

December 25th

Dear Paul--

Things have been hectic around here, as you know. I've finally arrived for good after two trips from Ann Arbor. Reading of FBI documents (principally in the 62 file still) goes on. As far as copying and dissemination go, we think we should now send one copy of everything we get to you and let you distribute to Mary and Sylvia (an arrangement they have approved) and selectively to other researchers at your discretion. Of course, we would like you to produce comments at ~~xx~~ your own pace, and we expect the same from other participants. If you feel comfortable with this, fine. Otherwise let me know if there any questions ~~from~~ or suggestions (from Peter as well). I will be able after the New Year to read through the other files with several other people and it should only take a few weeks. We no longer have an active plan to get a complete set. Depending on how much we can spend, we may want to copy up to about twenty-five percent of the files. I assume you have heard about the SS release; we expect to get a complimentary set of those documents, which total approx. 800 pages. So much by way of preface. Now, first things first.

There are a number of documents from the first three sections of the 105 file which were not released to you but which are now (in some form) available. In one batch, I am enclosing copies of 50A, 50C, 50J, 50Ø, 50P, 50Q, 50S, 50X, 50II, 53, 57, 58, 75, 76, 78, 87C, 88, 96B(p. 1), and 96C(p. 1). The only documents in this category which I did not copy are: 49H (which is released with one para. on p. 2 deleted and deals with early tests on physical evidence; I have to read this again); 49J (same as SS104, with last 3 lines p. 4 and top para. p. 5 deleted); and 54R (which I told you about over the phone). I can get copies of any of these. The following documents are represented only by CIA referral slips: 52, 60, 61, 63, 74, 83, 87IN(87A), 88E, 96A, 97A, 107, 115, 122, 128, 154D. Three of the latter documents were released to you (74, 88E, and 154D); can we have copies of the first two? Ser. 132 is represented by an NSA referral slip. There is no indication of the status of sers. 50B and 50JJ. Any comments? Note that 50C and 76 are different copies of same 11/22 Branigan to Sullivan memos. Also, only the first of three pages is available for both 96B and 96C with no clue as to status of other two pages in each case.

ix also enclose copies of (a) the '67 document; (b) an 11/23 airtel from Shanklin (1 p.) which I would like your comments on; (c) the 11/29 Gale memo I mentioned; (d) series of 5 11/22 Hoover memos in temporal order (note time and substance of the earliest) (dark brackets and underlining are mine). There is quite a lot in these memos; what about the references to "the building"? Was there a prepared scenario for Hoover?

Finally, I enclose a list of docs. in the AIB's possession from the 62 file and a short list of docs. from secs. 4ff. of the 105 file. Please identify docs. you don't have.

There are a few things you can do for us. First, can you send copies of the first few inventory worksheets. As you know, the sheets are hot; we will keep you posted on our progress in obtaining the rest of them. Also, can you give us everything you have (incl. refs. to Archives materials) on McDermid? I assume you know that at the time of Sam's 1963 civil suit against RFK, his attorney may have known about the CIA-Mafia plots. There are many documents in the 105 file, secs. 1-3 which sound interesting from your original comments but which I haven't had a chance to look at. I do have a list of these and may ask you to make copies of some of them. In conclusion, I ~~don't~~ want to play games with Bud anymore about the CIA Document Disposition Index. I'd like a copy and intend to get one. If you could send a copy of the whole thing and deduct expenses from your contribution to AIB, I'd appreciate it.

Regards,

Jim

P.S. The enclosed copy of the NY Daily News art. on the HSCA has been in my pocket for a month. If you haven't seen it, excuse its condition.

(11/27/77, p. 76 - JOSEPH VOLZ)

S 12/27/77-41.67  
R 12/31/77