

December 17, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

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

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").

As we discussed in the meeting, we are in the process of considering the status of the Secret Service's compliance with the JFK Act. While we are extremely appreciative of the Secret Service's efforts to be responsive to the Review Board's specific request for records, we believe additional work needs to be done in order to accomplish the mandate of the statute. This letter seeks to address the Service's compliance with the Review Board's existing requests. Further, we wish to notify you of additional records which we will be seeking within the coming months. Let me stress that it is our hope to work diligently towards the final compliance piece of this program, and to notify you that we are willing to provide you with whatever assistance you require.

A. Record Searches Conducted to Date by the Secret Service

Set forth is our understanding as to the status of the Secret Service's response to specific request of the Review Board for additional information and records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. To date, the Review Board has made 20 specific requests, numbered SS No. 1 through SS No. 20. Set forth below is our understanding of the status of each of these requests:

1. SS No. 1 (Files of Chief James Rowley)

Pursuant to this request, we sought to inspect the 1963 - 64 files separately maintained by Secret Service Chief James Rowley (head of the Secret Service from 1961 - 1973) for assassination-related

records. Accounting for Mr. Rowley's files is, of course, important in view of the fact that he had a central role in assisting the Warren Commission during its investigation of the assassination.

Although the Secret Service has located certain Rowley correspondence and memoranda in response to this Request, a more adequate search must be conducted, and a more adequate accounting for the records must be made. What remains unclear, is what happened to the files Mr. Rowley presumably maintained during the twelve years that he served as head of the Secret Service. Further, it is unclear where each of the correspondences were found.

An additional issue pertains to information Joan Zimmerman obtained during her interview with Chief Rowley's widow Mabel on September 30, 1997 and October 1, 1997. During that interview, Ms. Rowley stated that Secret Service agents had visited the Rowleys' home in 1992 in order to inventory records in the possession of Mr. Rowley. Mrs. Rowley recalled that this visit was videotaped by the Secret Service. We will be requesting that the Secret Service confirm whether Ms. Rowley's recollections are accurate, and if so, that you provide the Review Board all materials relating to this visit (to include videotapes and notes or formal documentation).

2. SS No. 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 and that eight additional photographs of the Presidential limousine were separately forwarded to NARA. *See* Statement at 6-7.

We are requesting that you provide documentation as to where you have checked for the existence of such items. Further, please provide us with information concerning where the Secret Service located the eight additional photographs of the Presidential Limousine.

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

This request sought two files. The first, PPD Shift Reports - Unusual Incident 1960 ; 1963-66., has been accounted for except for the specific file from July - November, 1963 (CHECK). Mr. Machado has indicated that he will search for this file, as of yet we have not received correspondence from Mr. Machado regarding the results of his investigation into the whereabouts of this file.

As to the Richard Nagell file, we consider the Secret Service's response to this request complete.

4. SS No. 4 (Protective Survey Reports, USSS Archives Materials and News
Clips from the Federal Records Center.)

As we discussed, there are two outstanding issues under this request. The first, is that of The Record (1960 - 1964). As you know from our conversation, we have previously recommended that the Secret Service open these volumes of the Record, with the understanding that their custody will remain with the Secret Service. Individuals seeking to view The Record for historical purposes, will be able to make arrangements with the Secret Service to do so.

The other issue we discussed is that of the Protective Survey Reports from January 1961 - March, 1963. It remains for us to determine whether or not these should be deemed "assassination records." Pursuant to our conversation, we are requesting that you view these materials and inform us whether you will have significant objections in the event we designate these as assassination records.

5. SS No. 5 (Files on R.H. Kellerman and E.Z. Tucker)

Although these files were not made available to the Review Board for inspection, the USSS has indicated that they have reviewed these files and have determined that they do not contain investigative material. We anticipate asking the USSS to affirm to this fact in its Final Declaration of Compliance.

6. SS No. 6 (Case Files Cross-Referenced in the Lee Harvey Oswald file)

This Request sought to inspect raw files of case files listed in the Lee Harvey Oswald file. In its response letter of October 29, 1996, the USSS indicated the results of its searches for these seven files. We consider the USSS's response to this Request essentially complete. In three instances, a physical file was not created - only a computer abstract was generated. In each of these cases, the USSS forwarded the abstracts. In one instance, the file was one of many maintained in a regional trip folder, which had been destroyed after five years. The USSS forwarded the copy of the remaining computer abstract (No. 1) in the second scenario - only one name was possibly related (SS forwarded this information) One file was destroyed. One was referred. The Review Board will require that in the Final Compliance report, that you state under oath that the destroyed files no longer exist, and that you document your efforts in searching for the other files.

