

February 4, 1997

BY FACSIMILE AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Ms. Jane Sealock  
Director  
U.S. Army Central Security Facility  
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-5995

Re: Central Security Facility Compliance with the JFK Assassination Records  
Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Ms. Sealock:

Thank you for meeting with Joe Masih and me on January 23 to discuss the initial Statement of Compliance prepared by the Central Security Facility ("CSF"), as well as to review the status of CSF's efforts to locate assassination-related records pursuant to its obligations under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994) ("JFK Act"). This letter will memorialize the matters we discussed, including additional efforts that CSF should take to ensure compliance with the JFK Act.

1. Overview of the CSF Organization. At the outset of our meeting, you gave us some background on the organization of CSF and the structure of Army intelligence. At present, the Investigative Records Repository ("IRR"), which is the custodian for various army intelligence investigative files, reports to you as head of CSF. In turn, you report to the 902nd Military Intelligence Group headed by Col. Ben Elley, who reports to the head of the Army's Intelligence and Security Command ("INSCOM"), General John Thomas. General Thomas ultimately reports to the Army Chief of Staff.
2. The Scope of Army Intelligence Files Within the Custody of CSF. It is our understanding that CSF is the custodian for the investigative or operational files of Army Intelligence, and that CSF would not have other types of Army Intelligence records, such as office or administrative files for Army Intelligence units, commanders' work files, chronological files, subject matter files, or other "soft" files that may have been sent to

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Government storage.<sup>1</sup> In order to be certain if our understanding is correct, we ask that you specifically confirm whether or not CSF retains solely Army investigative and operational files. If CSF has custody of records other than investigative or operational files, including intelligence records not indexed under either the Defense Clearance & Investigations Index ("DCII") or the CSF index to microfilm records, please advise us as to what the nature of those records would be.

3. Special Access or Black Operation Files. Please advise the Review Board whether CSF has custody, control, or access to any 1963-64 Army Intelligence records, including records relating to any "Special Access," "Black Operation," or other highly sensitive operations, that are archived outside the normal protocol for storing records at the Federal Records Center in Suitland. Please inform the Review Board whether there are any such files containing 1963-64 intelligence or other information relating to Cuba, the Soviet Union, or Vietnam, including intelligence that may relate to any Government efforts, at the time, to ascertain whether or not there was complicity of anyone else in the assassination.

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<sup>1</sup> In connection with Army Intelligence records in storage, you advised us that, prior to 1973, records of various Army Intelligence Groups were stored at Fort Holabird, Maryland, and thereafter at Fort Meade. You also indicated that some Army Intelligence files may be stored at the Federal Records Center at Suitland, Maryland, but you could not tell us what categories of records were at Suitland as opposed to Fort Meade. With respect to the Suitland records, please apprise the Review Board whether such records are within the custody or control of CSF and, if so, identify generally what kinds of records are located there. In addition, please advise us whether CSF is aware of any 1963-64 Army Intelligence records stored at the Federal Records Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

4. CSF Will Ascertain Whether It Has Any Office Records for Certain High-Level Army Intelligence Commands from 1963-64. Certain Army Intelligence commands may have generated records that relate to the assassination of President Kennedy. Therefore, please confirm whether or not CSF has custody or control of any of the office or administrative files from the offices of: Col. Willard W. Mize, who was the Commander for the Army's 112th Intelligence Corps Group, Fort Sam Houston, Texas ("112th INTC Group"); Lt. Col. Robert E. Jones, who was the Intelligence Officer for the 112th INTC Group; Major Robert H. Erdrich, an officer with the 112th INTC Group in New Orleans; the Intelligence (G-2) Division for the Fourth Army, to which the 112th INTC Group reported; and the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (Major General Alva R. Fitch). The importance of any files for the 112th INTC Group, including any files for Lt. Col. Jones, is underscored by the fact that the 112th INTC Group was the early custodian of the Army intelligence dossier that had been maintained on Lee Harvey Oswald, and it was Lt. Col. Jones who forwarded to the FBI information regarding Oswald shortly after the assassination.<sup>2</sup> Because the Army's dossier on Oswald reportedly was destroyed in 1973, it is important that these other record groups be checked for any information maintained on Oswald by Army Intelligence.

