

ASSASSINATION ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH CENTER

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BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.  
President

JAMES H. LESAR  
Vice President

May 15, 1987

Dear Friend of the AARC:

It has been a year or so since we have communicated with many of you. Much progress has been made by AARC in that time.

We have expanded our suite of offices to accommodate our ever-growing collection of assassination materials. Among other large collections, we have acquired as a gift from George Washington University one of four extant copies of the entire FBI Headquarters file on the JFK case, as well as the index thereto. We are computerizing the index and adding it to our main data base. We also have a contract with Ted Charach to index and maintain his enormous and unique collection of materials on the RFK case.

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of the latest meeting of our Board of Directors. They explain some of our more recent activities, as well as future plans for an international journal and one or more assassination tours.

There is also enclosed a copy of a list of government documents which we would like to add to our library. If you know of anyone who might be willing to donate any of these (or assassination materials generally), please put them in touch with us. We are a tax exempt organization, and donors to us are entitled to an IRS charitable contribution deduction under the new tax act.

Last, for those who haven't seen it before, there is one of our brochures. It contains a membership application. We hope present members will use it to send in their 1987 dues. We hope that non-members will join and give us their support. We very much need the \$25.00; we also need to expand our membership. Please give us your help.

We invite anyone interested in assassinations to use our facilities. We will check names and events in our massive index. We will xerox research files and unpublished manuscripts. And we will lend you duplicate books, of which there are many.

Best regards,



Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crr  
Enclosures

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A SUMMARY OF THE  
MINUTES OF THE 1987 ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
ASSASSINATION ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH CENTER

The Board of Directors of AARC met at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, April 25, 1987, at AARC offices at 918 F St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Present were Bud Fensterwald, who acted as Chairman, Prof. Philip Melanson, Prof. George Michael Evica, Prof. David Wrone, Mark Allen, and Jim Lesar.

A resolution was made, seconded, and passed that Prof. Jerry Rose and Mr. Greg Stone be invited to join the Board.

1. Scope of AARC : National or International?

The first major item for discussion concerned whether AARC should remain basically a national organization or should expand its interests to the subject of assassinations worldwide. Fensterwald expressed the view that the subject was international in scope and should be studied on that basis. He favored the establishment of an "International Journal of Political Assassinations". Each Director in turn spoke to the question, and there was a consensus that we should "go international" to the extent that funding could be found.

It was concluded that AARC must obtain at least two years worth of reputable articles before launching a journal. Contents should include unpublished manuscripts already in hand, but would also have to contain new materials to satisfy the requirements of journalists and academics. David Wrone suggested that Volume 4 annually should contain a good bibliography; he also pointed out that the journal would be a good place to publish reputable graduate dissertations. It was suggested that Paul Hoch be asked to tailor his operation so that each issue could include a good, brief summary of newspaper and periodical materials, book reviews, etc. It was also decided that the journal would be a single language (English) publication, though it is expected that ultimately much of its content would come from overseas. While the journal is being organized, AARC will attempt to find a correspondent in all major countries; these correspondents will be asked to supply materials for our central files as well as for publication in the journal.

2. FBI Files on JFK Assassination

Fensterwald explained that the project of computerizing and xeroxing the index to the FBI Headquarters file on JFK was about half-finished and should be completed in about two months. The basic Headquarters file was obtained as a gift from the George Washington University Law School.

3. Expansion of Meek and Brandt Indices

These computerized indices are being expanded to include the FBI files and the 30,000 cards of Mary Ferrell which are being computerized in Dallas.

## Summary (Continued)

### 4. Donation of Collection of Materials

We have recently obtained the collections of materials, among others, of Earl Golz, William Turner, and Peter Noyes; in the near future we are to get the collections of Dick Popkin and Ted Charach. The Golz materials contained 300+ taped interviews (with many transcripts); many of these interviews are of people never before interviewed. It was suggested that we ask Prof. Garrow to try to obtain the files of the late Wm. Bradford Huie.

The suggestion was made and accepted that we have all of our extensive movie collection converted to video cassettes. Prof. Evica volunteered to have the conversions made. David Wrone suggested that we establish a lending library of VHS cassettes for colleges, etc. Fensterwald was directed to write to the News Divisions of several TV networks to have AARC designated as the repository of assassination film materials that might otherwise be discarded.

