

Army / JFR (HSCA)

Col. William B. Guild  
Office of Ass't Chief of Staff, Intelligence  
Department of the Army  
Washington, D.C. 20310

4/18/81

DAMI-CIS

Dear Colonel Guild,

Your letter of the 13 isn't really responsive and it is quite evasive. You do not explain how an Army record stops being an Army record when someone from the Congress asks to see it and you provide no authority ~~is~~ for withholding any such records after FOIA requests. Congress legislated the exemption and there is no exemption that authorizes any clerk or chairman to immunize any record of any executive agency.

With regard to my request of years ago, I dismake it, if not of your office, which then did not have that responsibility. I was shocked at the response - that the Army had destroyed all its records pertaining to the assassination of a President.

If you can't find my inquiry, you should be able to find some of the letters to me. And if you can't find them, maybe you'll come upon the Jack Anderson column reporting what the Army wrote me.

Dod also may have copies. I believe it was involved.

I am not now able to make searches here.

Whatever accounts for these strange things, believe me there will be conspiracy theories woven around them for yours to come. Aside from the strict prohibition against destroying important historical papers, why in the world would the Army want to destroy its records pertaining to the assassination of a President and why would it want to make secret what previously was not secret, merely at congressional request and in violation of the law?

Why ought reasonable people have doubts and suspicions?

You people make much trouble for yourselves and for no apparent purpose.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

13 APR 1981

DAMI-CIS

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

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

This is in response to your letter of 30 March 1981 concerning the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA).

At the request of the Chairman, House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), who provided this office with the names and other biographical identifying data of three-hundred (300) persons, a search of Army record systems was conducted to determine the existence of any information identifiable with those persons. As a result of our search, we provided the committee with approximately one-hundred files/dossiers pertaining to those individuals.

Upon return of the files to Army control, the HSCA invoked congressional privilege and claimed the records as investigative files of a congressional committee. In addition, the records have been segregated within the functional record system and sealed to protect, preserve, and prevent disclosure without the consent of the Clerk, House of Representatives, US Congress.


This office has no record of your original request for information and therefore is unable to determine if your request is synonymous with the records requested by the HSCA.

We will continue to comply with the privilege claimed by the HSCA and suggest you contact the Clerk, House of Representatives to resolve this issue.

DAMI-CIS

While I regret that we cannot be of further assistance in this matter, I trust that you appreciate the considerations involved.

Sincerely,

  
for WILLIAM B. GUILD  
Colonel, GS  
Director of Counterintelligence