5. Records for the FOIA Office. You advised us that there is a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") office within CSF, and that it may have received FOIA requests relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. We ask that you ascertain whether or not any such FOIA requests have been made in the past and, if so, that you retrieve for inspection any such FOIA files in order to determine whether or not they may qualify as assassination records under the JFK Act. Since one of the purposes of the JFK Act is to address the allegation that the United States Government has been withholding materials relevant to the assassination, it is important that any prior record with respect to Government disclosure, such as FOIA files, be located and reviewed.

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<sup>2</sup> According to the report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations ("the HSCA"), Lt. Col. Jones prepared an "after action" report summarizing the actions that he had taken in connection with notifying the appropriate officials of information he had in his possession regarding Oswald. This report was placed in the Oswald dossier that was destroyed in 1973. See HSCA Report, at 222. Accordingly, we are trying to locate any other files, such as Lt. Col. Jones' files, that might have another copy of this report and any other material on Oswald. In addition to Lt. Col. Jones, Major Erdrich of the 112th INTC Group provided to the FBI, after the assassination, information regarding Oswald's Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans.

6. Scope of Searches of DCII, Microfilm, and Technical Surveillance Records. At our meeting, we reviewed the search terms that have been checked against CSF file indices in order to locate potential assassination-related records. Since numerous searches among different indices have been run at different times in the past, we thought it advisable to summarize here the searches that have been run to date, as well as additional searches that should be done. These summaries are contained in the attachments to this letter. For searches under the Defense Clearance and Investigations Index ("DCII"), see Attachment A, and for searches under the index to microfilm records, see Attachment B. These lists may be supplemented with additional search terms.

In addition, CSF ran some searches against a Technical Surveillance Index. You indicated that this is an index to about 11 investigative files, some of which date back to World War II.

Since it appears, from your description, that these materials may have no bearing on the assassination, you need not run searches through the index to these files. However, we would request that CSF identify for us the subject matter and time period for each of these files so that we can be assured that an index search is unnecessary.

7. Destruction of the Oswald Dossier. The House Select Committee on Assassinations ("the HSCA") reported that the Army had maintained an intelligence dossier on Lee Harvey Oswald and that the dossier was destroyed in 1973 pursuant to a general program to purge domestic surveillance files. In 1978, the Office of the Secretary of Defense prepared for the HSCA a fact sheet explaining the circumstances of the destruction of the Oswald file (dossier AB 652876). A copy of that fact sheet, which has been declassified, is attached hereto. Since the dossier would have been in the custody of INSCOM or CSF at the time of destruction in 1973, we have asked you to investigate who might have been the principal person who researched the circumstances of the dossier's destruction and whether there might be any working papers or file reflecting that person's investigation. Any additional information you could provide in that regard would be helpful. You also said you would look into the significance, if any, of the AB prefix assigned to the Oswald dossier.

8. Army Information Source Registry. You said the Army maintains an Information Source Registry, which we understand cross-references the number that has been assigned to an Army intelligence source with the identity of that source. In that regard, please determine whether any original Army registry from the years 1956 to 1963 exists. If so, the Review Board wishes to inspect the registry to verify whether or not Oswald and others are identified (as you may know, there have been allegations over the years that Oswald was an intelligence

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source or was somehow connected to military intelligence).

9. Instructions Not to Purge Files. With respect to the categories of files that need to be located and reviewed for possible relevance under the JFK Act, please make certain that procedures are put in place to prevent inadvertent destruction of such records.

10. Status of Processing Currently Identified Assassination Records. At present, there are two full cabinets of Army intelligence files that must be processed under the JFK Act. As we explained to you, the JFK Act requires that these files be placed into the JFK Assassinations Collection at the National Archives because they were previously made available to the HSCA. You indicated that you are waiting for clearance for parts of these files from other agencies. Once those clearances are received, please identify for the Review Board those portions of the files the disclosure of which CSF believes should be postponed. You indicated that you want to resolve these matters before placing any of the materials into the collection.

11. CSF's Final Declaration of Compliance. We appreciate your prompt submission of CSF's initial Compliance Statement on January 6, 1997. Given our meeting and the additional matters to be pursued, we request that CSF's Final Declaration of Compliance account for all of the matters we discussed, as well as any other follow-up matters that may ultimately be necessary.

Thank you for your cooperation, and please do not hesitate to contact Joe Masih or me in the event you or Ms. Rogic have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron  
Senior Attorney

Attachments

cc: William T. Coleman III, General Counsel,  
Department of the Army

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Stewart Aly, Associate Deputy General Counsel,  
Department of Defense