

Powell

Conley
Mr. Thomas F. Conley, FOIA Chief
U.S. Army Intelligence Agency
Fort Meade, Md. 20755

Rt 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
6/18/77
IACI-CAF (FPA-460;PA77-137)

Dear Mr. Conley,

Thanks you very much for the detail in your letter of the 15th, here today. I think it can be helpful to both of us. This is why I write you further rather than doing as you suggest in your final paragraph, 5.

Your letter reflects that my earliest requests did not reach you and that when some were referred they were not described adequately. Even accurately.

My first requests for the files on me date to the period of the NBC First Monday TV show on Army Intelligence and its domestic operations.

My requests of both the Army and CIA are for all records of whatever form or source on or relating to the JFK assassination. There has been correspondence on this of the past to which you do not refer.

I made a separate and more limited request for the reports filed by and pictures taken by an Army Intelligence agent in Dallas. He is James Powell. He was near the scene of the assassination and, with his camera, was confined in the building from which the shots are alleged to have been fired.

It is my information, from both an official source and the presence of some records in the National Archives, that the Army did have JFK assassination files. One also would suppose this when a President is assassinated. These clearly are within my long-standing requests. How they are filed and where they may be stored I do not know.

This also applies to the sources you report having consulted. I have no way of knowing the responsibilities and jurisdiction of any of them.

However, as a soldier I was subjected to a security investigation prior to assignment to the OSS. Thereafter, as a soldier, I was cleared for as I recall "Secret". I recall receiving some kind of decoration for my work in OSS. I do find it difficult to believe that Army Intelligence has no record of any of this and does not know where to look for it.

In time my opposition to our involvement ^{in Vietnam} became national policy. However, at the time my opposition became public there was extensive investigation of those who did oppose that disaster. I, for example, was a signer of the Writers' and Editors' Protest, which was published as widely as we could afford. I associated with my young people of similar view some of whom were active draft resisters. One in particular, in Chicago, was the subject of extensive interest. (Bearing on this and whether files should exist, I successfully opposed compulsory ROTC in the early 1970s.)

Following the NBC show referred to above there was reported destruction of Army records. But it was also reported that two sets of these records on microfilm did escape the memory hole. As I recall there were reported to be at Ft. Holabird and Fortress Monroe. You report no search of either place. Then there are local installations where there could be files. Certain untoward events that befell me in Minneapolis about 1968, including but not limited to shadowing before and after I spoke at the University of Minnesota indicate a search of the files of that region is in order. At that time an Army Intelligence officer shared an office with the one who arranged my appearance there. Other distant cities where there may be files include San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas and New Orleans.

As you are aware there were extensive domestic-intelligence operations in this area. These suggest Washington, Baltimore and perhaps closer offices. Prior to moving here almost 10 years ago we lived at the upper end of Montgomery County. The closest border of Fort

Detrick is but a half-mile away. Fort Ritchie is not distant. Both have had reason to be interested in my wife and me.

We sued the Army and all other services. Twice, in federal district court in Baltimore. This was because of damaging and ultimately ruinous overflights of our farm by helicopters. Because most were Army (and of those most from Fort Belvoir) in the second suit, by mutual agreement, the Army represented all government components. If I had the records in my possession I'd cited the case numbers.

Involved in this litigation was a new legal principle. It was of great interest to the gang-bo fly-boys. And I did establish this principle. In a subsequent suit it was upheld by the Supreme Court. I do find it hard to believe that a good-faith search with due diligence disclosed no Army investigation with all that was at stake.

Particularly because of all the nasty inferences of my supposed disloyalty. From prior experience I know how such insanities are spread around for all the world as though the future of the nation depended on it. I've had enough to do with Lemmings to know that such inquiry is never overlooked. If you search the right places I'm sure you'll find records.

Some of this ~~it~~ took pretty extreme form, despite the compassionate and determined interest of the then Secretary of DoD. When his representative told us to report all overflights to Fort Detrick once when I was not home and my wife did as directed she was threatened with prosecution as a common nuisance by the Fort Detrick official. When I returned home and learned of this my protests were as vigorous as I believe yours would have been under such circumstances. Fort Detrick repeated the same information to me and told me we had been investigated. DoD and Second Army, based where you are, thereafter were involved in this matter as they had been earlier in the overall case. Aside from having been told of an investigation I find it difficult to believe that our Army, so renowned for its chivalry, did not inquire into a threat against an innocent woman by an Army official.

You can probably obtain the identification numbers, court and Army, of this litigation from Second Army JAG. The Second Army JAG officers who visited us and who left files are named Blackmarr, then a colonel, and CanVeris, then a Captain. Neither was alone. Under discovery I did see records that indicated an investigation.

What records I have are in the possession of my lawyer in Washington, J.H. Lesar. His home phone is 484-6023, office 223-5524. He can provide the case numbers if you want.

I do hope this enables you to locate and provide those records that should exist.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg