

MEMORANDUM

July 27, 1998

To: Laura Denk, Executive Director
Ron Haron, General Counsel
Sarah Ahmed, Analyst

From: Kim A. Herd, Senior Attorney

Re: Outstanding Secret Service Issues

The following constitutes a summary of the remaining issues that pertain to the United States Secret Service's Compliance with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act. The Review Board has made twenty-one formal requests for information from the Secret Service. In a letter dated December 31, 1997, the Review Board addressed each of the 20 additional requests that had been made to date. On June 26, 1998, the Review Board sent its final request (No. SS-21). Both of these letters are attached to this document, and serve as the best reference points for discovering what still remains to be completed.

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

A. Records which remain unresolved:

During a September, 1997 telephone conversation with the widow of James Rowley (Mabel Rowley), Joan Zimmerman was told that the Secret Service had come to the Rowley's home sometime in 1992, and that they had at that time, videotaped the visit, and collected items. The Secret Service has yet to provide an answer as to whether or not this occurred, and whether or not any records were collected from Mr. Rowley.

We need to continue to pursue this with the Secret Service, and we also need to inquire whether the Secret Service conducted videotaped interviews, or collected information from any other Secret Service employee who had in any way been involved with the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

B. Compliance Issues:

The Secret Service should provide a detailed description of its search for Chief James Rowley's files - i.e. where it looked, how any files pertaining to Rowley's files were organized, etc.

2. SS-2 (Photographs and Tapes)

Compliance Issues:

In our December 31, 1997 letter, we told the Secret Service that the Review Board did not believe that the Secret Service did not have any additional obligations with respect to this request. The Review Board has since learned of a Washington Post article which reported that the Secret Service “produced rare photographs of John F. Kennedy’s fateful 1963 motorcade through Dallas” at a May meeting between the Secret Service and the office of the independent counsel. Peter Baker and Susan Schmidt, *Secret Service Chief Wants No Testimony*, *The Washington Post*, May 14, 1998, at A1, A14-15.

I asked John Machado about this and he stated that these photographs were from publications such as *Time Magazine*. This Secret Service should be required to provide a more detailed statement with respect to these photographs, in its compliance statement.

3. SS-3 (PPD Shift Reports - Unusual Incidents 1960, 1963 - 66; Richard Case Nagel File)

There are no outstanding issues with respect to this request.

4. SS-4 (Protective Survey Reports, USSS Archive Materials, News Clips)

Compliance Issue:

John Machado needs to provide in writing, a detailed outline of his search efforts for the following two files, which were missing from the accession boxes at NARA:

1. “Other Places Folder” #6 July - November, 1963
2. Berlin Protective Survey Report from June 26, 1963

Two, unresolved issues under this request are that of *The Record*, and the Protective Survey Reports for 1961 - March, 1963. I discussed this issue with Jeremy Gunn, and he told me that we should not pursue it further, given our time constraints.

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

The Secret Service provided the Review Board with files on R.H. Kellerman and E.Z. Tucker. In February, 1998, I reviewed these files and found that none of them contained information that was relevant to the assassination.

There are no outstanding issues with respect to this request.

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

There are no outstanding issues with respect to this request.

7. SS-7 (Files on Individuals)

Compliance Issue:

The Secret Service must confirm, in writing, that it has transferred all of the Abraham Bolden records to NARA.

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

The Secret Service provided the Review Board with files on T. Kelly, W.R. Greer, and J. Fox. In February 1998, I reviewed these files and found that none of them contained information that was relevant to the assassination.

Compliance Issue:

The Secret Service must detail its search efforts for other records pertaining to internal security reviews of Secret Service agents who were working with the White House Detail, the Protective Research Service, or the Dallas Field Office at the time of the assassination.

