

September 11, 1996

MEMORANDUM

To: Tim Wray
cc: Jeremy Gunn, Joan Zimmerman
From: Christopher Barger
Subj: Prouty Interview Preparation

While I will be thoroughly reading Fletcher Prouty's book, JFK, in preparation for our upcoming conversation with him, there are a few passages in the book which call for immediate attention.

I have enclosed pages 291-295 of the book with this memo. This is the passage where Prouty deals with the alleged breakdown of security in Dallas for President Kennedy's trip. I have identified seven areas where specific allegations are made; for each of these items, I have placed in this memo suggested courses of preparatory research on our part prior to the interview. When a good question for Prouty arises from the allegation, I have also suggested it.

Item One

Was it unprecedented for the whole Cabinet to be traveling at one time, especially traveling together?

If it is possible, we should check out personal logs of the individual Cabinet members, or of the various departments, to determine if it truly was unprecedented for this type of a trip.

Item Two:

Was it (or is it) taboo or improper, according to USSS regulations, for the President and Vice President to a) appear together; and b) travel together? I seem to recall having seen Clinton and Gore together, as well as Bush and Quayle. If it is a breach of procedure, why does it continue?
Question for Prouty: Hadn't Kennedy and Johnson ever appeared in public together before?

Item Three:

It seems to me that in research done by Joan Zimmerman, Dennis Quinn, Tim Wray, and others on staff, we have established that this contention is untrue. While there is/was such a course, conducted at Ft. Holabird, it appears that USSS policy did not include supplemental security from local

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jurisdictions. I would like to confirm this assessment. *Questions for Prouty: How do you know what policies were in effect for additional security? Do you have documentation of your contention that it was customary to use local law enforcement or military for additional security? Can you prove that the USSS has ever relied on local authorities or military for assistance?*

Item Four:

Questions for Prouty: Where is your verification for this charge? Who was "told not to do certain things," and what were they told not to do? Who was left out altogether, and what role do you allege they should have played?

Item Five:

Is this contention correct? What are the USSS operating procedures for motorcades? Was the type of protection and type of route a real violation of procedure? *Questions for Prouty: How do you know what USSS guidelines are/were? Have you seen copies of them? Can you document that this was a violation? Where do you get your information that this was not commonplace?*

Item Six:

Is this contention correct? Do we know if Ft. Worth was called off for the Dallas swing? *Questions for Prouty: You say this is documented. Where? Can you give us proof of this? Who did you get your information from?*

Item Seven:

This paragraph deals with the 316th/Reich allegation that is the crux of our interest in Prouty. We have already done most of the research work for this allegation. *Questions for Prouty: Who was your source for this allegation? What was his position in the unit? Would he have been in a position to have known of any offers made to, refusals of help by, or harsh words with the USSS? How close was this source to Reich? Do you still have your notes from this conversation? Can we contact this person?*

Supplemental Questions for Prouty:

Why do you think the 316th might have had might files on Lee Harvey Oswald? How do you think

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it might be possible to have had a breach of standard operating procedure as significant as this and yet have had no member of the unit either report anything to a superior, or have spoken to the mainstream press in thirty three years? Have you ever spoken to Colonel Reich yourself?

I will be developing more lines of questioning and follow-up research as I continue through the book.

If you have either answers to any of these questions, feedback or further suggestions for questions, please let me know.