

December 18, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE AND HAND DELIVERY

Mr. John Machado
Chief
Policy Analysis and Records Systems
Secret Service
1310 L. Street, N.W.
Room 670
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: United States Secret Service Compliance with the JFK Assassination
Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. {2107}

Dear Mr. Machado:

I would like to thank you and Ann Parker for meeting with Michelle Combs, Kim Herd and myself on December 12, 1997 to discuss outstanding issues regarding the Secret Service's ongoing efforts to comply with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act ("JFK Act").

We are appreciative of the Secret Service's efforts to be responsive to the Review Board's specific requests for records. As we discussed in our meeting, there remains outstanding issues with regard to many of the requests. In addition, we anticipate making additional requests as we continue to process the records you have supplied.

And it's possible there may be more requests generated as a result of additional information we receive pertaining to the already requested items.

The purpose of this letter is to set forth our understanding as to the status of the Secret Service's response to the twenty specific requests the Review Board has made thus far.

Record Searches Conducted to Date by the Secret Service

1. SS-1 (Files of Chief James Rowley)

Pursuant to this request, we sought to inspect the 1963 - 1964 files separately maintained by Secret Service Chief James Rowley (head of the Secret Service for over a decade (from 1961 - 1973). See Oct. 27, 1995 Letter from D. Marwell to J. Gawked. In making this request, we sought any

assassination-related materials in files that Mr. Rowley may have maintained. Since Mr. Rowley had a central role in assisting the Warren Commission, a complete accounting of his files is essential. While the Secret Service has provided certain Rowley correspondence and memoranda in response to this Request, we are concerned that there may be additional records out there. Whether Chief Rowley maintained an organized filing system is unclear. Further, it is unclear where each of the already-identified records actually came from. We are thus requesting that you continue your search efforts for Chief Rowley's files, and that you provide a more detailed accounting of where you obtained the documents already identified for the Board.

A related issue pertains to information Joan Zimmerman obtained during telephone conversations with Chief Rowley's widow, Mabel Rowley. Mrs. Rowley told Joan Zimmerman that Secret Service Agents had visited the Rowley's home in 1992 in order to inventory records in the possession of Chief Rowley. Mrs. Rowley recalled that members of the Secret Service videotaped their visit. We will be sending a formal Request asking that the Secret Service confirm whether Mrs. Rowley's recollection are accurate, and if so, that you provide any records documenting the visit, and any materials obtained or generated during the visit.

2. SS-2 (Photographs and Tapes)

This Request sought "all photographs, audiotapes, films and videotapes" relating to the assassination. See February 21, 1996 Letter from D. Marwell to J. Vezeris. The Secret Service has represented that all such materials were included with the Secret Service's main JFK assassination file, with the exception of eight photographs of the Presidential Limousine. The originals of these photographs were given to the HSCA in 1977. See March 15, 1996 Letter from John Machado to David Marwell. Copies of these photographs were forwarded to the Review Board. Please provide information as to where the Secret Service located the additional copies of the limousine photographs.

3. SS No. 3 (PPD Shift Reports - Unusual Incidents 1960, 1963-66; Richard Nagel Case File)

This Request sought two files. We consider the Secret Service's response to our request to be complete.

4. SS No. 4 (Protective Survey Reports; USSS Archive Materials; News Clips)

This Request sought several sets of information. See April 3, 1996 Letter to Jane Vezeris from David Marwell. It is our understanding that the Secret Service's response to the request for Protective Survey Reports is complete - with the exception of one missing trip for Berlin. Mr. Machado has indicated that he is searching for this file and will provide documentation as to the results of his search. With regard to the material sought from the USSS Archives, we understand that the Secret

Service sent most of the information we requested. There remains one outstanding issue - that of the Secret Service's internal circular, The Record, For the years 1960-1964. We have previously recommended that the Secret Service make these volumes available to the general public at NARA, with the understanding that the Secret Service would maintain actual custody of the volumes. Individuals seeking to view volumes of The Record for historical purposes, will be able to make arrangements with the Secret Service to do so.

The other issue which remains under this Request is that of the Protective Survey Reports from January 1961 - March, 1963. As we indicated to you during our meeting on December 12, 1997, we anticipate recommending that the Board designate these materials as assassination records. Before we make a definitive recommendation, however, we are requesting that you review these records and inform us what your position will be in the event the Board designates all of the information contained in these files as assassination records. Please arrange to view these records at your earliest convenience. Please also inform us of your position with respect to these records, no later than January 11, 1998.

On a related issue, there are two folders missing from this file grouping: One folder which is captioned, "Other Places Folder #6 July - Nov. 1963" and the Berlin Protective Survey Report from June 26, 1963.

Finally, on April 21, 1997, John Machado placed news clippings in NARA RIF [154-10002-10488]. Joan Zimmerman reviewed these materials at NARA on May 1, 1997. At that time, she discovered that the issues of LIFE magazine were not there. If possible, please account for these issues.

