

JFK assassination records appeals - Mafia Plots, etc. Harold Weisberg 8/13/79 - 8/26/79
The "Castro Kiakback" Theory Referrals *Previously Processed - Dallas
The Hoffa theory
The Marcello theory
Plus the House assassins committee(s) theoretical improvements on theories
And the CIA theory planted by the FBI

Appropriately enough for the detail-conscious FBI the first of the attached records is undated, save that the attachment to it is dated 3/13/67.

I do not represent the attached records as all there are. I have rearranged them in chronological order. (I am also certain that other relevant records are filed elsewhere and because of their clear relevance intend this appeal to include all of them.)

It is also appropriate that the detail-conscious FBI pretends to withhold its source in this first record, 62-109060-4833 but is also careful not to omit his last name/in the attachment, leaving it inevitable that the House assassins as well as others would know that the only possible Davidson would be I. Irving, who is well-known, as was his Hoffa aconnection.

The coincidence in time with the Garrison matter ought also be obvious.

However, according to an article in the current Atlantic, which clearly has official sources, the FBI was aware of the CIA/Maheu/ Mafia plots against Castro much earlier. It appears not to have informed the Warren Commission.

The deceased Sam Giancana and his equally deceased friend Rosselli were working for the CIA through Maheu. As a favor to Giancana Maheu had one of Giancana's well-known girl friend's phone tapped. That it established mutual infidelity is not as serious as that "The tap was discovered by a maid, the detective was arrested by local police and Maheu was told to square it or else. Later, in April, 1961, with the permission of Colonel Edwards (CIA), Maheu told the FBI... (This) enabled the FBI to learn the rough outlines of the plot to kill Castro."

Here I remind you that I have already provided you with a copy of the 4/4/67 DeLoach to Talsen memo which quotes Marvin Watson as having told DeLoach that President Johnson "was now convinced that there was a plot in connection with the assassination ... that the CIA had something to do with this plot." When Watson asked for more

information DeLoach "reminded Watson that the Director had sent over to the White House some weeks back all the information in our possession..." (62-109060-5075 and 44-24016 (Ruby) Not Recorded.)

Despite this the Atlantic author, whose source seems to have been primary CIA, wrote "Clearly, Johnson had not known about the earlier Mafia plots..." relating to the foregoing.

The LHM attached to 4833, intended for distribution and not holding all the information the FBI had obtained, includes the allegation that its star witness against Hoffa, Edward Grady (Whitey) Partin, had had a Castro connection and the as Attorney General Robert Kennedy had quite Senate interest in this business.

The Rosen to DeLoach 2/15/67 ^{memo} 62,109060-4500, begins with reference to a 2/13/67 letter from the Director of the Secret Service dated 2/13/67. If this has been provided I have missed it. Having gone over several volumes of files for this time period I believe it is withheld and appeal this withholding, too. **See 2A**

Rosen states that "during the week of 1-23-67 Drew Pearson was in to see the Chief Justice," after which Rowley had a discussion with Warren of what Pearson told him, that Bobby Kennedy was behind a number of plots against Castro and "that subsequently Castro decided to utilize the same procedure to kill President Kennedy and that he hired Oswald to do the job." **See 2A**

Pearson source was the former FBI Inspector Edward Pierpont Morgan, who had two clients involved in CIA anti-Castro plots.

When Warren decided against seeing Morgan and spoke to Rowley, Rowley informed the FBI. Morgan is on the FBI's "not to contact" list.)

The obliteration on page 2, with no claim to exemption indicated there, is appealed. *(on worksheet, b1)*

The FBI decided to make no investigation. Letters were drafted to the Acting AG and Rowley. ~~_____~~

~~_____~~ **See 2A**

The FBI also decided not to provide this information to the White House, it says here, "since this matter does not concern, nor is it pertinent to the present Administration." Director Hoover added his "OK."

¹Further searching discloses the 1977 referral to the Treasury of a 2/13/67 record described as from Rowley to FBI on the worksheets. It is 62-109090-NR. This referral slip is attached.

