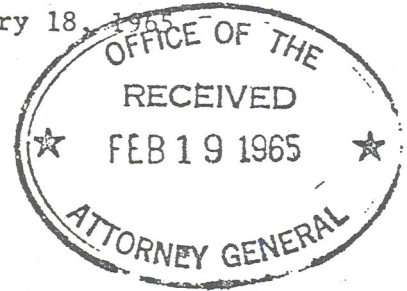


POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF POSTAL INSPECTOR
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20260

February 18, 1965

Mr. Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530



Dear Mr. Katzenbach:

You wrote me on February 8, 1965, regarding the President's request upon your Department to coordinate a study among Government agencies as to the availability to members of the public of material delivered to the National Archives by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

Immediate cooperation by the Postal Inspection Service was furnished the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Secret Service, and other investigative agencies in the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. All of the information gathered by Postal Inspectors was turned over to those other agencies. Accordingly, we consider the agency receiving the documents or information as having control over any disclosure of the contents.

We did submit a summary of our activities to the President's Commission at the request of Honorable Earl Warren. This summary, in itself, was not a classified document and we have no objection to disclosure of its contents. We feel, however, that disclosure should be governed by the position taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service. In addition, in transmitting our summary to Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel, President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, on January 17, 1964, we included for the confidential information of the Commission two copies of the front and back of POD Form 2153-X, dated September 18, 1963, covering a publication "OGONEK" addressed to Mr. Lee H. Oswald, Box 2915, Dallas, Texas. We do feel that the copies of that form should not be made available at this time.

In our immediate office, we have a file which contains reports of Postal Inspectors summarizing their activities. Also included are copies of documents, letters, etc., relating predominantly to information furnished agents having prime jurisdiction. This file is restricted to the Post Office Department.

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As indicated in your letter by the quotations from the President's office and your statements, the very nature of the papers involving the assassination of a President make an exception to the 75 year rule a necessity.

You asked for my comments and recommendations as to the possibility of establishing uniform criteria for the disclosure of investigative reports prepared for the President's Commission and/or of establishing a unified procedure for reviewing requests to examine these materials.

The procedure explained in the last paragraph on page 2 of your letter appears a feasible initial approach to the problem. The Inspection Service would be pleased to review any Commission documents as suggested.

As to classified documents, the security regulations would, of course, apply. It would also be assumed the regulations of the National Archives would be sufficiently strong to provide physical protection of the files to avoid such things as copying documents, removals, etc. It is suggested that consideration be given to a regulation that only persons authorized by the Archivist or his designated alternate would have access to the file.

I hope these views will assist your Department in its study and if we can assist further in any way, please be assured of our cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Montague
H. B. Montague
Chief Inspector