5. SS -5 (Files on R. H. Kellerman and E.Z. Tucker)

This Request sought employment records of former Secret Service against Roy Harry Kellerman and Edward Z. Tucker. See April 8, 1996 letter to Jane Vezeris from David Marwell. In your response to this request, you indicated that you had reviewed both files and had determined that there were no records pertaining to an internal review, nor was there any information relating to the activities of these agents in the November 1963 - April, 1964 time period. See July 24, 1996 letter to David Marwell from Jane Vezeris. You also indicated in this letter that there were no relevant documents in either file dated in the November 1963 - April, 1964 time period.

Since the Board was unable to inspect these files, we will ask that the Secret Service confirm in its Final Declaration of Compliance that they have reviewed these files and have determined that they contain no investigative or assassination-related material.

6. SS-6 (Cross Referenced Case Files from the Lee Harvey Oswald Case File)

This Request sought seven files cross referenced in the Oswald case file. In its response letter of October 29, 1996, the Secret Service outlined the results of its search for each of these files. Some of these files had been destroyed, and only a computer abstract remained. In its Final Declaration of Compliance, we are requesting that the Secret Service detail its search efforts for each of these files, and verify the fact that certain of these files were destroyed.

7. SS-7 (Files on Individuals)

In this Request, we asked that the Secret Service make available to us all information in their files including, but not limited to, Secret Service interviews and investigative reports on several individuals whose names have been connected with investigations into the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The Review Board considers the Secret Service's Response to this request complete. However, there is a concern that not all of the material contained in the Abraham Bolded file has actually been transferred to NARA. In the event this is in fact the case, we will be requesting that the Secret Service work with us to ensure that all of the materials have indeed been transferred.

8. SS-8 (Personnel and Internal Review Files on T. Kelly; W.R. Greer; J. Fox; Internal Review Documents)

This request sought employment-related files of each of the above-listed Secret Service agents, as well as any records which document the Secret Service's internal review of its agents in 1963 and 1964. See July 19, 1996 Letter to Jane Vezeris from David Marwell. In your response letter dated November 6, 1996, you indicated that you had reviewed the personnel security investigative files on each employee. You further indicated that you had reviewed each of these files for any material "that would reveal that the employee was the subject of an internal review in 1963 or 1964, or for any material that would relate to the activities of these agents in the 1964/1964 time period." You indicated that the results of your review yielded no relevant material.

With regard to our request for records which document the Secret Service's internal review of this agents in 1963 and 1964 - you located and provided an investigative report authored by Inspector Arvid J. Dahlquist, which related to the Abraham Bolded case.

9. SS No. 9 (Letters of Understanding Regarding Presidential Protection, Protective Research Packet, PRS-WHD Notes and COS Records)

In this request, we asked for information pertaining to any Secret Service written agreements regarding presidential protection at any time between 1958 and 1964. See January 10, 1997 Letter to Jane Vezeris from David Marwell. (Plus another letter?) You further responded that you were unable to locate any documents which incorporated any such possible agreements. Subsequent searches revealed.....there is a remaining issue with regard to the National Security Agency.

The second part of this request had to do with PRS and White House Detail records from November, 1963. Specifically, we referenced a memo by Robert Bouck dated December 3, 1963 and suggested additional files where you could focus your search.

Do we consider this complete? There are more files that they can search.

The third part of this request dealt with the issue of "COS" records. In two separate correspondences, you have indicated your opinion that there was no such appellation for documents. This presents some confusion, given the fact that the agent formerly in charge of the Chicago Office in 1963 (Maurice Martineau) has indicated that he recalls such an appellation. Note: we also asked that they examine the Chief's files for any Noonan materials. (They indicated that "IF Noonan had material that related to a PRS investigation, and he sent that material "to Washington" the official file in PRS should have been the repository for such material." See June 16, 1997 Letter to David Marwell from Jane Vezeris. In order to clarify this issue, we will be requesting that you provide the names of file clerks, secretaries, etc, who were employed during the relevant time periods. To the extent you are aware of persons or other resources that may be able to enhance our understanding or this issue, we would appreciate your so advising us. OR We are requesting that you verify that these files did not exist in your Final Declaration of Compliance.

10. SS No. 10 (Files on Individuals Requested by the HSCA via March 1, 1978
Letter from R. Blakey to R. Goff)

In this request, we asked that you search your records for any files maintained on the 109 individuals named in the above-referenced Blakey/Goff correspondence. On January 3, 1997 you responded explaining the history of the HSCA request and the fact that in 1978 the Secret Service could locate no identifiable records relating to Blakey's list of 109 individuals other than three individuals who were referenced to the JFK file. Otherwise, the Board considers the Secret Service's response to be essentially complete

11. SS No. 11 (R. Bouck Files; R. Bouck List; R. Bouck Custody of Autopsy
Materials)

Pursuant to this request, we asked that all of Robert Bouck's files be made available for our inspection. On May 19, 1997, John Machado delivered the Service's response to this request. In addition, on September 23, 1997, we received additional documents responsive to our SS-11 request. It is imperative that we locate all of Robert Bouck's records given his capacity as head of the Protective Research Section, his testimony before the Warren Commission, and his responsibility for maintaining custody of autopsy materials. We are still evaluating the materials we have received and will probably be making requests for additional information.

12. SS No. 12 (Filing Systems and Descriptions of Secret Service Records in
1963)

In this Request, we asked that you make available records which fully describe the Secret Service filing system in effect during the 1963 - 1965 period, as well as records management and disposal procedures from that same period. At the July 31, 1997 meeting between John Machado, Joan Zimmerman and Ron Heron, you provided a significant amount of records which relate filing systems and records management. We are still reviewing these materials, and evaluating additional requests we may make. In addition, you have indicated via letter of September 12, 1997 that you would make certain other records available for our review. We will contact you within the next couple of weeks to arrange for inspection of these records.

We remain concerned that there are certain major categories of records that have not been adequately accounted for. Included among these categories are records and files of Chief Rowley, Chief Knight, Inspector Kelly, Robert Bouck and other field offices. Given the absence of these major categories of records, we are not certain that the Secret Service's search of its archive records has identified all potentially relevant assassination records. To assist us in our assessment of the adequacy of the Secret Service's search, we are requesting that you confirm that we have been provided with all inventories, indices, and finding aids that exist with respect to records in storage at the Secret Service's Center Point facility in Landover, MD, at the Federal Records Center in Suitland, MD and at any other repository for Secret Service records.

13. SS-13 (HSCA Records and Files on Individuals)

This Request sought additional files on four individuals and eight groups who were of interest to the HSCA. See Letter from R. Blakey to Robert Goff, March 28, 1978 [HSCA-US Secret Service correspondence 180-10125-10002]. On December 5, 1997, the Secret Service sent several files in response to this Request. In addition, the Secret Service provided explanations as to which names it was unable to locate. We are still in the process of reviewing these materials, and will let you know if we have additional requests as a result of our review of these records. We will also let you know which records the Board determines are assassination records.

14. SS No. 14 (Secret Service Correspondence with Congressional and Presidential Committees)

This request sought records of the Secret Service regarding any and all correspondence of its employees with the various Congressional Committees which investigated the assassination. Specifically,

USSS sent letter responding to SS-14. Vezeris said she would send a separate letter regarding Project STAR. We have not yet received any such letter as of September 2, 1997. Vezeris also stated that two letters mentioned in her letter will be sent to us by Treasury. As of September 2,

1997, we have not received these letters.

The Secret Service has identified certain records that are responsive to this request. See July 28, 1997 Letter from the Secret Service to the Review Board.

15. SS No. 15 (Request for information on F. Welding; B.H. Fonden; NPPR (A. Diaz-Matos, J.C. Acosta Negrón, and J.F. Medina) and A. Bolded's Monthly Activity Reports.)

This request sought information on names which appeared in Abraham Bolded's Protective Intelligence activity files. In her July 18, 1997 letter responding to SS-15, Jane Vezeris mentioned that the Service had referred some documents from the files we requested to third agencies. We have twice asked the Service not to refer documents before ARRB has had a chance to see them. It's also our understanding that some of these files were destroyed. We will request that the Secret Service account for this in its Declaration of Final Compliance.

Although we have received materials on the B.H. Fonden file, we are still awaiting responses on the other files. We plan to place the issue of the Fonden file before the Board in January, and will get back to you with their determinations.

16. SS-16 (Classified Log Books)

In this request, we sought a full explanation of the "classified log book" from which the attached photocopies (included in your letter of January 31, 1997) were made. We also sought access to the records described in the log book.

You have made available to us copied excerpts of a log book recording classified material received by the Secret Service in the early 1960's, as well as some background information regarding this book. We appreciate your efforts in this regard, but we still wish to inspect these log books, and we want a complete inventory of all of the log books from 1963 - 1964..

Also, since the Service has said that it cannot locate its own Top Secret documents, please provide names of clerks, secretaries and administrative personnel who may be able to assist us in our search for these files.

17. SS-17 (Records on Cuban Activities)

We sought in this request, all documents contained in file number CO-2-33,115 (a file described by Robert Blakey as "a numerical prefix for approximately 157 separate files maintained on individuals involved in Cuban/anti Cuban activities." We also requested to view the "log book" referenced in

Goff's letter. So far, you have provided us with abstracts on each of the 157 individuals, as well as the "log book entry" cited in Robert Goff's letter of September 5, 1978. See July 9, 1997 letter of Jane Vezeris to David Marwell. We still need to see the entire log book.

Further, we will let you know what the Board determines with regard to whether these are assassination records.

18. SS No. 18 (Records on Organized Crime)

19. SS No. 19 (Records on Anti-Castro Activities, Protection Matters,
And the Communist Party)

20. SS No. 20 (Information related to the NPIC Analysis of Zapruder Film for
The Secret Service.)