²The Pearson-Anderson dislike of Robert Kennedy is well known and is recorded in FBI files. Pearson wrote a column to launch the Castro-kickback theory of the JFK assassination. It is reported that the Washington Post did not carry this particular column because when Ben Bradlee demanded backup on the allegations Pearson did not satisfy him. The column also coincides with disinformational efforts against Garrison, whose own supply eliminated the need for outside assistance. I refer to and attach an copy of this FBI/column from the New Orleans States-Item of 3/3/67 at this point to help understanding. (To accused the Attorney General of being responsible for the assassination of his brother, the President, is pretty rough.)

³both are attached. The letter to Rowley disowns the theory, as the record of what the FBI told the White House does not do. The AG was told no more than Rowley was. At this point there also is a referral to the CIA, also attached. After two years I have not received it.

There are several copies of the ^{2/15/67} letter to Rowley, in several different files. Not Recorded in the Oswald file it is ~~located~~ ^{two} near ~~the~~ referrals of the approximate date. One to the Treasury is of the date of the Rowley letter, The other, to CIA, ~~of~~ of two days later or 2/15.

Is it being impatient to wonder when there will be action after two years?

What appears to be an identical copy is Not Recorded in 62-109090, the Commission file. In the assassination file, 62-109060, it is Serial 4538. Near the former in the same Section is a referral to the Secret Service of the 2/13/date.

In this letter the FBI prepared for the Director's signature the Secret Service was informed that the FBI was conducting no investigation but that it would accept any information from Pearson, Morgan of Morgan's source, given in the singular.

Neither as an addendum to any of these records nor in or added to any other records I have located is there any reference to any prior FBI knowledge of the CIA/Mafia plots to kill Castro.

I believe such records exist, may be filed elsewhere, are relevant, and appeal their denial.

From the records I have located it would appear that with something as sensational as official United States Government conspiring to kill the head of another state the FBI has no other record for more than a month, until 3/21/67. That record, 62-109060-4827, begins with a reference to what should mean other FBIHQ records exist. WFO reports a 3/20 phone call from FBIHQ, which led to an interview with Morgan that evening. The report of the interview is attached. ⁴ See 3A

The covering airtel indicates the existence of another record, one not provided, by the notations added at FBIHQ: "DO NOT USE LHM. REWRITE USED - SEE ROSEN TO DELOACH MEMO 3/22/67 with letters to WH,AG & Rowley USSS."

~~This~~ ^{This} can have several meanings but an obvious one is that the Washington Office provided a LHM that was rewritten ~~for~~ for the indicated distribution. An obvious meaning can be that FBIHQ did not inform the President, the Attorney General and the others of some of the content of the reported results of the Morgan interview. It also is a possible interpretation that WFO was told to provide the attached "blind" memo

4 While subsequent searches disclosed a few other records, the time period of no records remains essentially accurate. The other records located follow below.

memo in substitution for an LHM that then, with an original covering airtel, was withdrawn from the files. (Which need not mean all files, only this 62-109060 file.)

According to this "blind memorandum" Morgan did not identify his clients to the FBI at the outset of the interview and it did not disclose its prior knowledge to him. He expressed concern over possible prosecution of his clients "in a crime not related to the assassination of President Kennedy ^{but} through participation in a crime in which they learned of information pertaining to the President's assassination." His representation of them related to this. He claimed that he sought to protect his clients from both prosecution ^{and} "from the publicity that would surely follow."
(Morgan appears to have said and done nothing until the beginning of the Garrison activity. Whether this was his decision or his clients did not seek him out until then I do not know. The available FBI records neither raise nor answer this and other questions.)

Morgan is quoted as saying that if he finds a way to overcome the legal obstacles he will provide all information promptly.

He ^{described} Giancana and Rosselli, not here named, as "substantial citizens," without any FBI comment.

In saying ^{that} he and they feared a Garrison-type attempt to prosecute "he noted that the charge against them might be conspiracy to kill," a crime on which the statute had not run.

Here he referred to a Castro plot and referred to unidentified newspaper stories *The available FBI record reflect that it avoided noting his responsibility for the publicity, which the as having "considerable merit and were on the right track." FBI did know.*

He left little doubt ^{that he meant} the CIA in saying his clients "were called upon by a government agency" in a "project" whose "purpose" was "the assassination of Fidel Castro" in which "many people" were involved, including "informants in key posts within Cuba."

