

June 19, 1996

Mr. John Wallach
Elie Wiesel Foundation
36th Floor
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Wallach:

It was a pleasure to speak with you on the telephone yesterday. The Review Board is involved in an unprecedented task that I think will be of interest to many people who are not yet aware of our work.

Per our conversation, I am enclosing background materials on the Board. In addition to the information packet, I have broken out information on several specific areas. We talked about some of these topics on the phone. They include:

1. The Oswald "intercept" document

The Review Board provided substitute language in the Final Determination Notification that accompanies this document, while protecting the actual text of the relevant paragraph. I included an A.P. story, excerpts from various books, and excerpts from the House Select Committee of Assassinations Final Report and a staff report. The Select Committee documents explain the controversy surrounding the tape of Oswald in Mexico City. We continue to pursue whether or not a tape existed after the assassination and still exists today.

2. Document on "Fixer...Between Dallas Police and Criminal Element"

This group of documents, released in October 1995, includes an FBI memo on an informant who had obtained information on the Ruby shooting of Oswald. The Board opened up parts of the memo about the source of the information that had previously been redacted. Bracketed words are newly released.

There are other documents in this group that reveal that an associate of Jack Ruby's was an FBI informant and others that demonstrate the depth to which the FBI had infiltrated the Communist Party USA.

I also included information on the different conclusions of the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee on Jack Ruby. In light of what the informant told the FBI in the above mentioned document, I thought this was interesting for background.

3. Echevarria, Chicago Anti-Castro Cuban

We discussed this document on the telephone. Echevarria was of great interest to the Secret Service after the assassination. The FBI did not pursue him. The House Select Committee on Assassinations agreed with the Secret Service that he should have been investigated. The wire stories, the document, and excerpts from the House Select Committee report are included in these materials. Bracketed words in the document are newly released.

4. The FBI/Swiss Documents

These are five documents that the FBI originally fought us on. Eventually, we got them released after the Swiss government agreed with us. I have included "before and after" versions of these documents. They have been of great interest to historians, authors and researchers because they were heavily redacted and preceded the assassination by three years. I have included the Hoover memo (which was released before we were in business) that began the FBI's search for where Oswald was and whether or not "an imposter was using Oswald's birth certificate."

5. The "Lost JFK Film"

I have included two news clips on the film that we recovered a few weeks ago. This is a good example of our efforts to supplement the existing historical record of the assassination with records or films that are in private hands.

6. Castro and "Solo"

Per your request, I have included some information on the "Solo" documents that were released last year by the FBI.

Please note that there are several items in the information packet on our dispute with New Orleans District Attorney Harry Connick. This matter is now in court and has been our biggest problem to date related to the acquisition of records.

Again, thank you for your interest in the work of the Review Board. We look forward to seeing you in a couple of weeks. In advance of our meeting, your researcher should feel free to contact us before going to the Archives. I think we could be helpful.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk
Associate Director for Communications

enclosures

1. Oswald "intercept" document

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