

FBI vs CIA

Dear Paul,

9/18/81

Immediate response to your 9/16 to let you know that there are no restrictions on the Shaf Edwards memo. Which you do not note is also an incomplete account. I sent some copies out when I sent you that copy. I recall Gardner and Golz and there were probably more. If you interest anyone in the press refer them to me and tell them to ask me, lest I forget, that I have other pertinent records, one in particular that you also have showing that the FBI waited 5-6 years to dump the load on LBJ to make him believe, as DeLoach says, that the CIA was part of a conspiracy to kill JFK. One of the misleading aspects is that the bug was discovered by the maid and that Maheu was threatened by his wireman and had to ask the FBI for help for him.

My only interest in not having the new HSC stuff out is because it can warn. I did give Gardner and another reporter copies. I can only hope that they follow up and I made a few suggestions. One, who may use it, is with a paper now owned by the LA Times. I just gave it to him Thursday, by hand, at my press conference that was ruined by a hack used by the local paper in DC and who fairly clearly was fronting for the FBI.

If I have the DeB summary I should have sent it to you. I'll look when I am in the basement, I think later today. If I have it it will be enclosed.

A reporter, perhaps Golz, told me recently that Alvarez is responsible for the delay in making that report, that he is opposing whatever they concluded and seeking to alter it. He cannot be impartial on this and should not have accepted any post.

The record was to me from the CIA, not from DJ, but the CIA apparently used the DJ copy because the 82-46 file is a DJ Criminal Div file. I don't know it either.

If you'd like, prepare a memo ~~XXXX~~ I can use together with what I have with the press, perhaps Gardner, who is kept busy on the Cooke-spy case. He has to be at the Air Force base by 6 a.m. to cover that story. He thus was not at my press conference.

The DeBrueys records were on appeal in C.A. 78-0322 and are only those that were withheld but then approved for disclosure to me.

I've checked. I have your memo of 1967 and your suggested questions and the HSC deB transcript but not the summary. If it is in a large stack of to-be-filed I've added a note to it and when it is filed it will serve to separate the summary for a copy for you. I feel that you ~~lunge~~ with misconceptions about what HSCA was up to and all its people understood.

I can't ask Mark and others to follow up because I don't have time but when I can I intend to with CIA. Another possibility is that they may be making it possible for me to get out what the FBI did to them. I'm not reluctant.

I had the same impression of the deB records. I wonder if the FBI wanted him to have as unclear a recollection as possible.

I suppose but I'm not certain that I've gotten everything I'll be getting from that 82 files. I had not expected it.

They have Golz working State, which means outside of Dallas. I think he told me that he leaves Monday morning and gets back late Friday night. So he did not have the story he wanted to do about the affidavit, of which he ~~was~~ spoke well to me. He has a copy of it and the exhibits and understood he was to let Mary and others know and have copies. Someone from their Washington Bureau was there for part of the press conference but asked no questions. The woman from the Times-Herald did ask for some copies, if I recall correctly.

Having Earl outside of Dallas need not be a conspiracy against the kinds of stories he was writing. Merely that they felt they needed to strengthen State and he is an able reporter.

Something must have appeared there because Marina called me again Friday. I know AP put a story on the wire but I've not seen it. Maybe it appeared out there?

Bud and Jim have been talking to some people on the Hill and have found some interest there. We'll have to wait and see if it means anything.

I think the ref to Cuban principals in graf 4 is to those in the plot, not refugees like Varona, unless he was part of the plot. I don't recall now.

Best wishes,

September 16, 1981

Dear ~~Harold~~ Harold,

Thanks for your note of the 3rd, and for the very interesting batch of documents.

As instructed, I won't let anyone know ~~xx~~ about the records you got from the JD about the acoustics panel - records dated after your request.

Please ~~clarify~~ clarify the status of the other records you sent in the same package. Is it okay for me to circulate the 1962 memo from Sheffield Edwards to RFK? This apparently came from Justice Department file 82-46-5; you ~~xxx~~ noted that it was a referral to the CIA on which the CIA, strangely, did act, and did not withhold, although it could have.

The release of this document is indeed quite strange, and I wouldn't even be certain that it wasn't a mistake. (I noted that the "approved for release" stamp, with the date August 1981, doesn't specify that it was the CIA who released it.) And do you know which of your requests produced this document? The file number 82-46 isn't familiar to me, and I doubt that this would have gotten into a JFK assassination file until 1975 or later. Have you asked for all files relating to the ~~the~~ CIA-Mafia plots?

This is certainly very interesting; perhaps Lardner would be able to do something with it. I would like to circulate it ~~xxx~~ myself, but since it wasn't quite clear which documents your prohibition applied to, I figured I had better check with you first.

Of course, if this document has ~~been~~ been released by mistake, that's a bit of a story in itself. (It's a very famous memo, of course, but I don't recall seeing extensive ~~xxx~~ quotes from it anywhere before - e.g., the Church and HSC reports.)

In terms of substance, what is new and significant is paragraphs 4 and 6. Paragraph 4 indicates that the CIA was getting information from or about the "Cuban principals" (presumably, Varona, and maybe Marita Lorenz) from ~~a~~ good sources, and they ~~were~~ weren't just relying on the direct channel (Rosselli and Trafficante) to keep track of the developments. (This is relevant to the implausible claim in the Frattiano-DeMaris book~~s~~ that the Mafiosi were just pulling a scam on the CIA, and were not pursuing the plot in Cuba.)

Paragraph 6 establishes that there was "reasonable ~~xxx~~ monitoring" of Roselli's ~~activities~~ activities - which I think is new, and relevant ~~for~~ for the same reasons as paragraph 4. Also, it again raises the question of whether the CIA was doing "reasonable monitoring" of Giancana; in which case, the Las Vegas ~~guy~~ guy which got all of this out into the open may not have simply been Giancana keeping an eye on his girlfriend, but the CIA (maybe thru Cain) keeping an eye on Giancana. (The HSC ~~staff~~ staff report is pretty good on all this.)

If the CIA really released paragraphs 4 and 6, with no deletions, on purpose, they are getting ~~xxx~~ soft!

Of course, this document also reminds me that the CIA is still ~~supposed~~ supposed to be ~~a~~ finishing up the review of their last batch of JFK documents. Maybe this one will be among them.

Perhaps you could have Mark or someone ask the CIA for this memo, and ~~xxx~~ see whether ~~you~~ you get a copy with deletions!

The FBI documents on DeBrueys (NO 89-69-4710) were also quite interesting - almost amusing, actually. It looks like poor old DeB was trying to look at his own report on ~~the~~ the FPCC, and nobody bothered to tell him that it had been released (via the Archives) years before, or that the Kaack report was in the 26 volumes. However, maybe they knew that, and DeBrueys wanted to find out what else there was in the files that the HSC would have access to - perhaps, some very sensitive material in the field office files ~~which~~ which we haven't even seen yet, and perhaps ~~just~~ just the backup material in the files, which would have made DeB's testimony quite difficult, if the HSC had been smart enough to get it and use it properly. (Clearly they didn't.)

These documents mention a letter from DeB on 6/12, enclosing a summary of his

HSCA testimony. I have a copy of the transcript, as you know (I may have sent it to you). (That is, I have a transcript for May 3, 1978, which looks like the first recorded session; I don't know of any later one.) I would be interested in DeB's evaluation of the content and direction of that session. As you may recall, I prepared a long list of detailed questions for DeBrueys, with documents - ~~orig~~ originally at the request of Sen. Schweiker's office; later I sent it to the HSC. ~~The~~ About 2 days before DeB's testimony, I got a call - at 6 a.m.! - from some twit at the HSC who wanted a copy of my stuff; he apparently knew of it ~~xxxx~~ but didn't have a copy. They really did a poor job questioning him - they didn't use the relevant documents, and seemed to have only a superficial understanding of what my analysis was all about. (As I recall, they used just of few of my questions.)

Reviewing the documents you sent, I see that (on paper at least) DeB was asking to see the reports on LHO (not the raw files), and ~~xx~~ that the FBI told him that they had been made available to the HSC but couldn't be shown to him - and nobody told him that the report had been ~~published~~ /released!

Anyway, if you can find DeB's summary of his HSC ~~xxxx~~ testimony, or other related documents, I would appreciate copies, if ~~convenient~~ convenient for you.

Regardless of his ~~xx~~ biases, Alvarez is a clever scientist and has been, for years, known for his ~~xx~~ skill in finding errors in other people's work (and his eagerness to ~~xx~~ do so). It's quite proper for a panel like this one to have someone like him on it. What does bother me is that he was initially offered the chair of the ~~xx~~ panel! (Don't even ~~xx~~ hint to anyone that you heard this from me!!) He turned it down - presumably recognizing that it would look bad, and that it would bring him more hassle than he wanted. Anyhow, for anyone in Washington to offer the chair of ~~xxx~~ this panel to someone with a strong prior position on the case really is indefensible; even if there would be no actual~~x~~ conflict of interest, the appearance of a conflict should have been ~~enough~~ enough to ~~xx~~ squelch that suggestion right away.

With best regards,

*Paul*

PLH