



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

June 23, 1978

Mr. Warren C. de Bruys
 4827 Michoud Boulevard
 New Orleans, Louisiana 70129

Dear Warren:

Director Webster has asked me to respond to your letter of June 12, 1978, with enclosure. It was thoughtful of you to write and provide us with the summary of your testimony before the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), as well as your comments on the direction of some of the questions you were asked.

As you may be aware, approximately two years ago, when the HSCA came into existence, the Bureau organized a unit to respond to Committee requests for information from our files. That unit is under my direct supervision, and I can assure you that, in addition to making past and present Bureau employees available for interview or testimony, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding, we have granted access to or delivery of the vast amount of FBI documents appropriately excised as required, which are directly or indirectly related to the assassination of President Kennedy. These documents have included those which pertain to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and other matters you raised.

While I can appreciate your motivation in requesting permission to review certain FBI files, so as to develop a written supplement to your testimony, I must decline permission for such a review at this time. The Committee has assured us that we will be afforded an opportunity to review its report prior to publication. At that time, hopefully, we will be able to clarify misinterpretations of past Bureau efforts, should any arise.

You may also be interested to know that Bureau policy in these matters has been that former and current Bureau employees should appear before the Committee and testify only from their personal recollections and not from any recent review of files conducted for the purpose of refreshing memories.

① New Orleans
 Personal Attention: SAC, New Orleans

SEE NOTE SAC, NEW ORLEANS

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Mr. Warren C. de Brueys

I know you will understand our position in this matter, and, once again, please be assured that we shall continue every effort to ensure that Committee questions with regard to our past efforts will be answered as forthrightly as possible.

Sincerely,

Harold M. Bassett
Assistant Director
Records Management Division

Mr. Warren C. de Bruays

NOTE SAC, NEW ORLEANS: Since former SAC de Bruays may communicate with the NSCA or may testify again, you are requested to utilize a secure means and caution Mr. de Bruays about information he set forth on Page 7, Lines 27 through 32, of the enclosure to his letter to the Director. He may refer to Commission Exhibit 833, Page 5, Volume XVII, of the "Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy," for an example of how this type of information was and should be made public. He erred in stating a source "obtained a copy of a letter" because such a statement tends to signify a sensitive technique. He may have stated that the source provided us information based on statements Oswald made in a letter to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Mr. de Bruays may recall that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee openly furnished copies of Oswald's letters to Federal authorities. In short, while Mr. de Bruays is essentially correct in his statement, the Bureau would request that he express the information differently.

Dum
7/20/78
73

From the desk of:

6/27/78

Warren C. de Brueys

To: James Adams, Associate Director, FBI

Jim,

I fully intended to make you a machine copy of the attached at the time I brought the original to the N.O. FBI Office, but failed to do so.

If you can garner enough time to read the summary of my testimony before the House Sub Committee on the Assassination of JFK, I would appreciate it; however, some of the pertinent problems that may emerge are set forth in the cover letter to the Director.

Hal Bassett responded and I received his letter at home last night, but have not had time to study it. Suffice it to say the Bureau could not authorize my review of the two or three reports I wrote in the N.O. Office in 1963 under the FPCC caption involving Oswald. I'll reply to Hal's letter when I get a chance to study it and business permits.

In the interim, do you feel an official request based on the following special circumstances would be honored. In short, mine is a request distinct from that of a citizen merely asking to see a Bureau report(s), for whatever reason. In my case, denial of a review of those two or three reports I wrote creates a serious inequity in that it precludes a right to answer the Committee's question as to the extent of my investigation not only to protect the Bureau's interest, but mine as well-- for without my recitation of pertinent circumstances and relevant data, accurate perspective by the Committee may be impossible. It simply broadens the base for

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compounding the Committee's misunderstanding, which heightens the potential for faulty analysis and attendant erroneous conclusions, some of which I surmise may have already emerged in the minds of some Committee members.

The second approach, if the above is not persuasive enough, would be to request only summary statistical and analytical infor, ie, The FPCC case on Oswald in the N.O. Div'n. was opened on such and such a date and ruc'd on such and such a date. The For'n Agts. Reg Act Case or "IS-R" case by Milton R. Kaack in the N.O. Office (1963) was opened (date) and ruc'd (date). "X" number of Latin sources were contacted, "x" number of CPUSA infts. contacted, "X" neighbors and business people contacted; radio script obtained and forwarded Bureau; "Post Office" inquiry made, etc.

My main concern, although it would be completely erroneous, is that the Committee, lacking the depth of understanding of Bureau investigative techniques and administrative operations, as well as being completely oblivious to procedures demanded by Major Cases, will lose perspective and make indictments, although wholly without justification, which would scar the Bureau and mar its reputation irrevocably and in the process damage my reputation and that of other agents. It would matter little if their pronouncements could later be shown to be blatantly erroneous. What I'm trying to say, now is the time to act to pre-empt their potential for reaching such a faulty conclusion.

Best wishes,

Warren

Warren C. de Bruys
4827 Michoud Blvd
New Orleans, La. 70129



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 26, 1978

Mr. Warren C. de Bruey
4827 Michoud Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70129

Dear Warren:

Thanks for your note, with enclosure. I regret that the press of business has made it impossible for me to respond earlier.

I have discussed your proposals with Hal and thought you would be interested in knowing that we have had to address the very matter you raise in a response we made to the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) on July 10, 1978. The HSCA had asked that we modify our policy, which prohibits current and former Bureau employees from reviewing files prior to interview by the Committee. Our response, once again, stated flatly that it would not be possible for the Bureau to accede to such a request since it would be impossible for Agents to review sufficient material to cover the broad range of Committee inquiry. We pointed out that the Bureau has made voluminous reports and other documents available to the Committee, which it may certainly utilize to refresh Agents' memories, if it so desires. If we were now to except you for an after-the-fact review of files for the purpose you stated the HSCA would then be in a position to ask that we do so with many other Agents.

As a matter of fact, the reports relating to Oswald and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee made by you and Milton Kaack have been made available to the HSCA. Although we cannot be certain the Committee has reviewed them in detail, our records do show that they have been made available to the Committee and were contained in volumes which were, in fact, reviewed by Committee representatives.

① - New Orleans (Encl)
Personal Attention: SAC, New Orleans

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Mr. Warren C. de Brueys

As Hal mentioned in his letter to you, the HSCA has assured us that we will have an opportunity to review its report prior to publication. We trust that such a review will provide the opportunity to identify and address any matters, should they arise, which are not in consonance with the retrievable, written record of investigation, as we know it.

In order to preserve the integrity of our stated policy in these matters, I must decline permission for you to review any files at this time, and I would ask that you bear with us as we maintain a consistent policy.

I am most appreciative of your concern, which demonstrates the pride we all feel for the many contributions of this Bureau.

Sincerely,

James B. Adams
Associate Director