9. SS-9 (Letters of Understanding Regarding Presidential Protection, Protective Research Packet, PRS-WHD Notes, and COS Records)

Compliance Issue:

The Secret Service must detail its search efforts for written agreements with other government agencies regarding presidential protection. The pertinent time period is 1958 - 1964. Recently, I located some information pertaining to Naval Aid to the President, and Air Force Cooperation with the Secret Service, in my review of Secret Service files. The Service must provide a detailed explanation of its search efforts for all such agreements. In particular, the Secret Service must document its search efforts for the Secret Service's agreement with NSA. This is referred to as "pages 145-151" of the briefing book prepared for Stuart Knights testimony before the HSCA.

Also, the Secret Service must provide detailed documentation as to its search efforts for

Protective Research Section (PRS) records for the relevant time period. The Review Board has received various PRS records, but the exact filing system employed by PRS in the 1960's remains unclear.

10. SS-10 (Files on Individuals requested by the HSCA via March 1, 1978 Letter from R. Blakey to R. Goff)

There are no outstanding issues with respect to this request.

11. SS-11 (R. Bouck Files, R. Bouck List, R. Bouck Custody of Autopsy Materials)

Compliance:

The Secret Service must account for the existence and disposition of any working files that were maintained by Robert Bouck, Chief of the Protective Research Section at the time of the assassination. See December 31, 1997 Review Board Letter, at 11. Although the Secret Service has provided numerous records authored by or addressed to Mr. Bouck, there has been inadequate accounting for his actual files.

12. SS-12 (Filing Systems and Descriptions of Secret Service Records in 1963)

Compliance Issues:

The Secret Service must confirm that it has provided the Review Board all inventories, finding aids, and indices pertaining to Secret Service records maintained at Secret Service headquarters or field offices, or at Secret Service storage facilities in Landover, MD, the Federal Records Center, or any other repository for Secret Service records.

The Review Board sought the records of certain individuals and entities of the Secret Service, and the Service was only able to provide very few such records. The Secret Service must detail its search efforts with respect to the records of each of the following individuals or entities:

- Chief Stuart Knight
- Inspector Thomas Kelley
- Chief Inspector
- Field Office Inspectors
- Vice Presidential Detail
- Head of the White House Detail
- Office of Information and Liaison

With respect to the Daily reports, the Secret Service did provide us with the Daily Reports we requested, with the exception of the daily reports on the agents employed by the Dallas Field Office during the time of the assassination. The Service has requested that the Review Board needs to supply the Secret Service with the names of these individuals, and it will then attempt to locate these records.

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

In response to our request, the Secret Service provided the files of several individuals and entities. The Secret Service referred much of the material contained in these files out to other agencies (primarily the FBI) and is still waiting to hear back from them. John Machado told me on July 24, 1998, that he had spoken with Debbie Beatty of the FBI, and she told him that she would have the records available soon. The files at issue are as follows:

- Orlando Bosch Avila (CIA, DIA, DOD, FAA, FBI, STATE)
- Rolando Otero (CIA, FAA, FBI, NSA, NAVAL INTELLIGENCE)
- Alpha 66 (ATF, CIA, U.S. Coast Guard, FBI)
- Commandos L (FBI)
- Segundo Frente Nacional de Escambray (FBI)
- JURE (FBI, CIA)
- Movimiento Democratico Cristian (FBI)
- Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantial (ODN 06047) (FBI)
- Movimiento Insurreccional de Recuperacion Revolucionaria (ODN-06019) (FBI)
- Cuba Libre (FBI)

14. SS-14 (Secret Service Correspondence with Congressional and Presidential Committees)

Records that remain outstanding:

The Service stated that the Treasury Department had two letters that it had located pertaining to correspondence with the Congressional and Presidential Committees. The Review Board has still not received these letters.

