

DRAFT

December 31, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE AND HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Jane E. Vezeris
Deputy Assistant Director
Office of Administration
United States Secret Service
1800 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20223

Re: United States Secret Service Compliance with the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act,
44 U.S.C. § 2107

Dear Ms. Vezeris:

I would like to express my appreciation to John Machado and Ann Parker for meeting with Michelle Combs, Kim Herd, and myself on December 12, 1997, to discuss outstanding issues regarding the Secret Service's ongoing efforts to comply with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act ("JFK Act").

We are appreciative of the Secret Service's efforts to be responsive to the Review Board's specific requests for records. As we discussed in our meeting, there remain outstanding issues with regard to many of the requests. In addition, we anticipate making additional requests as we continue to review the records you have supplied.

It is also likely that there will be more requests generated as a result of additional information we receive pertaining to the already requested items.

The purpose of this letter is to set forth our understanding of the Secret Service's response to the twenty specific requests the Review Board has made thus far.

Record Searches Conducted to Date by the Secret Service

1. SS-1 (Files of Chief James Rowley)

Pursuant to this request, we sought to inspect the 1963 - 1964 files that were separately maintained by Secret Service Chief James Rowley (head of the Secret Service from 1961 - 1973). Given the fact

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that Chief Rowley had a central role in assisting the Warren Commission, a complete accounting of his files is essential. While the Secret Service has provided certain correspondence and memoranda generated by Mr. Rowley, it's probable that there are more documents that have not yet been located.

Whether Chief Rowley maintained an organized filing system is unclear. Further, it is unclear where each of the already-identified records actually came from. We are thus requesting that you continue your search efforts for Chief Rowley's files, and that you provide a more detailed accounting of where you obtained the documents already provided to the Board.

A related issue pertains to information Joan Zimmerman obtained during telephone conversations she had with Chief Rowley's widow, Mabel Rowley, on September 30, 1997 and October 1, 1997. Mrs. Rowley told Joan Zimmerman that Secret Service Agents had visited the Rowley's home in 1992 in order to inventory records in the possession of Chief Rowley. Mrs. Rowley recalled that members of the Secret Service videotaped their visit. We will be sending a formal request asking that you provide any videotapes, written materials, or other information that describes or documents this visit or visits with other Secret Service officials who may have discussed the Kennedy assassination. Further, we will ask that you provide a list of any relevant materials obtained during this visit.

2. SS-2 (Photographs and Tapes)

This request sought "all photographs, audiotapes, films and videotapes" relating to the assassination. The Secret Service has represented that all such materials were included with the Secret Service's main JFK assassination file, with the exception of eight photographs of the Presidential Limousine, which, you report, were given to the HSCA in 1977. At this time, the Secret Service has no further obligations under this request. In the event we require additional information, we will notify you.

3. SS-3 (PPD Shift Reports - Unusual Incidents 1960, 1963-66; Richard Case Nagel File)

At this time, the Secret Service has no further obligations under this request. In the event we require additional information, we will notify you.

4. SS-4 (Protective Survey Reports, USSS Archive Materials, News Clips)

This request sought several sets of information, including Protective Survey Reports, Secret Service archive materials, and news clips. With regard to the Protective Survey Reports, it is our

understanding that John Machado is continuing to search for two folders that were not found with the other survey reports. These folders are captioned "Other Places Folder" # 6 July - November 1963 and the Berlin Protective Survey Report from June 26, 1963. It is our understanding that John Machado is continuing his search and that he will be writing a memo detailing the results.

With regard to the material sought from the Secret Service archives, we understand that the information we requested has been transferred to NARA. One remaining issue, however, is the disposition of the publication *The Record* for the years 1960-1964. It is our understanding that the Secret Services possesses only one copy of these volumes and that it continues to use them for research purposes. We would like to propose that these volumes be transferred formally to NARA, but that the Secret Service retain custody of them while they continue to use them for research purposes. We will discuss this issue further with John Machado.