### 5. AARC Finances

There was a general discussion that AARC should eventually attempt to affiliate with a university in the D.C. area, in order to gain "respectability" and an ability to raise funds. Jim Lesar pointed out that George Mason University might be a good candidate. Fensterwald was authorized to explore the possibilities with each of the universities.

It was concluded that one or more assassination tours in the D.C. area would be profitable, and efforts should be made to organize them. Earlier, Gary Shaw had reported that he and Larry Howard were attempting to organize an AARC tour in Dallas. It was agreed that AARC should look for small investors for the "seed money" to start the first D.C. tour. David Wrone volunteered to come to D.C. periodically to help with this project; he submitted a long list of eligible "assassination stops" in D.C.

### 6. RFK Assassination

Phil Melanson gave a summary of the situation with the release of the L.A. Police files on the RFK case. In brief, the California authorities are dragging their feet, but eventually all of the police files will be sent to the State Archives, censored, and released.

### 7. Special Projects

Mark Allen and Kevin Walsh are again trying to get the House of Representatives to release the HSCA documentation which is locked away for 50 years. AARC will help with this project.

Carl Oglesby will use AARC facilities in a project to force release of documentation of the U.S. "adoption" of ex-Nazis after WWII.

The daughter of Alexander Rorke's pilot is attempting to force release of government documents, and AARC is assisting.

## KEFAUVER CRIME HEARINGS

1. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, State Department Security 1963-65 (Part XV The Otepka Case XIII), Hearings, 88th Cong., 2d Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1964). (Otepka Hearings)
2. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Activities of Nondiplomatic Representatives of Foreign Principals in the United States, Hearings, 88th Cong., 1st Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1963) ("Foreign Lobbyist Hearings").
3. Senate Committee on Rules, Financial or Business Interests of Officers or Employees of the Senate, Hearings, 88th Cong., 2d Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1964) ("Bobby Baker Hearings").
4. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Communist Threat to the United States Through the Caribbean, 86th Cong., 2d Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1960).
5. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Winning the Cold War: The U.S. Ideological Offensive, Hearings, 88th Cong., 1st Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1963).
6. House Committee on Armed Services, Inquiry into the Alleged Involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Watergate and Ellsberg Matters, Hearings, 94th Cong., 1st Sess. (Washington: GPO 1975) ("Nedzi Hearings").
7. Senate Committee on Government Operations, Organized Crime: Stolen Securities, Hearings, 92d Cong., 1st Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1971) ("Stolen Securities Hearings").
8. Senate Committee on Government Operations, Organized Crime and Illicit Traffic in Narcotics, Hearings, 88th Cong., 2d Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1964).
9. Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field, Hearings, 85th Cong., 2d Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1959 ("McClellan Hearings")).
10. House Select Committee on Small Business, Tax Exempt Foundations and Charitable Trusts, Staff Report, Part II, 88th Cong., 1st Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1963).
11. House Committee on Banking and Currency, The Penn Central Failure and the Role of Financial Institutions, Staff Report, 91st Cong., 2d Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1970).
12. Senate Committee on Rules, Construction of the District of Columbia Stadium, Hearings, 88th Cong., 2d Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1964).
13. House Committee on Government Operations, Investigation As to the Manner in Which the United States Board of Parole is Operating and As to Whether There Is a Necessity for a Change in Either the Procedure or Basic Law, Hearings, 80th Cong., 2d Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1948) ("Parole Board Hearings").
14. Senate Hearings Before a Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce, 81st Cong., 2d Sess. and 82nd Cong., 1st Sess. (Washington: GPO, 1950-51). ("Kefauver Crime Hearings")

R E M I N D E R

DR. CYRIL WECHT AND A COLLEAGUE WILL DIRECT A SEMINAR IN  
PITTSBURGH ON NOVEMBER 18-20, 1988, UNDER THE JOINT SPONSORSHIP  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL  
SCIENCE AND THE PITTSBURGH INSTITUTE OF LEGAL MEDICINE. FOR  
DETAILS, WRITE TO DR. CYRIL WECHT AT 1200 CENTRE AVENUE,  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219, OR PHONE HIM AT (214) 281-9090.