

# Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW ■ Second Floor ■ Washington, DC 20530

## MEMORANDUM

May 14, 1995

TO: The Board

FROM: David G. Marwell  
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update

### *LAST WEEK...*

#### **Sheryl's News**

I am sure that you were all as surprised as I was to learn of Sheryl's decision to take another position. We will need to discuss the transition and recruitment for her replacement. It goes without saying that we will miss her and that we wish her well.

#### **Meeting with FBI General Counsel Howard Shapiro**

Sheryl, Jeremy, and I met with Howard Shapiro on Thursday to discuss the FBI informant issue. I will brief you on this meeting on Wednesday. I have scheduled a meeting with Shapiro in our offices for Wednesday at 2:00 PM.

#### **Meeting with CIA**

Mary, Jeremy, and I met with John Periera (and a number of his colleagues) to discuss the May 18th briefing. They are aware that this is their opportunity to provide the clear and convincing evidence required by the Act to sustain their postponements. Our CIA team will organize the postponements that appear in a number of key Mexico City documents into categories. The CIA will provide their reasons (with supporting evidence) for the postponements they have taken. We made it clear that the Board intends to make final determinations on these postponements in a meeting following the CIA briefing. We informed the CIA that we would like to have similar meetings to discuss other major issues (e.g., Cuba).

### *COMING UP...*

#### **Experts Conference**

I am attaching a draft of the first page of our Conference Agenda which gives a good description of our goals for this meeting. Jeremy should have a final agenda by Monday afternoon. By all

accounts, the participants are excited about the prospects offered by the conference and are looking forward to it. Those whom we did not invite have expressed dismay, and we have indicated that we will be holding other, similar meetings in the future.

### ***New Orleans Public Hearing Planning***

**Venue:** With Kermit's kind assistance, we have a site for the public hearing: A large conference room at the old U.S. Mint Building. Reports from the Louisiana State Museum, which oversees the facility, indicate that U.S. Senate committee field hearings have been held in this particular room and that it meets our requirements for a dignified and comfortable venue. The hearing will likely be scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 1995, at 10:00 a.m.

**Witnesses:** District Attorney Harry Connick responded positively to your letter regarding Garrison investigation files. We have followed up with a telephone conversation with First Assistant District Attorney Camille G. Buras regarding our interest in the Garrison records and the possibility of Connick testifying at our public hearing, as well as our interest in locating former Garrison prosecutors and investigators regarding records. The response to date has been most positive. The weather last week in New Orleans, however, did not cooperate in our hopes to pin down more details.

Dr. Michael Kurtz from Southeastern Louisiana State University has agreed to testify at the public hearing on June 28th. In addition, other potential witnesses are being sought. Kermit is attempting to reach historian Steven Ambrose and Anna had called Lindy Boggs.

**Records Search:** Anne Buttimer is pursuing various other witnesses to find additional assassination records. These witnesses will be interviewed on an advance trip to New Orleans and are possible candidates to be included in the public hearing.

### **Congressional Relations**

Tom has taken over the responsibility of routine Congressional staff liaison. He provided updated information on the Board's activities and met with Brian Dettlebach of the minority staff for the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and Don Goldberg of the minority staff for the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee. Jack has plans next week to meet with someone from the staff of our Senate appropriations subcommittee, as well as a staff aide to Senator Kennedy.

### **Media Update**

Jack was interviewed on Arkansas radio station KWHN on Friday, May 5th on Board activities.

Jack and Bill were on Chicago's National Public Radio WBEZ together for a live telephone interview on Thursday, May 11th.

### **Book Notes**

Veteran assassination historian Harold Weisberg's newest book *Never Again!* (Carroll and Graf)

is now out in bookstores, and John Newman's book (same publisher) is due out any day.

### **Personnel**

Three new staff members will join us on May 15th:

- Joe Freeman will serve as a Senior Analyst with primary responsibilities for Congressional records.
- Noelle Gray will serve as an Administrative Assistant with primary responsibility to the Analysis and Review Teams.
- Robert Skwirot will serve as an analyst.

### **State Department**

Mary McAuliffe will include the State Department in her portfolio. We have scheduled a meeting for May 19th.

### **Attachments**

I am attaching the following items:

- Draft letter to FBI
- Draft "Request for Evidence" form
- Experts Conference Agenda Introduction
- Draft Agenda for May 17-18
- "Blackboard" notes form last meeting