ARMY INTEL

November 19, 1977

Dear Harold,

I just got your letters of 11/14 and 11/15, about the references to Army Intelligence documents in the FBI files. Enclosed is a copy of the FBI documents in question. (Serials 49B, 49D, and 49E) Go ahead and use them any way you want.

As I understand your letters, you are more interested in the question of where these (and other) Army records went than in the investigative significance of these particular items. I think there are two separate issues here, and they can be treated differently. My feeling is that my memo, which attempts to suggest what this all means in terms of the source and maybe the authenticity of the Hidell draft card, is too complicated and subtle to be useful at this time. You can use it if you really think you can do something with it, but I would prefer that for the people you are dealing with on FOIA matters, you just give them the documents themselves.

If you get press people turned on with the question of the missing documents, you can then give them my analysis, but I wouldn't force it on them. There is a chance that the House Committee is checking it out intelligently. I personally would not be inclined to go to Whitten with this, since Anderson was so deeply involved in the 1967 flap and was getting so much HSC junk from Sprague. Do you know Norm Kempster, of the L.A. Times? I think he's very good at understanding complicated issues, and he's been friendly in the past.

I have submitted a FOIA request for pre-assassination Army records, specifying the 4 cities in the 112th INTC Group where I thought the records would be, but not mentioning the new FBI documents. No response yet.

You asked about the circumstances of my getting these documents: It's not all clear to me. I contacted the FBI to talk about my request for the pre-assassination files on Oswald. I had a long and pleasant talk with Dick Huff of the JD and Bill Shackelford of FBI, during which it became clear that field office files had not even been brought in for processing for me! They mentioned that they were working on the post-assassination files, and that they thought I would want (some of) them since they included investigation of Oswald's pre-assassination activities. Of course, that wasn't what I had in mind, but I was interested, and they ended up selling me the first 3 volumes of the Oswald file, which includes the pre-assassination main file (which I had asked for). The whole discussion was a bit confusing to me at the time, and I didn't have the chance to make detailed notes, so this is the best I can do at this time. My recollection just isn't that clear.

Anyhow, I'm also enclosing my notes (3 pp., 11/16) on these 600 pages, plus a sample annotated inventory worksheet and one of the more interesting documents (#95). Bud and the AIB are trying to arrange an expeditious review of the whole file when it gets released.

I'm sorry I didn't get all this to you earlier. What the Army has been telling you could turn out to be very important. Of course, I'll honor your instructions not to pass this on, but I think it would be good if you just mentioned to Donovan Gay that you know about this new stuff and that you have been trying to get the Army files for years. If they are following this up, they can then get back to you.

I don't have any single file on document releases back to 1970, as you asked for. You have all my notes on the CIA stuff, which I sent in August. (Bud also has a full set.) Rather than overload you with a lot of paper, I would prefer to wait until you need specific items. Either you or Jim or Howard can contact me. I will send you all my notes on the forthcoming FBI releases.

As I understand it, you now have the Powell photo? I think one of the critics - I can't offhand recall who - got it from the FBI a couple of years ago.

Re your letter of 11/6: it's not clear if this is what you wanted, but here is my correspondence with NARS re the 11/1/66 Naval report. Much thanks for the items you sent; they certainly weren't in a hurry to release this, although I thought my appeal letter (8/7/72) was pretty convincing. Feel free to use any of this. The document itself, of course, is in Post-Mortem (pp. 565-573).

I've made personal-file requests to FBI, CIA, and SS, but will hold off on NARS until I see what happens with those.

Sincerely, Paul PLH