

MEMORANDUM

August 1, 1997

To: Jeremy Gunn
cc: Kevin Tiernan, Manuel Legapsi, Joan Zimmerman
From: Christopher Barger
Subj: Gun Running Project

The following is a summary of the state of the gun running research project. I should note that since I received this project shortly before my departure from ARRB, I did not have sufficient time to perform adequate follow up on any of the items noted in this memo. Rather, due to the time limit, I have opted to simply fill in as many of the blanks on the project chart as possible, and to provide documentation and/or explanation, where it is available, of these requests and the current status of this project.

FBI Team

According to Kevin Tiernan, the FBI team has conducted a limited search for files on the individuals listed on the gun running memo. He informs me that the items in the "Oswald as Informant" section are already being processed by the Bureau, and no further action is necessary from ARRB. Files have been requested by ARRB staff, and review is continuing, on John Thomas Masen, the DRE, Alpha 66, and the Minutemen. Marie Fagnant has just completed reviewing the Minutemen files, and has given me a report on what gun running material she came across in either those files or peripheral files she saw. (See attachment A)

CIA Team

Manuel Legapsi reports to me that on February 3, 1997, he submitted a draft memo to the Director of Research and Analysis (see attachment B) elaborating on the Sylvia Odio aspect of the gun running charges, and providing a list of recommended searches to request of CIA. This memo was submitted in draft form in order to allow for direction or changes from the R+A Director. He reports that he never received a response, either in writing, electronically, or orally regarding this memo; and, lacking direction, thus never submitted the list to CIA to have them check for the requested files. He is still awaiting a response on this memo. Legapsi also submitted to Cathy Rodriguez an updated version of the project chart with several new names included (see Attachment C); he reports that after no one else seemed to send anything in, he put this project on the back burner and concentrated on several

File 4.0.4 (Gun Running)

Cbarger e:\wp-docs\gunrunn.wpd

other projects.

In response to a request by me in mid July, Legaspi did a computer search in the CIA sequestered collection. He provided me with a list of RIFs this search turned up, as well as a list of names for which he found "hits." (See Attachment D)

Secret Service

Joan Zimmerman reports to me that in her opinion, "we've asked for everything (in the LaFontaine book) worth asking for." She provided me with a copy of a letter to the Secret Service which went out on February 12, 1997, under David Marwell's signature (see attachment E). In this letter, the Secret Service was requested to search its files for a number of the gun running names. Zimmerman also reports that on April 8, 1997, she submitted to Michelle Combs a list of names to check against the Inter-Agency Source Register, and that many of those names were on the gun running chart. (See Attachment F) She noted that many of the names included on the list were, when noticed by the Research and Analysis Director, crossed off of the list given to the CIA to check on the Source Register. She also informed me that the Executive Director had eliminated some of the gun running names from a draft of the February 12 letter to Secret Service. For those names not requested of USSS, she suggests that these were eliminated by ARRB senior staff and so were not requested. In any case, there has been no response to date from the Secret Service to that letter.

Attachment A: Fagnant memo on gun running items in the Minutemen files

Attachment B: Draft of Legaspi's 2.3.97 Odio/Suggested name search memo

Attachment C: Updated gun running chart (I have updated this chart to reflect information provided by team liaisons for this project)

Attachment D: Search results from the CIA sequestered collection database

Attachment E: Letter sent to Secret Service by Joan Zimmerman under David Marwell's signature, February 12, 1997

Attachment F: List of names submitted to Michelle Combs by Joan Zimmerman, 4.8.97