

January 29, 1997

Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army, Ret.) Daniel Marvin
715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Marvin:

As I am sure you can imagine, we receive a wide variety of suggestions from people who advise us that they have what they believe to be information related to the assassination of President Kennedy. Some who provide such information, such as yourself, also suggest to us that if the Review Board does not agree with their beliefs and fully dedicate itself to investigating their leads, then the Review Board will not be fulfilling its obligations. It is important for you to keep in mind that the Review Board's principal duty is to locate and send records to the National Archives, not to re-investigate the assassination or recommend indictments. Some people do not understand the Review Board's focus in this regard.

To the extent that we can reasonably pursue records that follow from such leads, we try to do so. In your case, I have made a number of inquiries regarding some of your allegations. (By making such inquiries, we do not thereby endorse any theory or witness.)

On the basis of your information, we contacted Dr. David V. Vanek to seek any information that he may have regarding your allegations. I conducted two telephone interviews with him in November, 1996, and since that time have worked with him to prepare a written affidavit of his recollections. Yesterday we received from him the final notarized version of that sworn affidavit. I am enclosing a copy.

In brief, Dr. Vanek confirmed that he is the person who attended various Special Forces training courses and was assigned to the 6th Special Forces Group with you in early 1964. Beyond that, however, he has no recollection of events as you described them. Most significantly, he stated that he departed Ft. Bragg in May, 1964, for duty in the Republic of Vietnam, and that upon the conclusion of his Vietnam tour in May, 1965, he left active duty effective June 30, 1965, without ever returning to Ft. Bragg. These facts appear to be confirmed by entries in his official military personnel file (extracts of which are attached to his affidavit).

The fact that Dr. Vanek has no recollection of the events you describe does not, of course, mean that those events did not occur. However, the fact that he (1) appears not to have been at Ft. Bragg in

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January 29, 1997

Page 2

August, 1965 (or, for that matter, at any time during 1965); and (2) appears not to have been on active duty at the time you alleged he witnessed a meeting between you and an employee of the CIA, suggests an inconsistency with the information you have provided.

By the way, today Dr. Vanek is a cardiovascular specialist and a reserve Colonel (O-6) in the Army Medical Corps. The fact that he remains active in the Reserves appears to explain why his records are not at the Military Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, as that facility ordinarily holds only the records of former military personnel who have terminated their service.

In a previous letter to you I suggested that you make an audiocassette recording of your experiences. This would allow you to place your recollections and testimony into the official collection at the National Archives. This is not an offer we make to everyone who provides us with leads. You replied that unless your deposition is taken under oath, your testimony would be inadmissible in some future legal proceeding if such were ever to occur. This concern could be alleviated in two ways. First, when you provide the Review Board with your audiocassettes you could attach to them a sworn affidavit affirming that the statements taped thereon are true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and recollection. Alternatively, you could draft a sworn affidavit, like Dr. Vanek's, that fully describes your firsthand knowledge in detail. Such affidavits would be as admissible in court as a deposition under oath.

I urge you to reconsider our offer. Please remember that our statutorily imposed mission is not to endorse the beliefs of any person or to investigate the assassination, but to make sure that the record at the Archives is as complete as possible.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Wray
Chief Analyst for Military Records

Enclosure