The final remaining issue is that of the Protective Survey Reports from January 1961 - March 1963. As we said to John Machado during our meeting on December 12, 1997, we are evaluating whether the Board should designate these materials as assassination records. We will be discussing this issue further with John Machado.

5. SS -5 (Files on R. H. Kellerman and E.Z. Tucker)

This request sought employment records of former Secret Service agents Roy Harry Kellerman and Edward Z. Tucker. In your response to this request, you stated that you had reviewed both files and had determined that there were no records pertaining to an internal review, nor was there any information relating to the activities of these agents during the November 1963 - April 1964 time period. In order to assure ourselves and the American people that this is correct, we would like to have access to these files to make our own independent review. We anticipate making a short review of the files and drafting a brief memorandum documenting our findings. We would be pleased to discuss this issue with you further.

6. SS-6 (Cross Referenced Case Files from the Lee Harvey Oswald Case File)

This request sought seven files cross referenced in the Oswald case file. With regard to the first file, you reported that no physical file had ever been created, but that a computer abstract had been created. For the second file, you informed us that there were 24 separate and unrelated subjects in this particular file. You reviewed this file and provided documents pertaining to one of the subjects in this file. Regarding the third file, you reported that the physical file had been destroyed - a

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computer abstract still exists and you provided this. Regarding requests four, six and seven, you stated that in these cases, a physical file was never created. You did provide the computer abstracts for each of these files. Finally, for the fifth request, you reported that there was a physical file, and you referred some of these materials to the FBI.

7. SS-7 (Files on Individuals)

In this request, we asked that the Secret Service make available to us all information in its files including, but not limited to, Secret Service interviews and investigative reports on several individuals whose names have been connected with investigations into the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Although the Secret Service has provided a response for each of the individuals, we are uncertain whether all of the information contained within the original Abraham Bolden file is in fact in the file at NARA. Please confirm that you transferred all of these records to NARA.

8. SS-8 (Personnel and Internal Review Files on T. Kelly, W.R. Greer, J. Fox,
And General Internal Review Documents)

This request sought personnel and security-review files of each of the above-listed Secret Service agents, as well as any records that document the Secret Service's internal review of its agents in 1963 and 1964. Your letter dated November 6, 1996, reported that you had reviewed the personnel security investigative files on each employee. You further stated that you had reviewed each of these files for any material "that would reveal that the employee was the subject of an internal review in 1963 or 1964, or for any material that would relate to the activities of these agents in the 1964/1964 time period." According to your letter, the review yielded no relevant material. In order to assure ourselves and the American people that this is correct, we would like to have access to these files to make our own independent review. We anticipate making a short review of the files and drafting a brief memorandum documenting our findings. We would be pleased to discuss this issue with you further.

With regard to our request for records that document the Secret Service's internal review of its agents in 1963 and 1964, you located and provided an investigative report authored by Inspector Arvid J. Dahlquist that related to the Abraham Bolden case. Please confirm whether you have searched for other records pertaining to internal security reviews of Secret Service agents who were working with the White House Detail, the Protective Research Service, or the Dallas Field Office at the time of the assassination.

9. SS-9 (Letters of Understanding Regarding Presidential Protection,
Protective Research Packet, PRS-WHD Notes, and COS Records)

In this request, we asked for information pertaining to Secret Service written agreements with other government entities regarding presidential protection covering the period 1958 through 1964. It is our understanding, based upon your letters of December 5, 1996, and June 16, 1997, that the Secret Service has been unable to locate any documents that incorporated such agreements. However, while reviewing Stuart Knight's Briefing Book for his HSCA testimony, Kim Herd found a page (copy enclosed) suggesting that at least one copy of a Secret Service-NSA agreement was filed in "the Foreign Intelligence Branch of the Intelligence Division." Please review the files identified in this reference to determine whether the NSA agreement (or any other responsive agreements) can be found.

