

DRAFT -- 8/20/96

Gary L. Aguilar, MD
909 Hyde Street, # 530
San Francisco, California 94109

Dear Gary:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 26, 1996, which enclosed a FOIA-redacted copy of a four-page outline with the caption "Federal Bureau of Investigation." Happily, I am able to respond to at least some of the issues your letter raised.

This outline appears in an FBI Headquarters file that the Bureau independently identified for processing under the JFK Act. This file is part of a series of administrative "soft files" maintained by FBI personnel who interacted with the House Select Committee on Assassinations. These materials were not "serialized" or indexed to the FBI's central records system. From a researcher's point of view, they supplement the "official" FBI Headquarters file on its liaison with the HSCA, which is numbered 62-117290. Among other types of documents, they contain "ticklers" of the sort described in your letter.

As you are aware, the FBI is still processing HSCA-related records. The file containing this outline still awaits review by the FBI under the JFK Act. However, there was a supplemental processing of this record under the FOIA,¹ which released a little more information than the copy you sent me, and identified third agencies that took particular redactions. A copy of this supplemental release is enclosed.

¹The FBI independently advised us that these materials were processed in response to a FOIA request from Mark Allen, and that this outline was part of (what the FBI, at least, refers to as) "release 18" to Mark Allen.

Garly L. Aguilar, MD
August __, 1996
Page 2

[The FBI's administrative "soft files" on its dealings with the HSCA do not appear to be arranged in any logical order. This circumstance contributes to the difficulty in definitively concluding when, by whom or for what purpose this outline was created.² The outline's tone and substance, as well as the generality of its caption ("Federal Bureau of Investigation"), might support the hypothesis that an HSCA staffer wrote it as a checklist of FBI-related subjects that the Congressional investigation wished to explore, and that it at some point was shared with (or otherwise came into the possession of) the FBI. The fact that it is not immediately or conclusively identifiable as originating with Congress might have led to its subsequent FOIA processing, notwithstanding that Congressional records are not subject to the FOIA.]

We have not yet found a copy of this outline in the HSCA's own files or elsewhere in the body of assassination records. [Of course, one would expect to find a copy in the HSCA's files if the hypothesis set out in the above paragraph is correct.]

As always, thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely yours,

T. Jeremy Gunn, Esq.
General Counsel
Associate Director for Research and Analysis

Enclosure

cc (w/enclosure):

James Lesar, Esq.

²The FBI describes the contents of the file folder containing this outline as "steno notebook and loose papers," which does not shed much light on the question. In addition to this outline, the file folder contains several sheets of stenographer's paper with handwritten notes that do not seem to correspond to the points on the outline.