

# MEMORANDA

October 27, 1995

To: The File

From: Michelle Seguin

Subject: Interview with Clarence Boonstra

On October 5, 1995, Jeremy Gunn and I interviewed via telephone Mr. Clarence Boonstra who lives in Gainesville, Florida. In the fall of 1963, Mr. Boonstra was Deputy Chief of Missions in the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. On the day of the assassination, he was Chargé d'Affairs because Ambassador Mann was out of the country. The following notes were taken during this interview.

- Embassy was in downtown Mexico City; housed in a 20 story building; CIA occupied the top floor.
- Marine guard searched offices every night.
- 17 other consulates around Mexico; 1,200 employees in the embassy in Mexico City.
- 27 FBI agents, including legal attache and ass't attache; large mission of FBI was to recover stolen automobiles that belonged to U.S. citizens; FBI had separate communications channel, only one left from Hoover's reign over counterintelligence operations in Latin America
- FBI and CIA had tremendous amount of liaison
- Intelligence coordination between CIA & FBI was a major problem; FBI and CIA running cables without knowledge of the other or Ambassador
- CIA station was at least as large as FBI office, but cannot remember exact number
- Defense attachés were not deeply involved in intelligence gathering;  
Army - (?) Johnston (was later involved in Panama)  
Navy - Stan (?)  
Air Force - Billy (?)
- Win Scott was a legend at the CIA and was part of the inside group at the Agency; he was extremely competent, intelligent and could outwit anyone; he seemed to be cooperative with State but had a legendary, tight reign over CIA employees; everything went through Win Scott.
- David Phillips was a close friend - Ambassador Boonstra and Phillips did lectures together after they retired; in Mexico City, Phillips was involved in Cuban surveillance.
- Desmond Fitzgerald made several trips to Mexico - Boonstra thought this was unusual.
- Clark Anderson was a close friend and remembers him as very cooperative.

- Liaison among the components in the embassy was handled orally; there were staff meetings once a week, no notes or subsequent memoranda were prepared; discretion of the CIA to inform other components of any information; CIA and State did maintain biographical files on certain individuals
- State was never informed of Oswald's visit until after the assassination; Win Scott was leading the investigation and everyone was under instructions of the CIA station chief; coordination seemed ineffective
- Ambassador Mann was convinced that the assassination was the result of a Cuban operation; Win Scott and Mr. Boonstra were not convinced of this; they believed that it was highly unlikely that the Russians or Cubans were involved; Mann still living in Austin, Texas.
- Mr. Boonstra admits that it could have been possible that information/cables could have been sent to Langley without Scott's review
- Other individuals who we might contact:
  - Joe Henderson - Consular Affairs officer who supervised the border situation directly following the assassination - lives in Phoenix June-October (207-372-6545) and lives in Rio Verde, Arizona from October-June 25642 Cordova Lane, 85263.
  - Wallace Stewart - Consular for Political Affairs (not good memory)
  - John Paige - Assistant Legal Attache
  - Eldon Rudd - FBI agent (not too reliable)
  - Clark Anderson - Legal Attache (Paige could give you his address)