

# MEMORANDUM

May 23, 1996

To: David Marwell

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: Hand -Delivered Letter from Secret Service

Christine tells me that a representative from the Secret Service dropped off a letter from John Machado before 9 AM this morning. I have reviewed this letter and found that Machado is confused about his responsibilities. We should not hand over our only copy of assassination records to him.

Machado states that he is trying to prevent a recurrence of the HSCA documents not being reviewed properly.

1. Who did not review them properly? *Machado* did not review the HSCA documents properly. That was his problem. Taking our only copy--a backup copy--would not solve his problem.
2. Any implication that his problem is our problem should be snuffed. We clarified his records for him, and he ignored us. From that experience, we have gained insight into his carelessness, and we recognize the need for a heightened concern about maintaining a backup copy of these records.

Machado thinks there will only be one set of copies.

1. This statement reveals his intention to ignore our outline of his responsibilities under the JFK Act, which we detailed in our April 29 letter. If the Secret Service wants to make postponements, they will need to provide a copy with redactions to Steve Tilley. They will need to provide a redacted copy to the Board. They should keep a redacted copy for their own records.
2. Machado's illusion that there will only be one copy is a clear indication that he does not yet understand the review process and his obligations.
3. The Secret Service has the originals. Why is Machado so determined to have *our* copy?

Machado states that if there is only one copy, "this will serve to control the review process."

1. Machado wants control over the review process. Congress did not contemplate this development.
2. Machado understands the importance of possession of the documents. Possession means control

over the review process.

Machado's reasons do not make any sense: Either he does not intend to send redacted copies to the Archives or he simply wants to take control over the review process away from the Review Board.

Without pointing out the incoherence of his request for the documents, we can tell him that the documents are still under review for potential leads for additional assassination records in Secret Service collections. We can also point out that if he has any concerns about our SCIF, we will provide him with a copy of our certificate. If he wishes to view the documents, he can make an appointment to come over. If he still insists, we can cite Sections 5 and 7 of the JFK Act as establishing our duty to maintain these records.