

MEMORANDUM

July 7, 1995

To: Phil Golrick

From: Laura Denk

Subject: Status of Internal Revenue Service Compliance with JFK Act

The purpose of this memorandum is to brief you on the status of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Compliance with the JFK Act in preparation for your July 11, 1995, meeting with Irving Wilson at the Department of the Treasury.

HSCA Correspondence

In May and June, 1978, the HSCA wrote at least four letters to IRS, requesting (1) information about James Braden, and (2) all documents that the IRS released to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in 1977. In addition, on June 21, 1978, the HSCA staff requested a meeting with IRS staff to discuss IRS files on James Braden.¹

The IRS wrote at least one substantive letter responding to the HSCA correspondence. On June 13, 1978, the IRS wrote that they would make arrangements for the HSCA staff to meet with the LA District Director and get access to the materials that the HSCA requested.² The IRS noted that certain of the referenced documents had been edited to remove unrelated third party tax return information. In the June 13 letter, the IRS also agreed to arrange for HSCA staff to meet with IRS staff to review IRS files on Braden.

In August, 1977, the HSCA made at least two telephonic requests for information for the employment records of Loran Hall and for 1969 IRS reports on Mike McClaney and Lou Chesler.³ The IRS refused to turn over records in response to these two requests, due to the "bar on tax

¹Braden signed a statement allowing the HSCA access to his files at IRS.

²The letter did not specify what these materials were, but it may have been referring to the documents that the IRS turned over to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in 1977.

³Jim Wolf, HSCA staffer and author of the memo memorializing the telephonic requests, stated that Gaeton Fonzi told him that both McClaney and Chesler had relationships with Meyer Lansky in Cuban casinos. Wolf thought the reports would be useful.

information.”

HSCA Referrals

Of the documents in the "IRS stack," nine documents referred to the IRS have apparently not yet been returned. Seven of the documents from the stack are in the open documents database and one document is in the postponed documents database.

ARRB Databases

I searched the HSCA database for "Internal Revenue" and for "IRS." There were 15 references to "Internal Revenue" and 23 references to "IRS."⁴ The Mary Ferrell database provided 26 references to the IRS. I have attached those references to the file copy of this memorandum.

ARRB Correspondence

On May 20, 1994, Bill Joyce of the Review Board sent a letter to IRS. Stephen Bryant at main Treasury responded on July 14, 1994, on behalf of IRS. Bryant's letter, as you know, stated that IRS has 52 documents (203 pages) of assassination records dating from 1960-1961, in the IRS National Office. The letter did not indicate that the IRS intended to review these records under the JFK Act.

If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Denk e:\wp-docs\complian.ltr\customs.mem
File: 4.6.2.1

⁴I tried to print these pages of the HSCA so that I could include them in the file, but I could not print from the database. If you want to take a look at these, I will be happy to go through and copy the individual pages from the HSCA volumes for you.