The second part of this request pertained to PRS and White House Detail records from November, 1963. It is our understanding that the Secret Service has been unable to locate any records responsive to this request. In order to provide further leads to you, our follow-up letter of January 10, 1997, enclosed a copy of a memo by Robert Bouck (dated December 3, 1963), which described some activities of the PRS in November 1963. Our January 10, 1997 letter also suggested additional files where you might focus your search. **Because we see the activities of the PRS and the White House Detail during the month of November 1963 to be of particular importance, we now request that**

The third part of this request dealt with the issue of "COS" records. It is our understanding that you have been unable to find any references to such "COS" files. At this point, we are not asking that the Secret Service conduct any further research on this issue, although we do request that you be alert to the issue and notify us promptly if you locate any reference to such records.

10. SS-10 (Files on Individuals requested by the HSCA via March 1, 1978 Letter
from R. Blakey to R. Goff)

In this request, we asked that you search your records for any files maintained on the 109 individuals named in the above-referenced Blakey/Goff correspondence. On January 3, 1997, you responded explaining the history of the HSCA request and the fact that in 1978 the Secret Service could locate no identifiable records relating to Blakey's list of 109 individuals other than three individuals who were referenced in the JFK Assassination file. At this time, we perceive that the Secret Service has

no further obligations under this request. Should we seek additional information, we will notify you.

11. SS-11 (R. Bouck Files, R. Bouck List, R. Bouck Custody of Autopsy Materials)

We requested that all of Robert Bouck's files be made available for our inspection. On May 19, 1997, John Machado delivered the Service's first response to this request. In addition, on September 23, 1997, we received additional documents relating to Mr. Bouck. The Review Board is now evaluating these materials. Please let us know as soon as you believe that you have taken all reasonable steps to locate any remaining records.

12. SS-12 (Filing Systems and Descriptions of Secret Service Records in 1963)

In this request, we asked that you make available records that fully describe the Secret Service filing system in effect during the 1963 - 1965 period, as well as records management and disposal procedures from that same period. At the July 31, 1997 meeting among yourself, Donald Personette, John Machado, Joan Zimmerman, and Ron Heron, you provided a significant number of records that delineate filing systems and records management. We are still reviewing these materials and considering possible future requests. In addition, your September 12, 1997 letter reports that you will make certain other records available for our review. We will contact you within the next couple of weeks to arrange for inspection of these records.

13. SS-13 (HSCA Records and Files on Individuals)

This request sought additional files on four individuals and eight groups that were the subject of a letter from Robert Blakey to Robert Goff (dated March 28, 1978), which we enclosed in our earlier correspondence. On December 5, 1997, the Secret Service sent us several files in response to this request. In addition, the Secret Service provided explanations as to which names it was unable to locate within its filing system. We are still in the process of reviewing these materials, and will let you know if we have additional requests as a result of our review of these records.

14. SS-14 (Secret Service Correspondence with Congressional and Presidential Committees)

This request sought records regarding correspondence between the Secret Service and the Presidential and Congressional committees investigating the assassination. On July 28, 1997, we received a

letter from you reporting that: (a) some responsive materials had been forwarded to us on April 4, 1996,¹ (b) some additional responsive materials had been forward to our office on March 7, 1997, by John Machado,² (c) some additional materials were included with the July 28 letter,³ (d) the Treasury Department would be forwarding two letters that it had located, and (e) records regarding a "Project STAR" had been located and would be forwarded to the Review Board. We have received no further correspondence or information regarding (d) and (e). Also, please verify whether you have checked files from each of the attorneys who were involved in representing the Secret Service during any of the Congressional hearings referenced in this request.

