

Memorandum

- Asst. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
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- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
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10

TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 5-11-76

FROM : A. E. Schiappa *5/16*

SUBJECT: BOOK REGARDING ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY BEING WRITTEN FOR "READER'S DIGEST" BY EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN

Handwritten initials and notes

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise of a request received from Pam Butler of the "Reader's Digest" (who is assisting Edward Jay Epstein in connection with captioned book) for the identities and whereabouts of the Agents who were assigned as Legats in Mexico City in the Fall of 1963 and early 1964 -- and to recommend that, as a matter of policy, such blanket-type information involving personnel not be furnished to authors or to representatives of news media.

SYNOPSIS:

Early this year, Edward Jay Epstein visited FBIHQ in connection with a book concerning the 11/22/63 Kennedy Assassination he is writing for "Reader's Digest." He was accompanied by Pam Butler of "Reader's Digest." Several requests for assistance in connection with this book have since been received, most of which have involved public source information. Miss Butler now has telephoned to advise that Epstein hopes to interview Clark Anderson (now retired) who was Legat at Mexico City in November, 1963, and that Epstein would like the identities and present whereabouts of other Agents who were assigned in Mexico City at the time of the Assassination and/or the investigation that immediately followed. There were 11 Agents in Mexico City in November, 1963, and three additional Agents were sent there early in 1964 on temporary assignment.

...RECORDED/COPY FILED IN

- Enclosure - *Sent 5-12-76*
- 1 - Mr. Moore - Enclosure
 - 1 - Mr. Gallagher - Enclosure
 - 1 - Mr. Leavitt - Enclosure
 - 1 - Mr. Walsh - Enclosure
 - 1 - Mr. Kolombatovic - Enclosure
- GWG:sik (8)

SL 104

MAY 17 1976

CONTINUED - OVER

MAY 21 1976

FBI REC. UNIT

SEP 8 1976

Handwritten notes and signatures

Schiappa to Moore memo
RE: BOOK REGARDING ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

POLICY:

Sanford Ungar visited and interviewed Legats during the research for his 1975 book entitled "FBI." However, his interest was not directed at a specific investigation, as is Epstein's; nor did it involve so sweeping an access to present and former Agents of a Legat post as does Epstein's.

In the interest of privacy of the personnel involved, it is felt that requests such as Epstein's for names and present whereabouts of personnel assigned to specific Legat posts should be declined. Where feasible, such as in this instance, it is felt, however, that as a courtesy an effort should be made to advise the present and former employees involved of the request received for their own information and independent decision as to action.

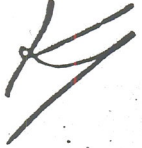
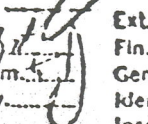
RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That Pam Butler of "Reader's Digest" be informed that privacy considerations make it impossible for us to furnish Epstein the names of the Agents assigned to Mexico City in the pertinent period of 1963-64 but that those Agents who are still alive and whose whereabouts are known will be advised of Epstein's interest in contacting them.

↑
Done. Miss Butler telephonically
advised 5/13/76. GNS

(2) That the attached letter be sent the San Antonio Office, with copies to other offices covering the last-known whereabouts of the pertinent Agents, asking that those Agents be told of Epstein's interest in contacting them in connection with the book he is writing about the Kennedy Assassination.

DETAILS:

APPROVED:  
Assoc. Dir. _____ Ext. Affairs _____ Laboratory _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____ Fin. & Pers. _____ Legal Coun. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____ Gen. Inv. _____ Plan. & Eval. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____ Ident. _____ Rec. Mgnt. _____
Adm. Serv. _____ Inspection _____ Spec. Inv. _____
Intell. _____ Training _____

Edward Jay Epstein visited FBIHQ last January in connection with a book he is writing for "Reader's Digest"

Schiappa to Moore memo
RE: BOOK REGARDING ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

concerning the 11/22/63 Kennedy Assassination. The book will be devoted primarily to Lee Harvey Oswald and will take issue with many of the rumors and the conjecture that continue to surround the Assassination.

During his January visit, Epstein was accompanied by Pam Butler, who has been assigned by "Reader's Digest" to assist him. Through Miss Butler, Epstein has made several requests for assistance. Most of these have involved public source-type information.

Now, however, Epstein has requested -- through Miss Butler -- to be furnished the names of the FBI Agents who were assigned in Mexico City at the time of the 1963 Assassination and during the period immediately thereafter when the investigation of the Assassination was being pressed. Epstein is aware that [redacted] was Legat at Mexico City during the pertinent period and that he retired last year while SAC of the San Antonio Office. [redacted] was interviewed by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities in February, 1976, regarding the investigation of Oswald's activities in Mexico in 1963.)

In addition to [redacted] (whom Epstein hopes to interview), the other Agents assigned in Mexico City (not elsewhere in Mexico) during the pertinent period included one [redacted] who is still assigned in Mexico City, two [redacted] who are deceased, and the following 10 who are no longer in service -- nine having retired and one [redacted] having resigned:

[redacted] last known to be living
in [redacted]

[redacted] last known to be living
in [redacted]

[redacted] last known to be living
in [redacted]

Schiappa to Moore memo
RE: BOOK REGARDING ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

[REDACTED] last known to be living
in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] last known to be living
in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] last known to be living in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] last known to be living in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] last known to be living
in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] last known to be living in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] last known to be living in [REDACTED]

(Former Agents [REDACTED] were sent to Mexico City early in 1964 on temporary assignment occasioned by Mexican aspects of the Assassination investigation.)

The above-mentioned former employees are still bound by their pledge of confidentiality not to disclose data which came to their attention as a result of their official duties. Furthermore, the FBI has a continuing responsibility not to breach the privacy of employees, past or present.

To flatly turn down Epstein's request for the names and whereabouts of the Agents assigned in Mexico City late in 1963 and early in 1964 could raise questions in his mind. Accordingly, it is felt Epstein should be told that privacy considerations prevent our giving him the names and last-known locations of these Agents, but that the Agents involved will be advised of his interest in talking with them and will be provided the New York address where he can be reached.