

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : *Don*
GS

DATE: 15 June 1978

FROM : LAO

SUBJECT: HCSA Request for NSA Material on Kennedy Assassination

1. Based on our discussion with Judy Miller, my understanding was that Mr. Blakey's most recent request for data from NSA involved a review of post-assassination EXEMPT product on a world-wide basis to determine if reports relevant to the assassination exist. Though Ms. Miller did not specify a time period, a three month period subsequent to the event would involve - as an example - six to nine thousand reports and would require 120 to 150 hours of analyst time just to conduct a manual search of the microfilm files where these records reside.

2. I subsequently spoke with Mr. Roger Denk, DIA, who had actually participated in the briefing of Mr. Blakey, using our SECRET-level statement as a basis. Mr. Denk advises that DIA has destroyed all its files which might relate to the assassination and that, therefore, he had had nothing to offer Blakey except the NSA-prepared sanitized statement. Mr. Denk also provided a different, much more ambitious new requirement from Blakey than that reported by Judy Miller.

3. According to Denk, what Blakey really wants from NSA is for us to conduct a thorough review of all Cuban communications during the six year period from January 1959 to December 1964, in order to see "what the Cubans were talking about/thinking about" of possible relevance to the assassination - a real fishing expedition in my view. Blakey is also reported to desire a "characterization of the traffic" - and not the traffic itself.

4. This latest version of Blakey's interests, which has probably been stated to us fairly accurately by Denk, represents a very significant work load indeed. Based on some very educated estimates made by the people in T12 who maintain the historical microfilm files, there were approximately 200,000 Cuban reports or translations issued during the six year period of interest, and roughly 2,000 man-hours of effort would be required to search these records for items of interest.

5. As we have discussed previously, I believe that NSA - in a number of separate, thorough analytic efforts - has performed reasonable and detailed reviews of all available signals intelligence. None of these reviews has resulted in the derivation of any data of direct significance to the assassination. A summary of these separate NSA efforts is attached.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~
~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



~~TOP SECRET~~

It seems to me that this summary should now be used as the basis for advising Mr. Blakey that we have reviewed all our holdings and have found nothing directly (or even indirectly) relevant to his investigation.

Gene

EUGENE F. YEATES

Incl:
a/s

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

15 June 1978

SUBJECT:—Actions Taken by NSA to Locate Information Related to the Assassination of President Kennedy

A. Over the past fourteen and one-half years, NSA has performed a number of separate in-depth reviews of materials in its files in an attempt to isolate data that might be relevant to the assassination of President Kennedy. Nothing of significance has been determined as a result of those reviews.

1. November-December 1963 - Immediately after the assassination, NSA initiated a large-scale manual and machine review of available SIGINT, including all U.S./Cuba traffic (NSA intercepted messages at an average of 1,000 per day at that time). A computer search was initiated using Oswald's name as the minimum for research criteria. Additionally, all traffic between Cuba/New Orleans and Cuba/Dallas was manually reviewed (an analyst involved recalled that 25 to 50 analysts reviewed the traffic manually, along with traffic from Cuba and some Soviet traffic). Sometime during the search, items from the Oswald address book provided by the FBI were added to the search criteria.

2. 1964 - Warren Commission - The Commission, in the person of Allan Dulles, asked NSA to review the exhibits for any secret writings or codes which might have been contained in the documents. It also appears that NSA searched records for information on the basis of other Warren Commission requests made informally by Allen Dulles.

3. November 1975 - Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (SSC)

In response to an SSC request on the Assassination, NSA reviewed its Soviet and Cuban files, including Cuban military. The search was also for material involving Marina Oswald, Jack Ruby or Earl Ruby (a Harvest run was made). EXEMPT traffic was also reviewed, looking for information concerning Oswald's visit to Mexico.

4. June 1976 - Pursuant to FOIA requests asking for material relating to Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

of President John F. Kennedy, NSA again searched the files. Strongbox searches were made on the following:

Lee Harvey Oswald	1966 - 1976
Assassination of	
President Kennedy	1966 - 1976
Earl Ruby	1966 - 1977
Cobo Cleaners	1966 - 1977

5. December 1976 - Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) - Requested all the material we had available on the Cuban [EXEMPT] It consisted of 485 reports for the period 1961 - 1965. All of these reports were received by Committee Staff Members.

6. March 1978 - House Select Committee on Assassinations - Requested all data on Cuban intelligence network and other materials relating to the Assassination. All Cuban [EXEMPT] material (1961 - 1964) was reviewed, as was material that had been previously compiled to respond to the SSCI and SSC requests.

B. As a result of the reviews described above, the following materials which may have some relevance to the assassination were located (referenced material inclosed at numbered tabs):

1. Four Cuban [EXEMPT] messages which contained [EXEMPT] Cuban comments regarding press items that discussed Oswald's activity in late September 1963 to obtain a visa to travel to Moscow. There were also comments on the assassination itself. The messages are dated in the last week of November 1963.

2. Three Cuban military reports which show that Cuban military forces did go on alert immediately after the assassination.

3. One 1962 Cuban [EXEMPT] message concerning the assassination of Antonio Veciana. This message was to [EXEMPT] [EXEMPT]

4. One 1966 Cuban [EXEMPT] message concerning a Spanish [EXEMPT] in Cuba. It referenced a 1960 plan in Cuba to assassinate an USSR dignitary in Cuba and against Raul Castro Ruz, possibly linking it to the CIA.

5. Information in an FBI document relating to a [EXEMPT] [EXEMPT] was supplied by NSA. Because this document was to be turned over to the HASC, there may be some relation to the assassination.

6. One 1967 message showing Cuban interest in Jim Garrison's investigation of both the Kennedy Assassination and David W. Ferrie.

~~TOP SECRET~~

C. Based on these extensive reviews and the paucity of material derived, it is possible to state that: "A thorough review has revealed no intelligence material revealing or suggesting Cuban involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy."

EUGENE F. YEATES
Chief D1

Incl:
a/s

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~