Project STAR (This project consisted of fifty-four studies performed shortly after the Warren Report, by various agencies in conjunction with the Secret Service pertaining to protection of the President). The Secret Service has one record pertaining to Project STAR that it is still reviewing (apparently, this record contains information on protective methods still being employed by the Secret Service). Further, the Secret Service had referred several documents to an entity named DARPA (Defense Advance Research and Projects Agency), and specifically, to an individual named Mr. Fred Kothur. When I spoke to John in December 1997, he stated that he would call Mr. Kothur. I don't believe there has been any contact between John Machado and Mr. Kothur since that time. The Review Board needs to make sure that they obtain the Project STAR records.

15. SS-15 (Request for Information on Welding, Fonden, Diaz-Matos, Acosta Negron, Medina, and Bolden's Monthly Activity Reports)

The Service has satisfied its obligations pursuant to this request.

The Review Board must still consider the Brady Hugh Fonden file. The Air Force requested postponements of several pieces of information (primarily mental health information) contained within this particular file. This material is on my shelf in the SKIF.

16. SS-16 Classified Log Books

Compliance Issues:

The Secret Service provided the Review Board with five log books, which we have inspected and requested to copy. The Secret Service needs to confirm in writing, that it has diligently searched for all logbooks from the Kennedy/Johnson administrations, and that it has made these available for the Review Board's inspection.

17. SS-17 (Records on Cuban Activities)

Outstanding Records Issues:

The Secret Service has pulled and made available to myself and Sara Ahmed, the actual CO-2 files of several of the Cuban subjects. Sara and I reviewed these files and asked that the Secret Service copy documents from 10 files. They will do this and refer the FBI material

out, and then send the information back to us.

Also, the Review Board must determine whether any of the abstracts from these files should be designated as assassination records. (The abstracts for the 25 Cuban files are on my shelf in the SKIF).

Compliance Issues:

Recently, we reviewed the logbook for Protective Intelligence Files. The Secret Service needs to confirm in writing, that this is the only logbook they located with respect to CO2 files.

18. SS-18 (Records on Organized Crime)

The Secret Service has supplied the Review Board with several files pertaining to organized crime. Sarah Ahmed has reviewed these files and will update a memorandum which details whether any are assassination-related. In the event she determines that any of them should be deemed "assassination records" she will present them to the Review Board.

Since the Secret Service did not formally respond in writing to Review Board request no. SS-18, it should detail its search efforts in writing, for the final compliance report.

19. SS-19 (Anti-Castro Activities, Protection Matters, and the Communist Party)

We are awaiting the return of "TOP SECRET TELETYPE" Forwarded to FBI for review.

The three "Secret" teletypes from Box 26. (These must be designated)

20. SS-20 (NPIC Analysis of Zapruder Film for the Secret Service)

There are no outstanding issues with respect to this request.

21. SS-21 (Files and Records on "Cuban/Anti-Cuban Activities," Secret Service Inventories, and Additional, Miscellaneous Requests)

A. The Secret Service has pulled the raw files on the twenty-five individuals that we requested to inspect in our June 26, 1998 letter (See SS-17 above).

B. Files from Secret Service Inventories

I have reviewed all of the files we requested in our June 26, 1998 letter. I pulled several documents that I believed qualified as assassination records, and presented the majority of these to the Review Board on June 21, 1998. On that date, the Review Board designated 69 records as "assassination records." We need to make sure that the Secret Service promptly notifies us of any postponements they will seek in these records. NOTE: In a telephone conversation with John Machado on July 27, 1998, he told me that he had reviewed these documents and was not going to request postponements.

C. Additional, Miscellaneous requests:

(I) The Secret Service has stated that it could not find the following CO2 files, and as far as it could tell, they were destroyed:

1. CO-2-34,007
2. CO-2-33,996
3. CO-2-33,664
4. CO-2-34,785

ADDITIONAL ISSUES:

1. Make sure that John Machado updates the computer disks for the RIF numbers.
2. There is one WC document that we referred to the Secret Service in March, that they are still reviewing for possible postponements. This document is on my shelf in the SKIF. Its RIF number is as follows: 179-10002-10080. I explained this document to Ron (NSA is also seeking to have certain material designated as NBR).