

Memorandum

TO: Jeremy Gunn
FROM: Eric Scheinkopf
RE: Testimony of Richard Helms before the Rockefeller Commission-Box 27, Folder 4
FILE NO:4.0.2 (Helms)

In Box 27, Folder 4 of the Church Committee files was part of the testimony of Richard Helms before the Rockefeller Commission. Nothing particularly interesting in terms of the CIA's organizational background was discussed.

Helms was asked about prior assassination plans regarding Lumumba and Trujillo as well as efforts to assassinate Castro. He was also asked about the agency's involvement in the Allende case. With regard to the efforts to assassinate Castro, Helms is very evasive (page 159). When he is asked when was the approximate time he became aware that there was an ongoing plan within CIA to try and have Castro assassinated, he replied "Well, when you put it this way, I am not sure what you are referring to..." Helms then talks about the Kennedy Administration's all out effort to try to remove the Castro Government.

Previous to this exchange, Helms was asked about which governmental entities he would or would not inform about Presidential policy if asked by the President not to say anything (pages 156-159). The context in which this discussion began was over Chile and then moved into a hypothetical situation. Helms said that if the President told him not to tell the Secretary of State or the 40 Committee or the PFIAB, he would follow the President's instructions as the boss. Helms said the Hill was a different situation and that in the end he would have to comply. I think the exchange is worth reading.

FILE NAME (helmschu.wpd)