

MEMORANDUM

To: Jeremy Gunn

From: Phil Golrick

Subject: Outstanding FBI Records to Review to Determine Whether They Are Assassination Records

Date: March 10, 1997

The purpose of this memorandum is to list in one place the types of records that await the review of the FBI team for the purpose of determining whether, in the opinion of the ARRB staff, they are assassination records. This memorandum does *not* discuss:

- (a) records that we have internally discussed pursuing, but that have not yet been subjects of formal or informal requests to the FBI;
- (b) requests regarding which we have communicated to the FBI a staff opinion on whether responsive records are assassination records;¹ or
- (c) the BRILAB issue, which we have just discussed.

This memorandum also contains suggestions regarding which members of the FBI team might be particularly appropriate for reviewing particular files. Because these suggestions are principally informed by familiarity with subjects and issues that analysts have acquired in other assignments, the most experienced members of the FBI team are “over-represented.” Notwithstanding this “over-representation,” I am confident that newer members of the FBI team can and should assist in reviewing the files discussed below.

FBI HQ File on Cuban Counterintelligence Program: We have looked at this file for research purposes, but we need to review this file and communicate to the FBI which records we believe should be processed under the JFK Act. I believe Kevin is the logical FBI team member to take

¹The lists of records enclosed with our letter to Carol Keeley of March 7, 1997, identify certain requests for which we believe not all responsive records were provided for our review. Please refer to these lists to identify discrete areas of “clean-up” for the requests discussed therein.

responsibility for this.

FBI Manuals (MOI and MRR): I recommend that discussion in these manuals of the following topics in the relevant time periods should be given serious consideration as assassination records:

- (a) instructions on handling cases in the “105” and “100” classifications, especially (i) the reporting and other instructions which Hosty invokes in explaining his handling of the pre-assassination Lee and Marina Oswald cases, and (ii) whatever provisions are relevant to assessing Fain’s closing of the Lee Oswald case in 1962;
- (b) administration of the Security Index, especially criteria for placing individuals on it;
- (c) criteria for handling threats against the President and deciding what information should be passed to the Secret Service in connection with its protective function; and
- (d) handling informants (to the extent that the manual sections on informants that are already “in the pipeline” as having been provided to the HSCA are thought incomplete.

Any of the more experienced members of the FBI team would be appropriate to take primary responsibility for this project.

HQ File on Liaison with CIA: I gather the following from Kevin, who is the analyst most familiar with this file: this file is voluminous; there are administrative hurdles to our reviewing it;² and there may be some significant judgment calls in deciding what is responsive to the JFK Act. Kevin has suggested taking a group of four or so people over to the FBI, with the idea of completing our review of the file in a day.

HQ File on Liaison with NSA: Tim has reviewed this file and found no assassination records, but apparently we have not advised the FBI of this result in writing. I will send a brief memo to Carol Keeley to do so.

HQ File on Liaison with the Customs Service: Laura is the analyst with primary responsibility for this review. She may in fact may have completed review of the relevant sections and found no assassination records, but in any case we need to advise the FBI of the results of our review.

Mexico City File 105-2137: As you are aware, the FBI has been unable to locate this file, and

²The file is in the possession of the FOIA section, and I believe it is the subject of ongoing FOIA litigation (Kevin may have a clearer understanding of this). These are by no means insuperable difficulties, but they do mean we need to give the FBI a little advance notice of our desire to work with the file on a particular day.

infers from circumstantial evidence (but not from positive documentation) that this file has been destroyed. On February 28, Carol undertook to research whether there was any way the FBI could determine what case name was associated with that file number, but she expressed doubt that this could be done.

FBI Records Under Court Seal or Containing Grand Jury Information: (Not really a question of reviewing things to see if they are assassination records, but an issue addressed through an additional records and information request.) The FBI has identified responsive records ***that have been processed through a certain stage of its initial review under the JFK Act***, although we have been waiting for some time for a written explanation of what they have done and what they have found.

Records Responsive to Informal Request Concerning November 1963 Technical Coverage: These have been compiled and are ready for us to look at, but Carol has said that they have not come across much that is directly relevant to the assassination.

Administrative Files for the New Orleans and Dallas Field Offices: These records await our review. I believe that any member of the FBI team would be appropriate to take primary responsibility for this review.

Files Concerning Clarence Smelley: Kevin has begun review of the HQ file. I understand that at least some of the requested field office files may have been destroyed, but Kevin can speak more authoritatively on this point. We should also be alert to whether the file contains grand jury information.

Personnel or Other Administrative Files Concerning Identified FBI Employees: At least some of these have been retrieved and await our review.

Source Files for DL-282-S: Should be ready for our review by this time. I believe Kevin would be the most appropriate analyst to take primary responsibility for this review.

Files Retrieved in Connection with Edisen Allegations: At least some potentially responsive Headquarters materials have been retrieved for our review. I believe Laura would be the most appropriate analyst to take primary responsibility for this review.

Request for Files on John Thomas Masen: This is our most recent request, so I doubt that responsive records have been retrieved yet (especially from field offices). Any member of the FBI team familiar with the Masen allegations (which would include Joan, Laura, and possibly others) would be appropriate to take primary responsibility for review of this file.

Requests Sent to FBI on March 10, 1997 (Bringuier; Quiroga; Dallas FPCC file; Two New Orleans Informants): Laura, with her specialization in New Orleans issues, and Kevin, with his specialization in Cuban matters, are logical members of the FBI team to review responsive files.

Informal Requests for Source Files That Are Also Relevant to Postponement Questions:

- (a) San Juan asset: all requested HQ and field office files available. I believe Kevin would be the most appropriate analyst to take primary responsibility for this review.
- (b) San Francisco criminal informant: all requested files are available for our review. Laura has reviewed at least some of these materials, but we need to make sure we advise the FBI in writing of any recommended assassination records.
- (c) New Orleans criminal informant: at least some requested files are available for our review. I believe Laura would be the most appropriate analyst to take primary responsibility for this review.