

MEMORANDUM

July 24, 2017

TO: John Pereira and Barry Harrelson

FROM: Jeremy Gunn

SUBJECT: ARRB Questions Submitted for DO Briefing

I would like to address some of the concerns that you expressed at our meeting yesterday, where we briefly discussed the Review Board's Proposed Questions regarding DO records. We understand that you have some concern about the scope of the topics raised. We very much appreciate your recognition of the importance that we attach to the ARRB's independence and we again wish to emphasize the fact that we fully understand your proper concern for the protection of information that is unrelated to the Kennedy assassination.

I would like to emphasize that the questions that we sent to you were not intended as indepth research queries, but rather as topical talking points for discussion. We prepared the questions, at your request, in order to give the persons conducting the briefing an understanding of the types of issues in which we were interested. They represent issues that we wish to explore in our quest for additional information and records to facilitate the completion of the ARRB's responsibilities under the JFK Act.

We appreciate your acknowledgment that the ARRB is not obligated to justify to CIA the questions it deems relevant to the assassination. Nevertheless, in order to facilitate and coordinate our efforts, we are very willing to offer the following additional explication of those questions that we understand may have been considered by the Agency to be excessively broad.

Question # 5:

We have been working to identify all technical and surveillance operations in and on the Cuban and Soviet consulates and embassies in Mexico City between September 1 and December 1, 1963. How can we frame a search query to determine if we have a comprehensive and complete list of all operations at that time?

Question # 6:

How can a search query be framed to document all electronic take produced by the Mexico City Station in the immediate wake of the assassination (the first month) and during the period of Oswald's visit? How can we verify that what exists in the Sequestered Collection represents all records of technical production that were available at the time of the assassination? If additional records or original production still exists, where would it be stored or filed? What searches could be conducted to retrieve any additional records? If such electronic take has been destroyed, do records exist of the destruction?

Question # 9:

Various open sources have linked the CIA to various journalists and publishing companies during the 1960's. How could a query be framed to search for connections between the Agency and journalists or publishing companies?

The two 1967 Ramparts articles mention connections between the Agency and journalists worldwide. The primary focus of this question is on any connection between the Agency and any journalist who might have covered the assassination domestically. Additionally, we would be interested in any publishing company with domestic Agency connections which might also have been investigating the assassination or the workings of the Warren Commission.

Question # 10:

Did the Agency have any relationship, projects or contacts with publishing houses during the time of the assassination and in the aftermath of the Warren Commission? How would a search be formulated to determine whether or not the Agency had a relationship with any of the same publishing houses that were also publishing books about the assassination?

We hope that this additional explication may help you and the DO understand our approach to the issues broached by our questions. Should any of our requests impose on you or your staff a burden that we may not have anticipated -- or which would entail work of dubious value or benefit -- please advise us so that we can work with you to modify or amend the requests accordingly.

Please also remember that, when we request accesses to these materials, we are not designating them "assassination records" and we are not, at this time, requesting that copies of documents be given to the Review Board.

We appreciate your continuing cooperation and helpfulness.

Sincerely yours,

T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel and Associate Director
for Research and Analysis