

King assassination records appeals

Harold Weisberg 3/31/80

— Abstracts

Foreign Operations

Superficially the withholding of the name of the woman with whom James Earl Ray slept, as referred to in the attached abstract for Serial 1714, is a proper privacy claim. The problem that comes up, historically as distinguished from my own interest, is that he had to do with more than one in Mexico and the names are public domain. So much so that OPR disclosed this one, Elisa Arrelana Torres.

In processing the abstract the FBI uncritically duplicated the withholding in the underlying record, even though the Department itself had disclosed what is withheld.

The largest note added to the underlying record at FBIHQ and the most prominent one is also encircled. It reads "SEE P 2." The first words on that page, not those emphasized by the FBI, are "TO ASSIST AGENT ON SCENE AT PUERTO VALLARTA." This is a clear acknowledgement of what has long been public knowledge but the FBI, the Department and even you deny - that the FBI was operational in Mexico. There thus is no legitimacy to any ~~SECRET~~ claim of secrecy to "protect foreign operations." Withholdings on this claim also are unjustifiable. The record also refers to other FBI investigations in Mexico.

44-39861-1714

97

4-17-68

LEGAT, MEXICO CITY

MURKIN

INFORMATION DEVELOPED AT PUERTO VALLARTA,
JALISCO, THAT GALT SPENT ONE NIGHT, PROBABLY
NIGHT OF NOVEMBER SIX LAST, WITH WOMAN BEFORE
MOVING INTO TROPICANA HOTEL. THIS WOMAN
TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS [REDACTED] OR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] EFFORTS BEING MADE TO [REDACTED]
LOCATE AND ARRANGE DISCREET INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED] AT [REDACTED]
GUADALAJARA.

NA JOP
11-31

VIA TELETYPE
APR 17 1968
ENCIPHERED

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. DeLoach	.....
Mr. Mohr	.....
Mr. Bishop	.....
Mr. Casper	.....
Mr. Callahan	.....
Mr. Conrad	.....
Mr. Felt	.....
Mr. Gale	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Sullivan	.....
Mr. Tavel	.....
Mr. Trotter	.....
Tele. Room	.....
Miss Holmes	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

STATE 006

URGENT 4-17-68

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT MEXICO CITY NO. 173

WLM
⊕

Loing

McGowan

6-

MURKIN.

SEE P2

RE ERIC STARVO GALT.

INFORMATION DEVELOPED AT PUERTO VALLARTA, JALISCO, THAT GALT SPENT ONE NIGHT, PROBABLY NIGHT OF NOVEMBER SIX LAST, WITH WOMAN BEFORE MOVING INTO TROPICANA HOTEL. THIS WOMAN TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS OR ELISA ARELLANO TORRES - public domain. LAST KNOWN ADDRESS , GUADALAJARA, JALISCO.

9

EFFORTS BEING MADE TO LOCATE AND ARRANGE DISCREET INTERVIEW WITH AT GUADALAJARA.

Call...

LEAD P2

4-17-68

62-1007

P2 - FBI operational in Mexico - Agent on the scene in Puerto Vallarta.

PAGE TWO

TO ASSIST AGENT ON SCENE AT PUERTO VALLARTA, BUREAU REQUESTED
TO ADVISE AMOUNT OF GALT'S TIME ALREADY ACCOUNTED FOR IN
CALIFORNIA DURING NOVEMBER AND/OR DECEMBER LAST. THAT IS,
SINCE DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM MEXICO
HAVE NOT YET BEEN LOCATED, APPROXIMATELY WHAT ADDITIONAL AMOUNT
OF TIME SUBSEQUENT TO CHECKING OUT OF TROPICANA HOTEL ON NOVEMBER
ONE THREE LAST SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION
IN MEXICO.

CABLE REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

UNSUB ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

RECEIVED: 9:50PM MSE

NOV 11 1951
FBI
MEXICO

BRD CC: MR. BRENNAN

7A

4/18/68

CODE

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

1 - Mr. Long
1 - Foreign Liaison Unit
(Route through for review)

TO: LEGAT, MEXICO CITY

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) -- 1714

MURKIN

EX-103 REC-97

REURTEL APRIL SEVENTEEN LAST.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION GALT RESIDED IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA FROM ELEVEN NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN TO ONE TWENTY SIXTY-EIGHT. YOU SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT DURING THE ABOVE PERIOD THE DAILY ACTIVITY OF GALT CANNOT BE ACCOUNTED FOR. DURING THIS PERIOD GALT DEPARTED LOS ANGELES FOR NEW ORLEANS FIFTEEN NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN AND RETURNED FROM NEW ORLEANS TWELVE TWENTY-ONE SIXTY-SEVEN.

RE:ics

(4)

NOTE: Lett, Record Cl...
TO...
DATE...

VIA TELETYPE
APR 18 1968
ENCIPHERED

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

J
AM

March 28, 1980



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Enclosed herewith are 1,079 pages of abstracts encompassing sections 26 through 42 of the MURKIN file.

Excisions have been made in some abstracts and sixteen have been withheld in their entirety pursuant to one or more of the following subsections of Title 5, United States Code, Section 552, as noted in the margins beside each deletion:

- (b)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 12065 in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy;
- (b)(3) information specifically exempted from disclosure by statute;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency documents which are not available through discovery proceedings during litigation; or documents whose disclosure would have an inhibitive effect upon the development of policy and administrative direction; or which represent the work of an attorney-client relationship;
- (b)(6) materials contained in sensitive records such as personnel or medical files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

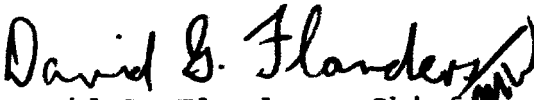
Mr. Harold Weisberg

- (b)(7) investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, the disclosure of which would:
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of another person;
 - (D) reveal the identity of an individual who has furnished information to the FBI under confidential circumstances or reveal information furnished only by such a person and not apparently known to the public or otherwise accessible to the FBI by overt means.

Exemption (b)(3) was cited pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 534, to withhold criminal identification records.

If you so desire, you may appeal to the Associate Attorney General from any denial contained herein. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Associate Attorney General (Attention: Office of Privacy and Information Appeals), United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20530, within thirty days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal."

Sincerely yours,


David G. Flanders, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Branch
Records Management Division

Enclosures (12)