

VIA HAND DELIVERY

February 20, 1997

Mr. Harold J. Grasman
Special Agent in Charge
Forensic Services Division
U.S. Secret Service
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20223

Re: Request for Secret Service to Conduct a Forensic Examination of Handwritten Notes
of Frank Ragano

Dear Mr. Grasman:

The Assassination Records Review Board (Review Board) requests the Secret Service to conduct a forensic examination of the enclosed twenty (20) pages of handwritten notes for the purpose of providing information to us regarding the approximate date that the notes were created. We have spoken with Mr. Larry Stewart, Senior Document Examiner in your office who agreed to provide assistance to us and who requested that we notify you officially of our request.

The Review Board was created pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). The Review Board is assisting in the creation of a comprehensive record of the assassination of President Kennedy. It is in conjunction with the Review Board's attempt to clarify the status of records that we make this request to you.

Mr. Frank Ragano was formerly an attorney who represented, among others, Mr. Jimmy Hoffa, Mr. Carlos Marcello, and Mr. Santo Trafficante. The Review Board took the sworn deposition of Mr. Ragano, who testified under oath that he prepared the enclosed notes based upon his conversations with the above-named former clients. He testified that it is his belief, based upon the evidence available to him, that these three men were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. He produced the enclosed notes as a memorialization of his conversations in the 1960s (particularly 1963) with these men.¹

¹Although most notes report conversations from the 1960s, at least one note pertains to a conversation that is reported to have occurred in 1987.

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In his deposition, Mr. Ragano testified that he took contemporaneous notes of the conversations. He also testified that he kept these notes, at least until the early 1990s. He was not certain, however, whether the enclosed notes were the original notes from the 1960s, or whether they had been copied from the originals sometime in the early 1990s. For evidentiary purposes, it would be important to know whether the notes were made contemporaneously, or whether they were made some thirty years later. To the extent that the Forensic Services Division can confirm or refute that these notes were made at about those dates, such an analysis would be helpful.

Accordingly, the Review Board requests that you provide us with a written report of the analysis of the enclosed notes. In addition to the original twenty pages (seven pages have writing on both sides), I am enclosing a photocopy of the pages arranged in the exhibit number order from the deposition. We would appreciate it if you could refer to the pages by number in your report. When we have completed our inquiry regarding these issues, we will, with your permission, forward the copies and your report to the National Archives and Records Administration.

We very much appreciate the cooperation and help of your office. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel

Enclosures

- 20 pages of original handwritten notes (7 pages have writing on both sides)
- numbered photocopies of the original handwritten notes

cc: Mr. Frank Ragano