15. SS-15 (Request for information on Welding, Fonden, Diaz-Matos, Acosta
Negron, Medina, and Bolden's Monthly Activity Reports)

This request sought information on names that appeared in: (a) the October and November 1963 daily reports of Abraham Bolden, (b) "the names of [Cuban] subjects of Bolden's check-ups" of November 25, 1963, and (c) any notes or reports of a Chicago field office meeting Bolden attended on November 1, 1963, regarding a Presidential visit scheduled for the following day. In your response letter of July 18, 1997, you responded that files for Frances Welsing and Jena McFarlen were no longer available since they were destroyed. You stated that the Welsing file was destroyed on February 8, 1975, and that there was no record of when the McFarlen file was destroyed. We anticipate that no further work need be done on this portion of the request.

In your response of July 18, 1997, you also delivered the Brady Hugh Fonden file and records relating to Armando Diaz-Matos. You also stated that you had referred some material to the FBI for its review. With regard to Julio Cesar Acosta Negron and Julio Flores Medina, you stated that these individuals were not of record in the Intelligence Division of the Secret Service. The Board designated these as assassination records and they are now undergoing review.

With regard to the PRS check-up activities of Abraham Bolden, your search yielded nothing more

¹These documents subsequently were designated "assassination records" by the Review Board. It is our understanding that these records are now open-in-full at NARA.

²These documents subsequently were designated "assassination records" by the Review Board.

³[These materials are awaiting ARRB review.]

than the monthly activity report that we attached to our original request letter. Further, you reported that you were unable to identify any notes or reports that related to a meeting thought to have occurred on November 1, 1963. We will pursue this issue further through request SS-9.

16. SS-16 (Classified Log Books)

In this request, we sought a full explanation of the "classified log book" from which the attached photocopies (included in your letter of January 31, 1997) were made. We also sought access to the records described in the log book.

You have made available to us copied excerpts of a log book recording classified material received by the Secret Service in the early 1960's, as well as some background information regarding this book. We appreciate your efforts in this regard. We now request that you make the log books covering the Kennedy and Johnson administrations available for our review. We will discuss this issue further with John Machado.

17. SS-17 (Records on Cuban Activities)

In this request, we sought all documents contained in file number CO-2-33,115. This file was referenced in a letter from Robert Goff to G. Robert Blakey, on September 5, 1978. In this letter, Goff described this file as "a numerical prefix for approximately 157 separate files maintained on individuals involved in Cuban/anti-Cuban activities. Mr. Goff also referenced a "file log book" in his letter. In your July 9, 1997 letter, you provided the Review Board with abstracts on each of the 157 individuals, as well as what you refer to as "the log book entry cited in Robert Goff's letter of September 5, 1978." We would like to inspect the actual files for the following individuals:

[to be supplied in final]

We also request access to the actual logbook from which you obtained the "entry" excerpt you forwarded with your July 9, 1997 letter.

18. SS-18 (Records on Organized Crime)

We made this request on September 4, 1997. We have not yet received a response to this request.

19. SS-19 (Anti-Castro Activities, Protection Matters, and the Communist Party)

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We made this request on September 19, 1997. We have not yet received a response to this request.

20. SS-20 (NPIC Analysis of Zapruder Film for the Secret Service)

We made this request on September 22, 1997. We have not yet received a response to this request.

Please let us know if any of the statements above are incorrect or should be updated. We appreciate your assistance in these matters.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

cc: John Machado

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Compliance issue:

We remain concerned that there are certain major categories of records that have not been adequately accounted for. Included among these categories are records and files of Chief Rowley, Chief Knight, Inspector Kelly, Robert Bouck and records maintained by some of the field offices. Given the absence of these major categories of records, we are not certain that the Secret Service's search of its archive records has identified all potentially relevant assassination records. To assist us in our assessment of the completeness of the Secret Service's search, we are requesting that you confirm that we have been provided with all inventories, indices, and finding aids that exist with respect to records in storage at the Secret Service's Center Point facility in Landover, MD, at the Federal Records Center in Suitland, MD and at any other repository for Secret Service records.