7. SS No. 7 (Interviews and Investigative Reports on L.H. Schmidt;
R. Broshears; A. Bolden; R. Lauchli; D. Ferri; P.L. Diaz
Lanz).

We consider the response complete, with the caveat that we need to verify that the entire Bolden file is in the JFK Collection.

8. SS No. 8 (Personnel and Internal Review Files on T. Kelley; W.R. Greer;
J. Fox)

In its response to this Request, the USSS indicated that "...or for any material that would relate to the activities of these agents in the 1963/1964 time period. "There was no evidence in any of these three personnel security files regarding "internal reviews." Further, of these three files, only the following material;.....also found no internal review material. For the others, they indicated some materials. For the James Fox file, they indicated, "nothing."

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

We requested that the USSS identify all elements of the United States military community with whom the Secret Service had written agreements regarding presidential protection at any times between 1958 - 1964.

PRS Records - insufficient search?

COS Records - outstanding issue. Do we want them to verify these in their compliance report?

10. SS No. 10 (Files on Individuals requested by the HSCA per March 1, 1978 Letter from Blakely to R. Goff)

This request sought files requested by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. A list of names of individuals whose files were requested appears in a letter from G. Robert Blakey to Robert Goff. In total, there were 10-9 names.

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

Pursuant to this request, we asked that the files of Robert Bouck be made available for our inspection.

Robert Bouck's files are important, since as head of Protective Research, he was responsible for the collection, preservation and dissemination of information relating to potential threats to the President and Vice-President. Mr. Bouck testified before the Warren Commission as to protective intelligence that was gathered and disseminated in connection with President Kennedy's trip to Dallas. In addition, Mr. Bouck had responsibility for maintaining the Kennedy's autopsy photographs and x-rays.

Accordingly, it is essential that Mr. Bouck's files be identified and made available for review.

NOTE: MAKE SURE I CHECK THE SCF.

12. SS No. 12 (Filing System and Descriptions of Secret Service Records)

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We requested that you make available to us records which fully describe the Secret Service filing

system in effect in 1963 - 1965, as well as records management and disposal procedures from the same period. At the July 31, 1997 meeting between John Machado, Joan Zimmerman and Ron Heron, you provided a significant amount of records. We are still reviewing these materials, and we are in the process of evaluating these materials to determine whether we can identify any other relevant files that should be reviewed. In addition, you have indicated via letter of Sept. 12, 1997, that you were offering to make available certain other records for our review. We will contact you 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, including the files of Chief Rowley, Chief Knight, Inspector Kelley, Robert Bouck and other field absences. Given the absence of these major categories of records, we are not confident that the Secret Services' search of its archive records has identified all potentially relevant assassination records that may be in storage. In assessing the adequacy of the agency's search of its archives, we request that you confirm that we have been provided with all inventories, indices, and finding aids that exist with respect to records are in storage at the Secret Service's Centre Point facility in Landover, Maryland at the Federal records Center in Suitland, Maryland and at any other repository for Secret Service archive records.

13. SS. 13 (HSCA List of Names)

This request sought additional files that were reviewed the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The list of eight groups and four individuals whose files were requested appears in a letter from G. Robert Blakey to Robert Goff, March 28, 1978 [See HSCA-US Secret Service correspondence 180-10125-10002]. We did receive a response dated December 5, 1997 wherein the USSS provided several files, and provided documentation as to which files it was unable to locate. We are still in the process of processing your response, and will get back to you regarding which records the Board deems to be assassination records, as well as any additional requests or clarifications generated by your response.

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

This request sought records of the Secret Service regarding its correspondence with certain Congressional Committees that investigated the assassination of President Kennedy. Specifically,
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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-15 (files on F. Welsing; B.H. Fonden; J. McFarlen; NPPR (A. Diaz-Matos and J.C. Acosta Negrón); J.F. Medina; and A. Bolden's Monthly Activity Reports).

We sought information on each of these individuals since their names and files were listed in the Abraham Bolden file. We understand that some of these documents have been referred. We have received the copies back on the Brady Hugh Fonden file., and will take this up at the January Board meeting. We are still awaiting responses on the other files.

16. SS-16 (Classified Log Book)

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, and some background information regarding this logbook. As we indicated at our meeting, we wish to inspect the original of this log book.

17. SS No. 17 (Records on Cuban Activities)

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).