Castro learned, made arrests and decided that "he too could engage in the same tactics," a direct quote from Morgan.

The FBI appears to have asked no questions when Morgan alleged that Castro had "dispatched (teams) to the United States for the purpose of assassinating President Kennedy." He attributed this supposed information to "' feed back' furnished by sources

in place close to Castro," those involved in the initial project. He claimed his clients could identify "some of the individuals" involved and that two were in New Jersey at that moment.

One of his clients, "a high type individual of the Catholic faith," was bothered by his conscience, but his patriotism had "overrode personal ethical or moral considerations." (This without any qualification was sent to the highest people in the Government - the mafia of ethical and moral scruple.)

Morgan found it inconceivable that this agency would not have informed the Warren Commission. He left not doubt, without naming it, that he meant the CIA. He certainly also knew of the feuding between Hoover and the CIA, which was public knowledge.

Despite Morgan's references to news accounts they are not separately identified by the FBI at this point (if anywhere) and there is no reference to Pearson, whose knowledge had already been communicated to the FBI. Yet it is apparent that directly or indirectly and to the FBI's knowledge Morgan was Pearson's source.

Serial 4832, the 3/22/67 Director to AG memo, refers to this matter only elliptically, not by subject matter but by citations, as of Hoover's 2/15 letter enclosing Rowley's.

The attachment, "information furnished by the Central Intelligence Agency on a strictly confidential 'need-to-know' basis," is withheld. The FBI letter also says of it that it is "the same information...furnished to you in my letter of March 6, 1967," also sent to the White House and Secret Service.

By now, particularly after all the leaking ^{*the murders of Giancana and Russell*} and the Congressional investigations, there appears to be no reason for believing that any of the withheld information is not within the public domain.

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The historical importance of allegations of CIA plots cannot be exaggerated. The historical importance of the CIA plotting with the mafia likewise is of great historical importance. Both areas are of great importance in letting the people know what their executive agencies do. When these are combined with allegations of their involvement in the assassination of a President, there ought to be no question about their significance. When in addition these are part of records determined by the Attorney General to be of exceptional historical importance and the Department represents there is to be full disclosure, at the very least the relevant records ought to be available - particularly when there is every reason to believe that the FBI had a file of them, by subject, without which it would have extraordinary difficulty in any retrieval of its own information.

We have spent several days in an effort to locate the scattered records that have been released. Some, as indicated above, are withheld with no mention made of them. Others are withheld by referral, with two years having passed since referral.

It is not possible to locate all relevant records and there is every reason to believe they exist, whether or not filed in one of the files the FBI elected to release.

If disclosure by subject required that the FBI do research, as I believe it does not, then on as momentous a matter it should make that kind of disclosure in this historical case. The voids and uncertainties we find ought not exist. Nor is there any legitimate reason for them to exist.

The ultimate alternative to full disclosure is endless costs and efforts over the years to obtain full disclosure. Aside from the public interest that exists and should be served now - after all, this relates to the assassination of a President and its official investigation - reducing costs and wastes should lead to full disclosure now.

What follows comes from the days of searching through the records provided.

With regard to Serial 4827, the worksheets state that six pages were disclosed to me. Counting the covering/airtel I received only five, with no claim to exemption.

However, the Dallas records disclose that for the same date there is a WFO [REDACTED]

LHM, not blind memo, of eight pages.

This and other records refer to the 3/22/67 Rosen to DeLoach memo, 62-109060-4984. The worksheet discloses it is of six pages and was referred to the CIA two years ago.

This is to say that it remains withheld.

The enclosure with the letter to the Attorney General of 3/22/67, is not attached. (4832) If the obliterations are of classification indications, the E.O. was not followed in declassification. This appears to be the 3/17/67 DeLoach memo that was referred to DOJ two years ago, 4917, referral slip attached. Does DOJ have a backlog that is of more than two years?

There is another referral slip for the same ^{attached,} serial, a Hoover letter to Rowley of two pages, both referred to the CIA. This record is referred to in 4832.

Attached 62-109060-4839 also refers to an LHM covering the Morgan interview.

