

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland
U.S. of A.
21702

March 25, 1997.

Dear Harold,

Please accept our thanks once again for the generous hospitality provided in your home. Gary and I both always greatly enjoy our visits, and of course appreciate your giving us access to your records, especially since we disagree on parts of the case. From our discussions, it doesn't seem that we are that far apart, in other ways. We all seem to agree that members of the military were up to no good, and for us, one of the questions to ask is what would have happened had the successor government done other than it did, and tried to strike back. Who do you send to arrest the army, if you know what I mean.

On that subject I return herewith your manuscript which I have copied with your permission, for which I also thank-you. I look forward to reading it, and if you are at all interested in a further response, let me know. Gary has a copy as well, and I am sure we would both be happy to forward our comments if you think they might be of any value.

I have also enclosed a couple of records that I thought you might be interested in if you don't already have them. Looks to me like Blakey made a deal with the devil.

Our best to Lillian and our thanks to you both once again.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ritchie". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ritchie Ninton
32 Mercer Drive
Brampton, Ontario
Canada
L6x 1B4



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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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March 23, 1978

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BY HAND

G. Robert Blakey, Esq.
Chief Counsel and Director
Select Committee on Assassinations
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Bob:

To confirm our telephone conversation of yesterday, this Department is prepared to provide an oral briefing on information obtained from Defense intelligence sources. The briefing will not deal with sources or methods.

As you agreed, the briefing is conditioned on your specific commitment on behalf of the Committee not to reveal any DoD agency as a source in any manner, including testimony, staff papers, or the Committee's report. The Committee in turn withdraws any outstanding requests for intelligence information.

I anticipate that we shall be able to arrange the briefing in the very near future. Please confirm your agreement with the foregoing by so noting on the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me.

Sincerely,


John G. Kester
The Special Assistant

Enclosure

Agreed:

G. Robert Blakey

Date

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Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 29, 1978

The Honorable Harold Brown
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20301

Attention: Mr. John G. Kester
Special Assistant to the Secretary

Dear John:

Bi-weekly, the Chief of Research gives me a "report card" on agency compliance with our requests. Attached is the "report card" for the Department of Defense.

Subject, of course, to your quarreling with its accuracy, I am sure you will agree with me that it does not indicate that we have been making progress in our efforts to facilitate the Committee's access to those records it needs to fulfill its mandate.

Would you reserve for me some time Friday afternoon to meet and discuss this situation?

If the problem is lack of manpower, I would hope you could secure, as the CIA and the FBI have done, enough people to give us, at a minimum, a one-week turnaround between requests and access.

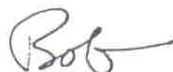
If our requests are not specific enough, we stand ready at all times to help in any way possible.

John, I am concerned that the record of the relationship between the Department of Defense and this Committee will not speak well for either of us at the conclusion of our investigation. I recognize, of course, that you are only now on the scene, but you will have to agree with me that we have, in fact, obtained from the Department very little, and then only after extraordinary effort. We have got to change this picture quickly.

Mr. John G. Kester
March 29, 1978
Page 2

I look forward to meeting with you on April 7, 1978
to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob".

G. Robert Blakey
Chief Counsel and Director

GRB:dm

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AGENCY	DATE	REQUEST	STATUS
Dept. of Defense	Undated Dec. 6, 1977 (oral)	Access to camera used to take autopsy photographs	Full compliance on 3-10-78
Dept. of Defense	December 27, 1977	Files on 7 individuals	Full compliance per 2-28-78
Dept. of Defense	December 28, 1977	Recent wound ballistics studies and meeting with wound ballistics experts	Full compliance on 2-23-79
Dept. of Defense	January 19, 1978	Files on 16 individuals	Partial compliance per 2-28-78
Dept. of Defense	January 26, 1978	Photograph of Oswald believed in possession of O.N.I.	Full compliance on 2-9-78
Department of Defense (NSA)	Undated	Information re: Cuban intelligence network	No compliance per 2-28-78