

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

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The United States Customs Service (USCS) is concluding its work with the Review Board. The Customs Service designated the Director of the Office of Administration within the Office of Investigations to oversee the search for assassination records.

After several meetings with Customs officials last year, the Review Board learned that, due to the Customs Service's records destruction schedules which state, in part, that Customs would destroy all records over 20 years old, Customs was unlikely to have any additional assassination records not already identified and processed. Our review of lists at the Washington National Records Center at Suitland (WNRC) indicated, however, that Customs did have a number of unindexed boxes from the 1950s through the 1970s in storage at the WNRC. This year, with the help of Customs officials, Review Board staff members conducted a page by page review of over 100 Federal Records Center boxes in search of assassination records. Some of these boxes contained assassination records.

To supplement the search of Customs Headquarters records, Customs staff contacted each Customs field office and instructed them to conduct a search for assassination records. In August, 1996, Customs reported to the Review Board that all field offices had responded to headquarters and that some field offices located assassination records and included those records with their responses.

Customs staff members are now completing Record Identification Forms (RIFS) for all assassination records from headquarters and the field offices, and will transfer the records to the National Archives when they complete the RIFS. Customs does not anticipate that it will propose redactions for any of these records. Finally, Customs staff has processed all of the referrals of assassination records it received from other agencies and has approved full release of all documents.