

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Peggy Grafeld

FROM: David G. Marwell

DATE: March 13, 1996

SUBJECT: Cables to Ottawa and Mexico City

I am sending drafts for two additional cables relating to assassination-related records located in foreign countries.

## Cable to AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

1. The Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (the "Act") was signed into law on October 26, 1992. The Act established a process for identifying and securing all records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy and collecting them in the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. The Act also established the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) to coordinate and oversee the process. The Department has been working closely with the ARRB to ensure full compliance with these requirements and over a year ago produced its collection for public access at the National Archives.
2. There remains, however, one provision of the Act for which the Secretary must rely on your offices for implementation. The Act envisioned an approach to foreign governments for any records that they might possess. Specifically, Section 10 (b)(2) of the Act states that it is the "sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should contact .... [any] foreign government that may hold information relevant to the assassination and seek disclosure of such information."
3. In its Congressionally mandated search for assassination records, the ARRB wishes to determine whether the Canadian government or local government agencies in Canada maintain records that are related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The ARRB notes that the assassination of President Kennedy attracted the attention of the world, and that the response of the Canadian government to the event would be of interest.
4. Without being aware of the structure and organization of potentially relevant Canadian files, the ARRB cannot provide specific guidance on the appropriate strategy for ensuring a comprehensive search. The ARRB is willing to provide any additional information that may be required. Any search for records should include the following:
  - (a) All documents and files on the Kennedy assassination. The ARRB is aware, for instance, that there may be a relevant file at the [National] Archives in Ottawa that may bear the reference number 63-HQ-1180-1-Q-112.
  - (b) Any and all documents that identify American requests to Canada for information about the assassination and the Canadian responses to those requests.
  - (c) Any and all documents, studies, inquiries or investigations by Canada (including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) of the assassination.

## Cable to AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

1. The Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (the "Act") was signed into law on October 26, 1992. The Act established a process for identifying and securing all records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy and collecting them in the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. The Act also established the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) to coordinate and oversee the process. The Department has been working closely with the ARRB to ensure full compliance with these requirements and over a year ago produced its collection for public access at the National Archives.
2. There remains, however, one provision of the Act for which the Secretary must rely on your offices for implementation. The Act envisioned an approach to foreign governments for any records that they might possess. Specifically, Section 10 (b)(2) of the Act states that it is the "sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should contact .... [any] foreign government that may hold information relevant to the assassination and seek disclosure of such information."
3. In its Congressionally mandated search for assassination records, the ARRB wishes to determine whether the Mexican government or local government agencies in Mexico maintain records that are related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The ARRB notes that the assassination of President Kennedy attracted the attention of the world, and that the response of the Mexican government to the event would be of interest. In addition, records of Mexican authorities concerning Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to Mexico City in September/October 1963 would be of immense interest.
4. Without being aware of the structure and organization of potentially relevant Mexican files, the ARRB cannot provide specific guidance on the appropriate strategy for ensuring a comprehensive search. The ARRB is willing to provide any additional information that may be required. Any search for records should include the following:
  - (a) Any and all documents that identify American requests to Mexico for information about the assassination and the Mexican responses to those requests.
  - (b) Any and all documents, studies, inquiries or investigations Mexican government entities of the assassination.
  - (c) Any and all documents relating to Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to Mexico City in September/October 1963.