



United States Department of Justice

OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Mr. Roger Feinman
142-10 Hoover Avenue
Apartment 404
Jamaica, New York 11435

AUG 2 1976

Dear Mr. Feinman:

This responds to your letter of July 22, 1979.

As Ms. Robinson of my staff explained during her recent telephone conversation with you, your request of May 25, 1976, for access to records pertaining to a CBS television broadcast concerning the assassination of President Kennedy was interpreted as seeking only records of the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Office of the Associate Attorney General, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. To avoid any possible, further misunderstandings in this case, let me briefly set forth the customary procedures followed by this Office in handling requests such as yours.

When a request is received by my Office, a preliminary determination is made whether requested records are likely to be located in the files of one or more of the three offices for which we have the responsibility for processing initial requests -- specifically, the Offices of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, and the Associate Attorney General. At the initial request stage, we have no responsibility whatsoever for records maintained by other components of the Department of Justice. Our preliminary determination is, in most cases, made on the basis of the description by the requester of the nature of the records to which access is sought. In some cases the requester includes, as you did in your letter of May 25, a reference to communications with or involving one of the above Offices. If a component for which this Office has no initial request responsibility is also mentioned by the requester (such as the F.B.I.), or if the nature of the requested records indicates that they may pertain to the activities of another component (e.g., records involving criminal investigations, which could very well exist in one or more of at least three other components), the request is also referred to the appropriate component(s) for consideration, and the requester is so advised. On the basis of your

description of the records you seek, my staff concluded that if they exist at this time in Department files at all, they would probably be located in one of the Offices within our area of initial request responsibility, or in the files of the F.B.I. I should also point out, as I believe Ms. Robinson also advised you, that while records pertaining to matters involving the F.B.I. very often exist in the files of other components, it would be most unusual for those records not to be duplicated in F.B.I. files, making a referral to that component the most logical step.

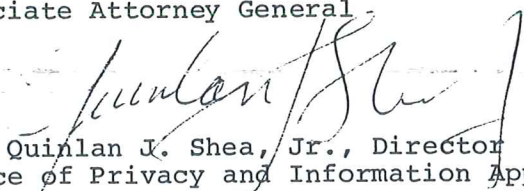
Your letter of July 18 provides much specific information which was not previously available to us. Since you have mentioned the Office of Legal Counsel, the Civil Rights Division, the Civil Division, the Criminal Division and the Office of Public Information (which handles relations with the news media), I am now referring all correspondence relating to your request of May 25, 1976, to those components for consideration and direct response to you. I am asking each of them to process the request as if the referral had been made at the time of its receipt by the Department.

I hope the information I have provided will eliminate any misunderstandings with regard to our interpretation and handling of your request. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact this Office.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Egan
Associate Attorney General

By:


Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals

cc: Criminal Division
Civil Rights Division
Civil Division
Office of Public Information
Office of Legal Counsel