

Joan Zimmerman

January 9, 1997

COMMENTS ON TJG DRAFT 1/9/97

In the second paragraph of your draft letter you might include the word "order" or "sequence" as in "issues in the same **order**."

1. Re: Paragraph 1. You mention that "the Army has had responsibility for providing backup security." We should indicate that we are aware that the Warren Commission gathered statements from OSI and ONI as well as the Army to demonstrate that various military entities had responsibilities for presidential protection before 1963. We can include the examples I am enclosing. Also, Robert Bouck mentioned liaison "with the several military services" in his Warren Commission testimony (vol. 4, p. 304).

When Doug or I asked Robert Bouck or Floyd Boring about military backup for Secret Service protection of the President, they both offered (independently) the same two observations: 1) The military (and CIA) provided backup when the President traveled abroad, and 2) The White House Communications Agency (Army Signal Corps) always set up the communications equipment. We could say in the SS-9 followup letter that we already know 1 and 2. We are now asking the Secret Service to document their understanding of military liaison in November 1963, and specifically for the trip to Texas. I also have a statement from the USSS protective/followup survey for San Antonio to the effect that military personnel were on a railroad bridge under which the President's car passed if we want to include that with this letter as well.

2. A. Administrative file information. If you review the ARRB letter of October 10, 1996, you will see that in paragraph no. 3 we requested an explanation of a category of records, i.e. "COS" materials. Jane Vezeris did not offer much insight in response to our request. She did say that a number followed by an "S" indicated special interest. She also said that a Headquarters-assigned case number also indicated special interest. But she said there is no such thing as a "COS" number. Martineau described exactly what Vezeris says does not exist. So the Administrative File Information paragraph was designed to help Vezeris locate descriptions of record categories from 1963 in which "COS" might possibly be described. In other words, this paragraph is very much part of a followup to SS-9 because it requests materials that could lead to the records we want.

B. I recall seeing a memo--or more likely a letter--in which Martineau said (or someone said that Martineau said) that the Chief wanted a particular case from Chicago labeled "COS," and all materials regarding that case should be sent directly to the Chief. I have looked through the Echevarria and Vallee records in the HSCA boxes but have not been able to locate this particular letter. Maybe it was Diaz Lanz. Anyway, the inference I drew from the letter that I can not now find was that especially

sensitive matters involving either surveillance or an informant would be categorized as "COS" material by the Chief's office. I do not recall seeing "COS" on any file boxes. I do recall seeing "COS" mentioned in a letter connected with Martineau. During his HSCA interview, Abraham Bolden also offered a comment on "COS" materials in the context of having his notes about a case he was working in Chicago confiscated from him by Secret Service agents.

C. Paragraph 3, #4. This request is designed to suggest a search for a specific set of materials that could lead to "COS" material in the Chief's files. According to Bolden, the Service never disposed of "COS" records. The relevance of the Noonan paragraph is that if Vezeris finds Noonan's notebooks, she will find "COS" material. Having looked through the Echevarria materials this morning and not having found the Martineau "COS" letter/memo, I would delete the sentence requesting the Mosely/Echevarria file.

I recall the "COS" discussion in relation to the Chicago office of the Secret Service. This category could designate records pertaining to any of the following, or to something we have not seen yet:

--Vallee threat

--Echevarria/Mosely

--Abraham Bolden notebooks