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10 November 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 8 November Meeting with Mr. Blakey

1. On 8 November, EXEMPT visited Mr. Robert G. Blakey, Chief Counsel and Staff Director for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, to receive questions concerning a former Air Force enlisted man's allegation that he had intercepted information linking an assassination plot against President Kennedy with a figure in organized crime. Mr. Blakey had been referred to NSA (GC, Dan Silver) by Ms. Judy Miller, Special Assistant to John Kester, OSD.

2. Mr. Blakey indicated that David F. Christensen had communicated with a friend of his named Sgt Michael B. Stevensen at "Corry" Field, Florida. Mr. Christensen has been committed to a mental institution due, he asserts, to pressures arising from an incident occurring in 1963.

3. At that time, Christensen was in the Air Force assigned to Kirknewton, Scotland. Sometime before November, 1963, in his work as an interceptor of EXEMPT communications, he intercepted the communications referred in paragraph 1. Mr. Blakey stated that he did not know who the crime figure is. Christensen's supervisor, Sgt Praeter (actually "Prater") refused to send this traffic to NSA and this, he alleges, eventually caused him to have a mental breakdown.

4. Mr. Blakey stated that NSA had already acknowledged the existence of such a facility during this period, but he didn't indicate to whom such a statement had been made.

5. Mr. Blakey posed the following questions for NSA:

(a) What is NSA's capability for retrieving communications from this time and place?

(b) How quickly can we make this retrieval?
(His Committee completes its work in December. If NSA can easily provide the answers to a number of questions, he will do some preliminary investigation before formally requesting the information, but if we indicate that much time will be required, he will task us now.)

(c) What additional information does NSA need from Mr. Blakey to speed the retrieval process?

(d) Is the data still available for retrieval?

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(e) Was Christensen really employed by the Air Force, working for Praeter (Prater), and actually doing this kind of work at that location during that period?

6. He asked for the responses, or at least, a status of what can be provided and how soon, by Monday, 13 November.

7. On 7 September, the General Counsel sent a copy of David Christensen's letter to the FBI (GC/335/78), along with a letter from AF Security Service (to which Sgt Stevensen had sent the letter). In the General Counsel's letter he noted that Security Service was intercepting [EXEMPT] communications at Kirknewton in 1963 and that links between [EXEMPT] were monitored.

8. On 9 November, [EXEMPT] and I met with Dan Silver and decided Dan should respond initially to Mr. Blakey's questions by phone. After coordinating with EXEC/DDO, [EXEMPT] asked G9 to provide input for a response.

9. [EXEMPT] (5649) of G809 conducted an initial review of the availability of data from USA-SS covering the first eleven months of 1963. From a computer file listing maintained by N3, 20 boxes of data were identified. Cross-checking assures that this is all and the contents column helped eliminate 17 of the boxes. The remaining three will be manually reviewed on 13 November. If they, in fact, do contain traffic there will be some 2000 sheets per box.

10. I notified ~~Dan Silver who called~~ Mr. Blakey with the news, and he requested that I put our reply in writing. I agreed to do so upon receipt of a written request from him.

E. F. Yeates
EUGENE F. YEATES
Chief
Legislative Affairs

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HSCA Inquiry
into the Christensen
allegation

10179

INTERNAL ROUTING

SUSPENSE

CLASSIFICATION

A - ACTION	D - SIGNATURE	G - RETAIN
B - COMMENT	E - INITIAL & RET	H - FORWARD
C - CONCURRENCE	F - FILE	I - INFO

ROUTE SYN ORG	TO	DATE	INIT	ROUTE SYN ORG	TO	DATE	INIT
	ADMIN				STAFF		
	EXEMPT		EXEMPT		Gene		<i>WJ</i>
					John		<i>[Signature]</i>
	EXEMPT				Julie		<i>[Signature]</i>
				EXEMPT			
	EXEMPT				Ron		<i>[Signature]</i>
					Sam		<i>[Signature]</i>

REMARKS

Per [EXEMPT] Act been picked up today.
P/S return - this in file.

FILE:

Demands
Assign. sub
[Signature]

DATE RCVD:

8
8-8

CLASSIFICATION

10179

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
JOHN G. KESTER,
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
AND
G. ROBERT BLAKEY,
CHIEF COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR TO
THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall govern the protection of classified information of the Department of Defense relating to the investigation of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (Committee) into the allegations ^{of David F. Christian} of involvement by the Government of Cuba in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. For such purpose, the Department of Defense will make _____ available for an interview by a designated member of the Committee Staff at a time of mutual convenience but not later than 22 November 1978.

2. The interview will be conducted in secure spaces which are authorized for the discussion of classified signals intelligence information.

3. The interview will be limited in scope to the substantive content of the allegations of _____. Information which deals with intelligence sources and methods will not be used in responding to questions.

4. The Committee agrees, for itself and on behalf of the person designated by the Committee to conduct the interview, not to disclose any classified information which is revealed in the

course of the interview without the prior written concurrence of the Department of Defense. A representative of the Department will attend the briefing and advise the Committee representative as to information that is classified.

5. The Committee's designee who conducts the interview may make a recording or transcript of the interview and written notes of the responses of _____ to the Committee's questions. The Committee agrees that any such notes may be inspected by the Department's representative prior to removal from the interview room, and any classified information which is contained in the notes shall be deleted prior to their removal. If any classified information is contained in the notes, the original version shall be maintained in the Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, and the Committee may have access to those notes as needed. Any recording or transcript of the interview will be left in the possession of the Department of Defense for a review to determine its classification. If the transcript or recording contains classified information, it will remain in the Department's possession, and the Committee may have access to it as needed.

6. Nothing in the Committee's undertaking affects the Committee's right to invoke in the future any subpoena power available to it to secure and disclose the information related to _____'s allegations provided, however, that the Committee will not disclose the information until any related litigation has been concluded by judicial action that permits disclosure.