

January 22, 1997

Ms. Carol Keeley
Supervisor
JFK Task Force
Federal Bureau of Investigation
10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

Re: January 15, 1997 Meeting Regarding FBI Compliance
With the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act

Dear Carol:

I write to memorialize the discussions between the Review Board staff (Jeremy Gunn, Ronald Haron, and myself) and Frank Campbell, Joe Iazetta, and yourself at our January 15 meeting.

We have received Director Freeh's letter dated January 13, 1997, designating you as the FBI's compliance official. We look forward to cooperating with you on this crucial part of the FBI's work under the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act ("JFK Act"). The Review Board believes that creating for the public a comprehensive and self-contained record of how each agency -- and especially the FBI -- complied with the JFK Act will greatly further the purposes of that statute.

We discussed the following points at the meeting:

1) Methodology of Records Searches: We understand that, to a significant degree, the FBI's searches both for assassination records and for additional information or records requested by the ARRB involves searches of general indices at Headquarters and in each appropriate field office (or Legat). Accordingly, we request that, to the extent practical, the compliance statement: (a) describe how each index was searched; (b) explain the purpose and structure of each index searched (*e.g.*, what types of documents were entered into the index¹ and what

¹For example, to what extent were the following categories of documents recorded in the searched indices: records handled under "Do Not File" procedures; records maintained in the office areas of the Director and other high-ranking officials; records kept in the personal control of the Special Agent in Charge of a field office; ELSUR material; JUNE mail; records in "0" and "00" files;

Ms. Carol Keeley
January 22, 1997
Page 2

criteria governed whether a particular document was indexed to a particular subject); and (c) explain which categories of documents are not retrievable by index searches and describe what other steps were taken to locate relevant records within those categories.

2) Scope of Records Searches: You described how Headquarters records can be identified and retrieved from the Bureau's Pickett Street storage facility. The FBI's compliance statement should set out this information regarding records at Pickett Street and any other off-site storage facilities for FBI Headquarters records. It also should address what steps have been taken to search any field-office records sent to off-site storage facilities, and particularly identify any such storage facilities to which records of the Dallas field office, the New Orleans field office or the Mexico City Legat have been sent.

informant files and other types of source files; other records maintained in the Special File Room or in comparable restricted-access areas; personnel files; records concerning COINTELPRO activities; records concerning the inclusion of individuals on the Security Index and similar lists?

3) *Office Records of Particular FBI Officials:* We discussed what steps could be taken to determine if the office records (including working files and “chron” files) of particular officials are still in the possession of the FBI and, if so, whether they contain assassination records. We know that two groups of records, originally maintained in the offices of Director Hoover (“the Official and Confidential Files”) and Associate Director Tolson, respectively, are still in existence and have been processed under the Freedom of Information Act. The compliance statement should address what efforts the FBI has made to determine whether these groups of records contain assassination records. As for other pertinent FBI officials,² we request that you attempt to locate records from these officials’ offices (*e.g.*, by researching whether, at the relevant times, there were procedures to send files of outgoing officials to storage, and ascertaining whether the successors to these officials have inherited office files from the 1960’s).

4) *Tape Recordings of Director Hoover’s Conversations:* We asked you to determine whether the FBI had recordings (or copies or transcripts thereof) of any of Director Hoover’s conversations in the period immediately after the assassination, including conversations with the President, the Attorney General or other Government officials.

5) *Laboratory Records and Exhibits; Photographs, Films, Recordings, and Artifacts:* A large body of laboratory material, apparently previously maintained by the Laboratory Division, has been reviewed and released by the JFK Task Force as serial “8307x” in Headquarters file 62-109060. The compliance statement should explain what steps have been taken to ensure

²The compliance statement should describe what steps have been taken to locate and search the office files of the following Headquarters officials (identified by the positions they held in 1963-64): Assistant to the Director (Investigative Divisions) Rosen; Assistant Director (General Investigative Division) Belmont; Assistant Director (Internal Security Division) Sullivan; Assistant Director (Inspection Division) Gale; Assistant Director (Laboratory Division) Conrad; Assistant Director (Crime Records Division) DeLoach (also responsible for liaison with the White House during the Johnson Administration); Assistant Director (Special Investigative Division) Evans (also responsible for liaison with the Attorney General and the White House during the Kennedy Administration); and Inspector Malley (sent from Headquarters to oversee earliest stages of assassination investigation in Dallas, then responsible for liaison with the Warren Commission).

