

December 11, 1996

BY FACSIMILE AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Mr. Frank R. Newett  
Assistant Director  
Office of Enforcement Operations  
Criminal Division  
United States Department of Justice  
1001 G Street, N.W.  
Suite 1075  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: United States Department of Justice Criminal Division's Compliance with the JFK  
Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

---

Dear Mr. Newett:

As we discussed by phone yesterday, I am submitting to you several questions regarding the processing of assassination-related records by the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994) ("JFK Act"). These inquiries are the result of our review of records that the Criminal Division has forwarded to National Archives and which are available to the public.

1. Criminal Division Files at National Archives: Based on our review at the National Archives, the Criminal Division has released several files, as follows--(a) No. 129-11, which appears to be the major Criminal Division file on the Kennedy assassination; (b) No. 51-16-113, which appears to be a file relating to the FBI's handling of the Kennedy assassination investigation; (c) No. 146-1-32-328, which relates to the assassination; and (d) No. 146-1-73-181, which is another file relating to the Kennedy assassination. Please explain

the nature of these files, *i.e.*, when were they created, are they centrally maintained files for the Division, what are their purported subjects, how are they described or titled by the Division, what is the significance, if any, of the file numbers assigned, etc. Some documents in these files were stamped "HPW File" or had the designation "R.A.O."-- please explain to us what these record designations mean.

2. Files for the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division: It does not appear that any files were released for the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Herbert J. Miller, Jr., who served during the Kennedy Administration. It is important that Mr. Miller's files, as well as the files of any successor AAGs for the Criminal Division in the 1960's (including Fred M. Vinson, Jr.), be located and reviewed for any assassination-related records. What steps have been taken in this regard?

3. Files for the Assistant Attorney General for the Internal Security Division: It does not appear that any files were released for the Assistant Attorney General for the Internal Security Division, who was J. Walter Yeagley under the Kennedy Administration. It is our understanding that the Internal Security Division ultimately became a section within the Criminal Division. It is important that Mr. Yeagley's files also be located and reviewed for a determination as to whether they contain any assassination related records. What steps have been taken in this regard?

4. Department of Justice File on Lee Harvey Oswald: We wish to confirm whether or not there was a file on Lee Harvey Oswald within the Department of Justice and, if so, to have that file released. We call your attention to a letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Robert L. Keuch, to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. That letter refers to "the Department's file on Lee Harvey Oswald," which had "been reviewed" in connection with the HSCA investigation. *See* Mr. Keuch's Letter to Robert Blakey of the HSCA, dated March 10, 1978 (attached hereto). We ask that you attempt to locate that file and any related materials.

5. Files for the Chief of the Organized Crime & Racketeering Section: We would ask that you identify and make available for the Review Board's inspection the files, and any indices thereto, of the Chief for the Organized Crime Section under the Kennedy Administration, William G. Hundley.

6. Files of DOJ's JFK Assassination Task Force: It is our understanding that the Department of Justice formed a JFK Assassination Task Force to review the conclusions of the House

Mr. Frank Newett  
December 11, 1996  
Page 3

Select Committee on Assassinations. From our review of materials at the National Archives, we know that a summary of the Department's conclusions was prepared in November 1987 by Lawrence Lippe, Chief for the General Litigation and Legal Advice Section of the Criminal Division, for William F. Weld, then Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division. We believe much of the DOJ's work was done by attorney Jeff Fogel of the Criminal Division. We ask that you locate any records that relate to the Division's work in this regard, including the pertinent files maintained by Messrs. Weld, Lippe, and Fogel.

7. Explanation of the Criminal Division's Filing System: We ask that you supply the Review Board with a copy of any finding aids, indices, or other reference materials that disclose the identity and nature of the Criminal Division's files (and those of the former Internal Security Division), any file classification system applicable to such files, and record keeping procedures, including but not limited to any materials that you consulted for purposes of locating assassination materials.

Thank you for your assistance, and please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or wish to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron  
Senior Attorney

Enclosure