealed envelopes in his file, which HSCA staff was not allowed access to. The envelopes have been the source of some speculation among those in the research community who believe Ayers' story.

On May 12, I interviewed Ayers at his home outside of St. Paul, Minnesota. At that point, the questions were based on information obtained from open sources only, as few of the staff had their clearances yet.

I have enclosed with this memo the following:

- a) My report to Jeremy on the Ayers interview in May
- b) A copy of Ayers' letter to John Tunheim at the beginning of the Board's operation in 1994.
- c) Ayers' biography and proposal for the reissuance of his 1976 book.
- d) A compilation, provided to us by Ayers, of the history of his FOIA requests for his records.
- e) A 1991 article from a Minneapolis alternative newspaper on Ayers (which he again provided us and is to be used for background only)
- f) Ayers' most recent letter to the ARRB, addressed to me

For additional background, you may wish to read Ayers' 1976 book, The War That Never Was, which is Ayers' account of his experiences, using fictional names instead of true names of his alleged colleagues. Ayers' also is described in Fonzi's book, The Last Investigation.

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