

3 April 1972

The Editors  
Ramparts  
San Francisco

Gentlemen,

Anthony Russo's autobiographical piece in the April issue contains information of special interest to students of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Russo's disclosure of the existence in the Rand Corporation's files of Project Star, a study of the assassination, is a stunning surprise. By his own account, Russo "flew to California and began work (for the Rand Corporation) in June 1964." Shortly thereafter he came across the study in the Rand files and read it.

That is exceedingly strange, for at the time the Warren Commission was still sitting, receiving testimony and the results of investigation. No hint of a Rand study appears in the Commission's Report or its twenty-six volumes of hearings and exhibits.

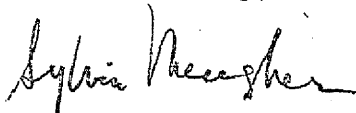
Who commissioned the Rand study of the assassination? A government agency, a business interest, the Kennedy family? What are the contents of the Project Star file? Russo characterized it as a "particularly special study" but did not say why, and noted that it was classified "higher than top secret." According to him, only a "handful of Rand people" know of the existence of Project Star.

The great secrecy surrounding this study suggests that it may contain evidence incompatible with or contradictory of the findings of the Warren Commission, as does the suppression of the Kennedy autopsy photographs and X-rays. Possibly, too, Project Star contains direct or implicit clues to the authentic architects of the assassination and their motives.

In time, of course, historical interest will override the property rights of the Rand Corporation and its prerogative of withholding vital information; the study will become public. Meanwhile, however, Russo would perform a great service to the historical record and to contemporary

public need if he would disclose whether Project Star confirms, casts doubt upon, or rebuts the findings of the Warren Commission. Does it contain evidence not included in the Warren Report or in the twenty-six volumes of the hearings and exhibits? Does it throw light on the motivation for the assassination, which the Warren Commission professed itself unable to establish? Any information about Project Star which Russo or any other person can disclose will advance the search for the truth and hasten the day of its publication.

Yours sincerely,



Sylvia Meagher  
302 West 12 Street  
New York 10014

Thomas Stamm  
2705 Bainbridge Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10458

(The writers have been engaged from the first in study of and research on the Dallas killings and in criticism of the Warren Report. Mrs. Meagher is the author of the Subject Index to the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits, Scarecrow Press, 1966, and Accessories After the Fact, Bobbs-Merrill and Co., 1967.)

Excerpt from "Inside the Rand Corporation and Out: My Story" by  
Anthony Russo, in RAMPARTS April 1972

---

"I mentioned my interest in Vietnam the first couple of weeks I was there, but he (David Novick) gave me no encouragement. Most of the Rand projects on Vietnam were in other departments--Social Science, Logistics, and Engineering--and he said up front that wanting to go to Vietnam was no way to get ahead in his department. He appealed to my ego though by saying that the department was sorely in need of the kind of intellectual up-grading I would bring to bear. He needed cost estimates of weapons systems for the Air Force, and the statistical methodology used for delivering these estimates needed refinement, so that's what I set off to do. But I also set about reading everything I could get my hands on in the general Rand files. These files now, for example, contain a study Rand made of the Kennedy assassination: Project Star. It's a particularly special study--its classification is higher than top secret. Only a handful of Rand people knew of its existence. Rand files also held studies of the negotiating posture in the Indochina War, such being the specialty of the head of the Rand Social Science department, Fred Ikle, a former MIT professor and close personal friend of Henry Kissinger."