

January 10, 1997

Ms. Jane E. Vezeris
Deputy Assistant Director
Office of Administration
United States Secret Service
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20223

Re: Follow-up to ARRB Request No. SS-9 (Letters of Understanding Regarding Presidential Protection, Protective Research Packet, PRS-WHD Notes and COS Records)

Dear Jane:

Thank you for your letter of December 5, 1996, which responded to our October 10, 1996 letter regarding the above-referenced request for information. We appreciate your search of the files that we suggested and your willingness to forward to us the documents that you identified that were responsive to our requests.

I am now writing to request some additional clarification. I will discuss the issues in the same order that we raised them and in which you have responded.

Paragraph 1: military backup. We requested that you identify all elements of the United States military community with whom the Secret Service had written agreements regarding presidential protection at any time between 1958 and 1964. We understand your response to be that you were unable to locate any documents that incorporated any such possible agreements.

As you are probably aware, it is commonly believed (rightly or wrongly) that the Army has had responsibility for providing backup security for Presidents during their travels. We have located records originally requested by the Warren Commission (CD 852a) from various elements in the Department of Defense that document military participation in presidential protection before 1964. In addition, Robert Bouck, head of the Protective Research Section, mentioned Secret Service liaison

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“with the several military services” in his testimony before the Warren Commission (vol. 4, p. 304). We understand that the Secret Service received support from military entities when the President traveled abroad and from the White House Communications Agency whenever the President left the White House. With regard to the President’s domestic travel, and specifically President Kennedy’s trip to Texas in November 1963, we are enclosing a page from the protective survey dated November ---, 1963, which documents military personnel on a railroad bridge under which the President’s car passed in San Antonio. We have also enclosed a statement from ONI that indicates a Naval security presence when President Kennedy visited Cape Canaveral in November, 1963. We are including these documents, along with some additional examples from CD 852a, with this letter because they suggest that military participation in Secret Service protection of the President was not unusual. We are now requesting that you document your liaison with various military entities in the 1959- 1964 period, from the Secret Service perspective.

It has been specifically alleged that there was an order for the military to “stand down” from the standard practice of participation in presidential protection during President Kennedy’s trip to Dallas in November, 1963. We would like to determine whether this was true. Although we accept your representation that you were unable to find any documents incorporating such agreements, we nevertheless request that the Secret Service clearly state whether or not there were any agreements with any component of the military to provide security assistance to the Secret Service. Hence, we renew our request that the Secret Service “[i]dentify all elements of the United States military community . . . with whom the Secret Service had a written agreement regarding presidential protection”

Paragraph 2: PRS and White House Detail records from November, 1963. We understand that you were unable to locate any additional records in response to this request. The types of records in which we are interested are suggested by the enclosed memo by Robert Bouck dated December 3, 1963. We ask that you consider, with this new information, whether any more searches might be reasonable. In order to provide some additional suggestions for your consideration, we request that you search the following files: MNO-85-0008: Box 235, 125.31; Box 237, 600.42 (Dallas, Houston, Austin); Box 238, 600.42(U.S.S.S. Field); Box 240, 602.110 (Austin, Dallas, Houston); Box 251, 619.0 and 650.0; Box 16, 207.1; Box 230, 120.0; Box 236, 600.0; Box 239, 601.0; and Box 252.

Paragraph 3: COS Records. Since sending our original request to you regarding the meaning of “COS,” we have located the enclosed HSCA interview with Assistant Special Agent Maurice Martineau (Chicago), which refers to “COS” material in 1963. Does this document affect your prior response? In addition, would you please examine files from Chief Rowley’s office where Agent

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Martineau's correspondence for 1963 and 1964 would have been placed?

We believe that material from (Chicago) Special Agent Joseph Noonan's notes may have been categorized as "COS" in Chief Rowley's files. I am enclosing a portion of the HSCA interview with SA Joseph Noonan. On page 4, Noonan mentioned that agents from the Chicago office were instructed to send "memos, files and...notebooks to Washington." In order to assist you in seeking more information about "COS" materials, we ask that you examine your files from the Chief's office in 1963, for Noonan's materials. In preparing your response, please examine the contents of MNO-85-0012, Box 86, 702.21 and 703.1; and Box 229, 111.

We would like to make sure that we understand the Secret Service filing systems in effect in 1963. In a separate request, SS-12 (enclosed), we ask that you provide us with additional information about the categories of Secret Service records.

We request that you make these records available to us by February 19, 1997.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Donald Personette