Serial 4854 is the companion of 4832, only it is to the White House. It also does not have the enclosure attached. The same situation exists with regard to declassification. The note added refers to two still withheld records.

The attached referral slip for 4984, of two records totalling six pages, ^{is} ~~relevant~~ ^{be relevant.} There is reason to believe that the referral to DOJ of 6097 may ~~be relevant~~.

(Attached)

The 8-page WFC LHM, referred to above, ^{in Dallas} is 89-43-6203, worksheet attached. It claims "previously processed" but I have no such record so it was not previously processed and instead is and was withheld.

Whether or not the FBI had anything to do with the leaking through Morgan, and I have indicated its dislike for him and his own possible motives in initiating the leaking, the consequences accord fully with the FBI's convincing President Johnson of the CIA's involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy, a record I have already provided.

After beginning this interrupted appeal I had a response from a press source known to me to have been the beneficiary of ^{some of} the more significant leaks of the period in question. With regard to the FBI's knowledge of the Maheu operation as it relates to Giancana, which

I refer to at the beginning, he informed me "I recall some wild yarns about what the FBI spotted P. McG. and Momo doing, but never knew if they are true. I got them from the FBI but they were too lewd to print."

These mafia plot allegations include Carlos Marcello, David Ferrie and Jimmy Hoffa. Several records holding such references were found during our search. They are attached.

In 62-109090 Not Recorded, Director to AG, 2/26(?)67, which appears to be the same as 62-109060-4521, Ferrie is connected with Marcello with much less explicitness than was possible, no doubt because the long minds at FBIHQ recalled clearly enough the same oversight during the early days of the JFK investigation. The AG is told nothing. The note is ambiguous in saying only that "Ferrie was involved in investigation of Carlos Marcello."

If this means in the FBI's investigation, those records are withheld. They are relevant and I appeal the withholding.

Another possibility is that the note refers to Ferrie's role. He had been investigator for one of Marcello's attorneys, G. Wray Gill, and he was hired by Gill to work on the Marcello case with the approval of Jack Wasserman. Ferrie's investigation appears to have been of use to the Marcello defense, which prevailed at that time.

The FBI has two letters by Ferrie, illegally obtained by the N.O. police, as the note also states. Their denial also is appealed. (I filed a separate request for all Ferrie information years ago. Much later there was partial compliance.)

Inconsistently the FBI does not withhold the name of I. Irving Davidson in 62-109060-4834. Nor does it in 5001 or the attached LHM. The subject matter of the tickler is not given but its location is. (The 3/17/67 WFO LHM referred to is Serial 4833.)

Serial 4521 indicates where the stolen Ferrie letters are filed. It also indicates that this record is a Ferrie record what was not included in what was sent to the Commission. The letters were sent to FBIHQ during the JFK investigation, 3/24/64. That covering memo does not appear to be in any records provided to me.

While the files disclosed may hold other references, especially from what follows *relating* to the alleged Marcello plot, the form of release defies ready access to such records.

According to the HSCA records copies of which I sent you DeLoach also wrote memos on this beginning not later than May 1967 (page 77).

At this point an FBI/^{mafia}source if not informant is identified by name. His subsequent unhappiness is reported in the papers. (*Edward Becker*)

This DeLoach memo reflects that identification of Rosselli as Morgan's client was then within the public domain. (page 78)

That the FBI interviewed Morgan at White House request does not appear in any record I recall and I have examined the records of that period. (page 78)

That none of the records hold indication of having reached the Director appears strange, given the trivia that he annotated and did reach him. However, HSCA states that a 6/5/67 record did reach him.

The HSCA section dealing with alleged Cuban involvement, attached pp. 80-6, refers to other FBI records. It also discloses ^{other} FBI knowledge of plots against ^Uastro prior to interviewing Morgan, records still withheld.

In this section I believe you will find that records withheld from me are quoted directly by HSCA but the FBI did not, subsequent to agreeing to this provide me with copies.

Among these are records relating to the ^{FBIHQ} briefing of the ^{WFO} agents who interviewed Morgan. According to the testimony of these agents and the FBIHQ supervisor they had not been briefed on the CIA's plots against ^Gastro, so that would not appear to be the cause of the withholding of the LHM after it was prepared, or of classification.