

## MEMORANDUM

January 29, 1997

To: File

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: Vezeris letter of December 20, 1996

In her letter of December 20, 1996, Jane Vezeris responded to our letter of October 21, 1996 regarding protective surveys. Vezeris also added a narrative on another issue--a missing file--which Ron Haron had raised in his initial compliance outline letter in November 1996. The purpose of this short memo is to clarify a potentially erroneous impression a reader of Vezeris's narrative might draw from her statements.

On pages 3 and 4 of the December 20, 1996 letter, Vezeris offered an account of her knowledge of the missing file ("602.111-Other Places Folder #6-July-Nov 1963"). We have determined that this file was not made available to Jeremy Gunn when he first requested access to these records at the Federal Records Center in January 1995. The Vezeris letter implies that the Service did not notice anything amiss in the protective survey collection until late 1996, when John Machado was shown a letter I wrote to Steve Tilley in August 1995, which inquired into the status of the missing file.

In fact, Jeremy Gunn noticed that the above cited file was missing in his notes on the 135 Form he used in February, 1995. Jeremy Gunn brought this to the attention of Secret Service personnel who were with him while he looked through these boxes at Secret Service offices. Within three or four weeks, Jeremy informed John Machado that this file was missing. John Machado apparently did not remember that he had already been informed that this file was missing when he expressed such surprise that I had written to Steve Tilley asking if the file had been retrieved by the time it reached his office at NARA. Steve looked for the file but could not find it. It was missing before the Secret Service transferred these boxes from the Federal Records Center to NARA--and probably before the Service asked to have that box brought from the Federal Records Center to its downtown offices.

In other words, some time between 1974 and early 1995, someone removed this file from the box. One might hold out a remote hope that this file might have been relevant to one of the congressional committees whose investigations touched on the Kennedy assassination in the 1970s. Perhaps it is still in the records of a committee. Possibly a curious Secret Service employee (if only Secret Service employees had access to these records held at FRC) may still have it. It might have been misplaced in the now- destroyed Box 6, which included materials dated through November 1963. That Vezeris could not identify a Secret Service employee who questioned why this file was missing does not

exclude the likelihood that the file “disappeared” while these records were in the custody of the Secret Service and held at the Federal Records Center.

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