

via facsimile

MEMORANDUM

September 12, 1995

TO: Peggy Grafeld
US Department of State

FROM: David G. Marwell
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Cable

I am sending the text of cable that I would like to be sent as soon as possible to the Embassy Office in Berlin.

Cable to EMBASSY OFFICE BERLIN:

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 they might maintain. 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 former *Ministerium fuer Staatssicherheit (STASI)* of the former German Democratic Republic maintained any records related to the assassination and whether any of these records are maintained by the current authority responsible for the administration of these records (*Gauck Behoerde*).
4. The ARRB notes that the assassination of President Kennedy was an event that attracted the attention of the world, and that the response of the STASI to it would provide significant insight into the reaction of the former East Bloc. It should be noted that the STASI was reputed to have had close ties with the Cuban Intelligence Services and that STASI records could shed important light on Cuba and its activities before and after the assassination.
5. Without being aware of the structure and organization of the STASI files, the ARRB cannot provide any specific guidance on the appropriate strategy for ensuring a comprehensive search for STASI records related to the assassination. The ARRB is prepared to provide detailed answers to any questions that could provide necessary guidance.
6. ARRB Executive Director David Marwell will be in Berlin in mid-October 1995, and is prepared to meet with appropriate FRG officials to discuss this request and to review any documents that can be located.
7. ACTION REQUESTED: Please contact appropriate FRG officials and take necessary steps to initiate a comprehensive search of STASI files. If considered appropriate, please make arrangements for ARRB Executive Director Marwell to meet with appropriate Gauck Authority officials on October 11 or 12.