JFK-MISC

Mr. Quin Shea, Director
FOIPA Appeals
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

1/29/81

Dear Mr. Shea,

Although your letter to me of 1/26 has not yet reached me, Mr. Lesar gave me a copy yesterday. I thank you for including the attachments because that saves me searching that now is difficult for me.

Subsequent to your receipt of my appeal of 10/29/80 we discussed this matter. I then emphasized the importance of the records of the task force and/or the components represented in it. You make no reference to such records of to any search for them and neither does Mr. Lindenbaum.

Your letter, citing Mr. Lindenbaum's, is in factual error in stating that "the report of the group . .. was made public." What was "made public" is an entirely different report and in the record which I provided to you there is a careful distinction made.

Actually, it wasn't made public in the sense suggested. Rather was it part of a legal proceeding, as the New York Times Index makes clear. I have a sharp recollection of that matter because I was involved in it. I wound up stating to the Court that neither side knew what it was talking about.

Lindenbaum's recollection also is in error in claiming that the task force constituted the panel of medical experts. They were recommended by others, outside the Department.

While faultiness of memory is not unexpectable after so much time has passed, the fact is that my appeal has not been acted upon and no search has been made.

As the Times Index states, the medical panel report was used in an (unsuccessful) effort to persuade that court to deny access to Jim Garrison. But the Robisnon (Criminal) 4/30/75 record distinguishes between the task force and the panel reports. It states that the task force "reviewed all of the evidence" in the light of "critical comments of Mark Lane and others," and in the same sentence adds that this "panel of distinguished forensic scientists reviewed the physical evidence." This distinction is also made in the next paragraph, which states that what was used in defending the suit brought by Garrison

"related to the question of access rather than the merits of the Commission Report."

Whatever the task force reported, that has not been made public. Nor have any of its records or the appropriate records of the several Divisions. (Have you checked to see if there is a separate file on this task force?)

The Robison letter refers separately to comments by the critics. The medical panel really addressed two questions only, the two shots alleged to have struck the President. As my appeal also states, I am among those critics and I also filed a PA request, so in compliance with my long-overdue PA request there should be this search to determine whether those records hold what is responsive to my PA request. This is the "merits" part, which required the task force to review "all of the evidence," as distinguished from what the panel examined.

I would appreciate it if an appropriate search were made. You do not report any search.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg