

MEMORANDUM

March 25, 1996

To: Jeremy Gunn, David Marwell
cc: Phil Golrick

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: Request for Information From USSS on Elmer Moore Based on James Gochenaur HSCA Interview

This memo is designed to elicit comment on whether a request for material from the USSS is worth pursuing. We can either write a letter asking for information on Moore; wait until we have Gochenaur's testimony from the Schweicker Committee; or abandon this line of inquiry.

In his interview with HSCA Gochenaur made several assertions about USSS Agent Elmer Moore's attitudes and actions during the investigation of the assassination. Some of the more suggestive allegations might merit inquiry on our part as follows:

1. According to Gochenaur, Moore was in the Seattle office of the USSS. Moore was asked by someone (who?) at the Secret Service to investigate and take responsibility for certain aspects of the assassination:

- the interrogation of the Parkland doctors
- the Secret Service interrogation of Ruby
- liaison between the Warren Commission and the USSS [reporting to Inspector Thomas Kelley]

We could ask the USSS to confirm that Moore was assigned to the Dallas office on November 22, 1963. Moore said he was in San Francisco on November 22, and he came to Washington to receive instructions before going to Dallas either on or shortly after November 23. According to Gochenaur, Moore told him that "we had to do what we were told, in regards to, you know, the way...they were investigating the assassination, or we get our heads cut off." (p. 21) Moore also said that Oswald had met with a subversive the day before the assassination. We could ask the USSS to provide us with any written instruction their investigating agents received from either Chief Rowley or Thomas Kelley or anyone else in a position to dictate their priorities. Since Moore "blew up" when Gochenaur asked Moore if he really was in San Francisco on the day of the assassination, we could ask the USSS for Moore's reports of his activities in San Francisco (or elsewhere) in November, 1963. (See page 23) We could ask for all COS files of cases in which Moore participated in 1963. We could ask for Moore's personnel file. We could ask why Moore was chosen to take on certain aspects of the

investigation.

2. According to Gochenaur, Moore mentioned trying to “find the money,” which to Gochenaur meant some kind of trust fund for Marina Oswald. Moore had stated that the Secret Service had tried to “trace the money” for Marina Oswald’s trust fund but could not find any. We could ask the USSS to explain how they would have attempted to trace such money and to provide us with evidence that they had followed up this suggestion. Moore implied that Oswald may have acted with others.

3. Moore apparently testified before the Schweicker committee. Gochenaur mentioned that the committee had a thick folio with Elmer Moore’s name on it. We could ask the USSS to provide us with documentation of any instructions he received from the Secret Service, whether he was accompanied by Secret Service Counsel, any record of Moore’s testimony in Secret Service records, any report of his appearance before the committee.

4. Moore indicated to Gochenaur that he had misgivings about “badgering” Dr. Perry to say there was no entry wound in President Kennedy’s throat. We could ask the USSS to provide us with any written instructions, correspondence or evidence of contact between Moore, Chief Rowley or Thomas Kelley, and between Moore and the Warren Commission (1963-1964).

See attached excerpts from Gochenaur’s HSCA interview.