Mr. Goff. P.S. 5/12/77

By last night I had gone over all the papers with your delayed letter, what came here yesterday. I regret the need to write you further and to complain still again that you have not been full or forthright.

The most obvious example is that you continue to withhold from me what you have made available to others - what in fact has been on coast-to-coast TV. You have released the J. Edgar Hoover letter of 11/23/63 and its attachment, the letter in which Mr. Hoover informed the Secret Service of the taping of Oswald's voice and the alleged taking of his picture in Mexico.

There is a report on the President's 11/18/63 trip to Miami and some planned demonstrations but you continue to withhold all relating to the cancellation of the planned motorcade. What I believe caused this change is not the demonstrations that were expected but a tape recording provided by the Miami police, one in which what is officially alleged to have happened is forecast with accuracy. That there would not have been an instant check on this simply can't be believed, so there should be such records. In addition, you were provided the tape and other information by the Miami authorities. There is no basis for the claiming of the stock exemptions because all the names are public - from my publication of 1967 and 1971 as well as by other means. There is no source to be protected because the source made the initial release. My requests for this information go back to 1967. The FBI stonewalled on some of this until this year. You continue to stonewall.

With these two records withholding is the direct cause of extensive disinformation. If I do not pretend to reach into the official mind I do suggest that the suspicion disinformation was the official intent can't be avoided. The House committee and others have became agents of this disinformation. Through them a vast number of people have been misled. There thus is even more confusion on this subject.

It likewise can't be believed that the three reports you provide are all you have of the Garrison period. From my own interviews I know there should be others. From these one can see reason to believe other records exist. Should, in any event.

You have provided a few more records relating to the Rev. Walter Machann, the correct spelling. If you have provided all then Tom Kelley is incompetent and I do not believe that. The six-page report he gave the Warren Commission does not include what it should. I had no trouble locating Father Machann. I interviewed him at some length, after first interviewing others with relevant information. Including one maligned by the Secret Service.

After reading the records you now provide I see no reason for ever withholding them. No reason sanctioned by law, anyway. Yet they have been withheld for more than a decade. The combination multiplies the suspicion each separate act engenders.

In writing you yesterday I indicated you have more Oswald records and that I want them. I also asked for a list of what you continue to withhold and the reason for each withholding. Now I find you have continued to withhold from me what you have let reach those whose misuse could be expected. I do have a particular interest in this aspect. I do hope that you will respond fully and accurately to this request.

There are references to several films in these records. I have no interest in films prepared for training, to protect presidents. But I would like to be able to see the film prepared in analysis of what is said to have happened. I also request any and all records relating to its showing to the Warren Commission whether in the form of the showing of the film or in analysis of the film.

It is my belief that in the long run the improper efforts to avoid expected embarrassment will cause still more embarrassment. I regret this for all agencies and their employees, more for the Secret Service because of its special responsibilities.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

Mr. Robert O. Goff, FOIA/PA Officer
U.S.Secret Service
1800 G. St., NW # 844
Washington, D.C. 20023

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
5/11/77

Dear Mr. Goff,

Thanks you for your letter of May 4 and the enclosed records, here today.

I am sorry that my relationship with the Secret Service could not continue as it appeared to be when we conferred.

To the degree possible I would prefer that there be no further confusion and no reason for me to believe I may have been misled.

In addition I have arranged for all my records to become an archive in a university system. I therefore would like these records to be as clear as possible.

In this sense I refer you to your concluding sentence, which I think says what you may not have had in mind, and raises other questions.

What you sent me would not seem to "constitute a full disclosure of all records pertaining to the assassination," even with the qualifier that follows. The volume of Secret Service records at the Archives, for example, is enormously greater. I do not know if those I have just received are in the Archives or not. I have heard of a new release but several of my letters of inquiry are without response. I have no way of knowing whether there are other Secret Service records in the Archives that I have not seen or of which I have not obtained copies. More, when I suffered two serious illnesses and asked the Archives to send me each release as it was released, for which I have maintained a deposit account for years, it refused. There may be Secret Service records thenm released that I do not have.

What follows in your letter, with no omission, is "which are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act."

This says that there are other records and you believe they are not subject to disclosure. You may or may not be correct in your interpretation. However, I believe that under the Act I am entitled to know what records are withheld and the exemption claimed for each. I also believe there should be such a list in existence. I therefore ask for it. Meaning a copy of it.

Given the responsibilities of the Secret Service and what I am not putting you on in describing as its dedication to those responsibilities, I do believe there are other records in areas of my known interest where exemptions may not be applicable. Frankly, I can see the claim of exemption where the real reason is fear of embarrassment to the government. One of these areas is Oswald in the service and abroad. If not also after his return and particularly in New Orleans. You may recall that this was one subject of our discussions when we met.

I do appreciate your sending me these records.

I would appreciate it if you would have a proper search made for these records still not provided in response to my request for the personal files. Your people have to know how to locate at least some of those you claim you cannot find.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR 1699

May 4, 1977

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rt. 12
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Reference is made to your letter of April 23, 1977, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act requesting documents in Secret Service files pertaining to the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy.

In that connection, there are attached copies of all documents relating to the assassination of former President Kennedy which were released to Mark Lane.

The aforementioned documents constitute a full disclosure of all records pertaining to the assassination which are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

Robert O. Goff
Freedom of Information &
Privacy Acts Officer
Office of Public Affairs

Enclosures