The compliance statement should also describe what steps have been taken to locate and search any office files maintained in Dallas by Special-Agent-in-Charge Shanklin and Supervisor Gemberling, and in Mexico City by Legat Anderson.

Ms. Carol Keeley
January 22, 1997
Page 4

that all materials of this nature related to the assassination of President Kennedy and in the possession of the FBI have been identified and reviewed under the JFK Act.³

³The Laboratory Division may be called upon to perform analyses of assassination-related evidence as new techniques become available and new theories are advanced. Other aspects of the FBI's work may also result in new records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. We expect to discuss with you in the future issues posed by this type of recently created record.

6) *Records Relating to the "Oswald Note" and the Alleged "Walter Teletype"*: In 1975, FBI officials testified before Congress about extensive investigations that the FBI had conducted regarding the destruction of a note that Lee Harvey Oswald delivered to the Dallas field office in November 1963, and the allegation of William Walter that, days before the assassination, FBI Headquarters sent a teletype warning field offices of a plot to kill the President.⁴ We know that some records of these internal inquiries have already been identified as assassination records (*e.g.*, among the HSCA "subjects"). Because of the high level of public interest in these issues, we request that the compliance statement explain what steps have been taken to ensure that all FBI records related to these inquiries have been identified under the JFK Act.

7) *Records Relating to the Inclusion or Deletion of Individuals on the "Security Index" and Similar Lists*: As you are aware, the question whether Oswald should have been included on the FBI's "Security Index" was a significant issue in the assessment of the Bureau's handling of the Oswald case conducted by Inspector Gale immediately after the assassination. Since then, there has been public speculation whether Oswald was initially placed on the "Security Index," and later deleted from it. For these reasons, the FBI's compliance statement should describe whether there is any means of determining whether an individual had been included on, then deleted from, the "Security Index" and related lists of individuals (other than by reviewing that individual's case file).

8) *Radio Operator Logs and "No. 1 and No. 2 Registers" for Dallas Field Office*: If these records still exist, they may indicate the locations and activities of agents immediately prior to and after the assassination. For this reason, we requested that you ascertain whether these records of the Dallas field office for November 1963 are still in existence.

9) *Submission of Initial Statement of Compliance*: At our January 15 meeting, we agreed on February 14 as a target date for submission of the Bureau's initial statement of compliance.

⁴See *FBI Oversight: Hearings Before the Subcomm. on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House Comm. on the Judiciary*, 94th Cong., 1st & 2d. Sess., serial no. 2, pt. 3, at 2-3 (statement of James B. Adams, Deputy Associate Director, FBI) (FBI Inspection Division conducted "nearly 80 interviews" in 1975 regarding Oswald note); *id.* at 7-10 (FBI initiated "extensive inquiry" into Walter allegations "in March 1968," which included interviews of "[m]ore than 50 employees of the New Orleans office;" at a later date, all 59 field offices were instructed to search for any indication that such a teletype was received, and each office "uniformly advised based on the penetrative searches made that there was no evidence to indicate or corroborate the existence of such a teletype").

Ms. Carol Keeley
January 22, 1997
Page 6

Thank you for the efforts that you and Joe have put into our compliance initiatives. If you have any questions or suggestions on any of the matters discussed in this letter or our January 15 meeting, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Philip D. Golrick, Esq.
Chief Analyst for FBI Records

cc: Dr. David G. Marwell

T. Jeremy Gunn, Esq.

Ronald G. Haron, Esq.