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September 19, 1978

HAND DELIVERED

The Honorable William H. Webster,  
Director  
c/o Inspector John Hotis, Special  
Assistant to the Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
10th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Judge Webster:

In my telephone conversation today with Mr. Hotis, I offered to forward a letter to you describing the position of my client, Special Agent James P. Hosty, Jr., with respect to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's forthcoming appearance before the House of Representatives' Select Committee on Assassinations. The purpose of this letter is merely to advise the Bureau that, prior to the assassination, certain information was not known to Special Agent Hosty. In particular, he had not been advised of the visit of Lee Harvey Oswald to Mexico City and was not aware of the people to whom Oswald spoke while in Mexico City. Nor did he know the real identity of those people.

Whether such information was available to other persons in the Bureau is not personally known to Special Agent Hosty although he expects that it was. However, it was not through the fault of any individual in the employ of the Bureau that this information was not made available to Special Agent Hosty. Regulations concerning the handling of classified information in effect on November 22, 1963, and still in effect, left to the discretion of the person receiving such information whether to transmit this information to Special Agent Hosty.

The Hon. William H. Webster  
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Moreover, under the Bureau's criteria for conducting an interview of a person in Oswald's status in October-November, 1963, it is doubtful whether Bureau regulations would have allowed Mr. Hosty to interview Oswald even had additional information concerning Oswald's visit to Mexico City been made available to him.

We hope this helps to clarify this matter and we appreciate your attention.

Very truly yours,



Francis X. Lilly

cc: Mr. James P. Hosty, Jr.  
✓ Mr. Drew Clark,  
Congressional Liaison Unit,  
Records Management Division