

August 31, 1995

Mr. T. L. Rankin
President
Lykes Lines, Inc.
300 Poydras Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Dear Mr. Rankin:

By way of introduction, the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) is an independent federal agency created to oversee the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The ARRB was established by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL 102-526) and was signed into law by President George Bush. The law gives the ARRB the mandate and authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. I am enclosing a copy of the Act and some explanatory material.

The scope of the Review Board's mandate includes assassination-related records in the custody of federal agencies, local and state government entities, as well as those in the private sector. On occasion the Review Board is required to conduct inquiries to locate individuals who may have information about the existence of assassination-related records. Such an occasion has recently arisen.

The Review Board needs to locate Mr. Rafael Aznarez Costea who, based on his own statements, was the chief accountant for the Lykes Brothers Shipping Company in Havana, Cuba, until that office was closed in December 1960. He then apparently traveled with his family to New Orleans aboard the S.S. Shirley Lykes in January 1963 and went to work for the same company in New Orleans where he was employed in an unspecified capacity in June 1963.

My efforts to locate Mr. Costea, or his family, have to date been unsuccessful. I am hoping you and your company may be able to assist the Review Board in its attempts to locate Mr. Costea through use of long-time company employees who may remember him, and/or through personnel records.

Mr. T. L. Rankin

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As a first step will you please name a member of your staff to act as a point of contact. I may be reached at ext. 229. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Anne Buttimer, Esq.

Chief Investigator

Enclosures