

MEMORANDUM

September 4, 1997

updated September 10, 1997

To: David Marwell
Jeremy Gunn
Tom Samoluk

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: Current Status of US Secret Service Review

This memo describes the current status of Secret Service review of its records under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 in terms of several categories. Those categories include the following: Issues and requests to the Secret Service that are still outstanding; problems raised in our correspondence with the Secret Service, including references to documents that have not been presented to ARRB; potential requests for assassination records; issues awaiting Review Board action; and a time frame for completion of Secret Service review.

I. Outstanding Requests

- a. NSA-USSS Letter of Understanding from Director's Briefing Book
- b. Postponements on USSS records at LBJ Library
- c. SS-13 [HSCA list and names]. We sent letter on February 12, 1997, and requested a response by March 18, 1997.
- d. USSS shift reports dated November, 1960, through December, 1960. We might need to put this in writing.
- e. We sent documents from Treasury and OMB for Secret Service review on June 12, 1997, and requested a reply by July 11, 1997. On September 9, 1997, John Machado said that the Service might take some postponements on the OMB records.
- f. On June 26, 1997, we sent a lengthy request for USSS files based on letters by Robert Blakey. We requested a reply by August 1, 1997.
- g. Our June 26, 1997 letter requested a re-check for files that HSCA asked for but did not receive from USSS. We requested reply by August 8, 1997.

- h. On September 19, 1997, the Secret Service should respond to our letter of August 19, 1997, conveying the results of the August 5, 1997 Board meeting.
- i. On October 18, 1997, we should receive a response to our SS-18 request for materials on organized crime sent September 4, 1997.
- j. On September 9, 1997, John Machado said he would write a memo explaining the absence of the folder "Other Places July-December 1963" listed on the 135 form.

II. Problems in USSS Correspondence

This category could also be referred to as miscellaneous issues presented in Jane Vezeris's (and John Machado's) letters that remain unresolved.

- k. On April 17, 1997, we requested documents listed in the Service's classified document log book. On August 11, 1997, Jane Vezeris responded that she was not able to locate any of the documents listed in the log. Nor could she describe the SS numbers assigned to the individual documents. This response seems inadequate, and I think we need to pursue this further.
- l. On July 9, 1997, John Machado delivered the Service's response to our April 18, 1997 request for files on Cubans. We received computer printouts rather than actual files. John has told me that the actual files still exist. I recommend that we at least examine the actual files. We have already requested (in other letters) some of the files that were viewed by Eileen Dinneen.
- m. Included in the response with the Cuban computer printouts was a page from another log book. We should make a formal request for all Secret Service log books for the 1961-1964 period, and we should specifically request that the original volumes (not photocopies) be brought to our office for inspection. This includes the two log books we are now aware of.
- n. In one of her letters from fall 1996, Jane Vezeris mentioned that she was withholding one document, which the Service was trying to RE-classify. I can find the letter when I have some free time.
- o. In her compliance letter dated April 30, 1997, Jane Vezeris referred to Warren Commission records in the Ford Library that are not yet stamped open.
- p. In her July 18, 1997 letter responding to SS-15, Jane Vezeris mentioned that the

Service had referred some documents from the files we requested to third agencies. We have (twice) asked the Service not to refer documents before ARRB has seen them.

q. In her July 28, 1997 letter, Jane Vezeris mentioned that enclosures for one of the Church Committee letters she sent to us would be forthcoming from Treasury. We have not received them. Also in this July 28 letter, Vezeris said she would send us a separate letter addressing PROJECT STAR. As of September 10, 1997, we have not received any such letter.

r. Correct processing of RIFs has been an ongoing topic of our correspondence and discussions with the Secret Service. In addition to the use of the word "restricted" on RIFs describing open documents, we might be facing a challenge in accounting for the documents designated "assassination records" by the Review Board. We have copies of records so designated in our SCIF. What ultimately appears in the Secret Service portion of the JFK Collection may require close examination (page by page). The RIFs we have received from the Service do not seem to coincide with "assassination record" designations in all cases. I recommend that this aspect of Secret Service review come under the rubric of compliance.

III. Future Requests for Information

The inventories and memos provided by Jane Vezeris and John Machado on July 31, 1997, open up new avenues for requests. These include the following topics:

1. Organized crime files [requested September 4, 1997].
2. Information on Presidential appointments, appointment slips, gate logs, and EPS records
3. Documents described in one memo as the "S" records (We have twice asked the Secret Service for "COS" materials but have yet to receive any.)
4. More general information on protective research @1963-1964
5. Security check lists during the Kennedy administration
6. Information on the White House Detail

7. Vice President Johnson's visit to Dallas in April, 1963.
8. Vice Presidential protection
9. Military SOP
10. Incidents involving protection for President Kennedy
11. Issues pertaining to Presidential aircraft
12. Information on anti-Castro activities
13. Loose papers on the Warren Commission
14. Documents I requested but did not receive in July, 1995.
15. The loose memos Jane Vezeris provided on July 31, 1997, should contain enough leads for additional requests.
16. A request for documentation of the Service's chain of custody for the Zapruder film.

IV. Issues Awaiting Review Board Action

--Eileen Dinneen materials, including threat sheets.

The Board can vote to open one of her contested memos because the Service has now released all the information Dinneen summarized. The Board could consider requesting both the computer printouts viewed by Dinneen and the raw files on which the computer printouts were based.

--The Board should propose that the Secret Service place its copies of **The Record** in the National Archives.

--Protective surveys for President Kennedy, 1961-1963. The Board should have an opportunity to explore this issue in more depth by reviewing my memo (updated September 9, 1997) describing these and comparable documents.

I recommend that the first step the Board should take [either in September or October]

is to request that the Service place **The Record** in the National Archives. Let's give the Service 2 months to make appropriate arrangements to photocopy the pages they need.

Once this is done, the Board should request the opportunity to inspect the PRS files of all individuals listed on Dinneen's threat sheets. The Board might designate the raw files "assassination records." If the Service places **The Record** in the Archives without restrictions, the Service will have eroded its own position (if it wishes to appeal the release of names) because those names and the disposition of the individual are listed in **The Record**. The Board recognizes that the Service placed its volumes of **The Record** (1938-1959) in the National Archives, and these volumes are already open to the public.

V. Time Frame for Completion of Secret Service Review

Since the Secret Service has averaged from 5 to 9 months in its responses to our requests, I would suggest that we complete our series of requests by around December 15. All of our deadlines for the completion of responses should be within a time frame ending March 15, 1998. If the Service has provided inadequate responses, or has not responded at all by March 15, 1998, to our requests, I would suggest that we change our level of inquiry at that point. We should then request more immediate access to the boxes of materials we requested. We could ask the Service either to bring boxes to our office for inspection, or make arrangements for us to visit Centre Pointe, or allow us access to boxes brought from Centre Pointe to 1310 L Street.

Once we are satisfied that we have examined all relevant boxes, the final phase of our contact with the Service must include depositions of individuals responsible for the destruction of records in violation of the JFK Act as well as depositions of those individuals at the Service who have been most immediately responsible for implementing the JFK Act. These depositions should take place in June, 1998.