

MEMORANDUM

April 26, 1996

To: Jeremy Gunn
cc: David Marwell, Kevin Tiernan, Mary McAuliffe
From: Christopher Barger, Manuel Legaspi
Subj: Suggested requests for CIA
File: 4.20.2

The ARRB Cuba Team has determined several areas for which it suggests additional research, including official file requests to the CIA. We have provided what we believe to be justification for these requests for evidence in this memo. It should be noted that in requesting these documents and/or files, the ARRB *is not designating them "assassination records."* Rather, our purpose is to review them for *possible* relevance to the assassination story, and to attempt to use these files to locate additional assassination records.

DAVID MORALES

Basis:

As Chief of Operations at the JMWAVE CIA station, David Morales was a key figure in the CIA's efforts to destabilize and/or topple the government of Fidel Castro. These efforts by CIA are known to have resulted in the growth of disgruntlement among anti-Castro Cuban exile groups; the anti-Castro exiles might perhaps have been capable of violence in displaying their resentment, and have been alleged to have cooperated with similarly dissatisfied elements within CIA (including David Morales) in a plot to kill President Kennedy.

Goals:

To gain a better understanding of David Morales' responsibilities while at JMWAVE; to evaluate allegations about Mr. Morales in light of accusations made against him.¹

¹An investigator for the House Select Committee on Assassinations found evidence in his investigation that led him to believe that Morales may have been both vehemently opposed to the President and capable of violence. (Fonzi, *The Last Investigation*, pp. 366-390) This investigator, while perhaps biased, was still an agent of a Congressional Committee, and his work should be followed up, as it was part of the House Select Committee's investigation of the assassination.

Justification:

David Morales is presumably a major figure in the anti-Castro and JMWAVE activities of CIA.

- David Morales was Chief of Operations at JMWAVE; anti-Castro operations that originated at that base might very well be named or described within his files.
- As Chief of Operations, Morales presumably had contact with many in the exile community; it will be useful to examine whether individuals who had contact with Oswald also had contact with Morales.
- In an interview with a representative of the Review Board, Bradley Ayers, a US Army veteran, who appears to have been a paramilitary trainer of Cuban exiles in the Florida Keys, and whose claims can be verified by Army records, alleged direct contact with David Morales while in Florida. Capt. Ayers's impression of Morales was similar to that of the HSCA investigator in that he believed Morales to have an intense hatred for President Kennedy, and a propensity for violence. (Ayers interview with Barger, 5.12.95) This allegation warrants investigation of Morales' records.

In conclusion, ARRB staff should review the personnel, 201, Office of Security, "P", and any other CIA files on David Morales in order to determine the scope of his activities while at JMWAVE. It is important to note that there may be additional records about Morales in the segregated collection or the microfilm collection; staff has been unable to determine this to date.

TED SHACKLEY

Basis:

Further understanding of Cuban-American relations, Anti-Castro activities, paramilitary activities as they relate to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy could be enhanced through an examination of files (and, if appropriate, designating certain files as "assassination records") on the Chief of the CIA station in Miami, Ted Shackley.

Goals:

Examining Ted Shackley's personnel file and other files related to his tenure at JMWAVE station may reveal information on additional assassination records.

Moreover, an ARRB examination of files relating to Shackley at JMWAVE may assure the public that we have, at least, attempted to clarify the public record on his role in paramilitary efforts against Cuba, assassination attempts on Fidel Castro, and the investigation of the JFK case by the HSCA.

Justification:

Shackley, by his very position at JMWAVE, including as Station Chief, was an integral figure in Cuban-U.S. relations during the Kennedy administration, and, therefore, can be considered relevant to the JFK case for the following reasons, among others:

- The HSCA criticized the Chief of Station of JMWAVE for not querying his clandestine sources for intelligence relating to anti-Castro or Cuban Government involvement in the JFK assassination. (HSCA report, p. 111). Checking Shackley's records may shed some light on the investigative activities of the JMWAVE station in the aftermath of the assassination.
- An examination of his files may lead to records detailing the cooperation between the JMWAVE station and anti-Castro groups which have been strongly linked to Lee Harvey Oswald, such as the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiante (DRE).
- Shackley, as COS of JMWAVE, may have had contacts with anti-Castro Cubans or CIA employees who may have demonstrated hostile feelings towards JFK, and whose tendencies might have taken a violent turn. Records which may either support or disprove this thesis may be located in his files.
- The House Select Committee on Assassinations questioned Shackley at his office in Langley. According to Fonzi (pp. 358-359), the HSCA staff had little chance to assemble any background information on Shackley prior to the interview (this may indicate that the HSCA did not have access to his files at the Agency, therefore precluding the chance that his files already exist in the segregated CIA collection or in the microfilm rolls). Shackley was never formally deposed by the HSCA, and Fonzi felt that he was less than truthful in his answers during the interview. It is important to note that there may be Shackley material included in the segregated collection at CIA; staff has been unable to determine this to date.

CROSS, GUPTON, AND HENRY

Basis:

Clarification of conflicts in the public record has already been determined to be part of the ARRB's responsibility (see depositions of Doctors Humes and Boswell).

Goals:

Obtaining for review the personnel files and true identities of Ron CROSS (note: ARRB staff believes that it knows the true identity of Cross), Doug GUPTON, and Bart HENRY, as this may lead to the identification and discovery of additional assassination records. Additionally, obtaining interviews with all three men, if possible.

Justification:

An ARRB interview with and review of files of Ron CROSS, Doug GUPTON and Bart HENRY, as relates to the time frame of the early 1960's at the JMWAVE station, may assure the public that we have, at least, attempted to clarify the considerable confusion in the public record (as defined by the HSCA final report) as to the alleged existence and identity of Maurice Bishop, who is alleged by many to have played a role in the assassination.

- All three former CIA employees were interviewed by the HSCA during its investigation. That in itself could be construed as justification enough. Moreover, the three men gave conflicting and sometimes directly contradictory testimony as to the existence and/or identity of Maurice Bishop.² The ARRB should try to discern the true identity of these men, and upon doing so, attempt to interview them in order to clarify the public record regarding Bishop's alleged existence and connection to the Oswald story.
- Furthermore, a cursory overview of the personnel files of these men might lead to the inclusion of new records for the collection. For example, operations that these men were either in charge of or worked on might be mentioned in their personnel files; records of these operations might, in turn, potentially be designated assassination records and included in the collection by the ARRB.
- Finally, a review of the personnel files of these men might foreseeably verify or debunk their claims of having been at JMWAVE and having worked for whom they say they did.

²Cross stated that he was "almost positive" that David Atlee Phillips used the pseudonym "Maurice Bishop." Henry stated that he had known *both* Phillips *and* Bishop; Gupton stated that he did not remember Phillips ever having used "Bishop" as a pseudo, and that the sketch of Bishop did not look like anyone he knew while at JMWAVE. (HSCA Vol. 10, pp. 47-49)

In conclusion, both to clarify the public record and to attempt to locate additional records, it is important that the ARRB staff learn the true identities and review the files of Ron CROSS, Doug GUPTON and Bart HENRY. It is important to note that in addition to the folders already known to be in the microfilm collection, there may be additional material on these individuals in the segregated collection; staff has been unable to determine this to this point.

CONCLUSION

It is the opinion of the Cuba Task Force that requests for the Morales and Shackley files be made a priority; they hold the highest possibility of finding records which can be designated "assassination related." The files of Cross, Gupton, and Henry, while interesting and worthy of further attention, should be a lesser priority. The issues involving these three are issues of memory and testimony that will likely not be resolved by a review of their files. Thus, we should wait on requesting them.