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HAL VERB
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JAN. 17, 1998

PROF. ED CRAY
10436 KINNARD AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90024

DEAR PROF. CRAY:

IF YOU WILL RECALL I PHONED YOU EARLIER THIS MONTH AND I SAID I WANTED TO WRITE YOU CONCERNING QUESTIONS I HAD ABOUT YOUR BOOK ON EARL WARREN, "CHIEF JUSTICE". MY QUESTIONS DEAL SPECIFICALLY WITH CHAPTER 33, "FACTS SO SIMPLE".

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE I HAVE ENCLOSED A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE AND I DO HOPE THAT YOU CAN REPLY AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

I HAVE ONLY THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK OF YOU AND ALL DEAL WITH PAGE 423 OF CHAPTER 33. THESE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) YOU STATED THAT MR. WARREN, WHILE WALKING THROUGH DEALEY PLAZA, TALKED TO "POLICE OFFICERS" AND "WITNESSES IN THE SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY BUILDING". HAVE YOU ANY INFORMATION AS TO PRECISELY WHO THESE POLICE OFFICERS AND WITNESSES WERE? WAS YOUR INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM AN INTERVIEW, MR. WARREN'S PERSONAL NOTES OR A PARTICULAR DOCUMENT?

(2) WHERE DID YOU DETERMINE THE ESTIMATE OF "SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 8 SECONDS" (FOR THE ASSASSINATION)? IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE WARREN REPORT STATED THAT 5.6 SECONDS WAS THE TOTAL TIME. WHAT SOURCE DID YOU DEPEND UPON FOR YOUR ESTIMATE?

(3) MY FINAL QUERY RELATES TO THE FOOTNOTE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE. WHERE DID YOU OBTAIN THE INFORMATION THAT WARREN BELIEVED THAT THE FIRST SHOT HIT BOTH KENNEDY AND CONNALLY? DID YOU ACQUIRE THIS FROM AN INTERVIEW, MR. WARREN'S PERSONAL NOTES OR A PARTICULAR DOCUMENT?

I DO HOPE THAT I HAVE NOT BURDENED YOU WITH MY QUERIES AND THAT YOU CAN REPLY TO THESE QUESTIONS.

YOURS TRULY,

Hal Verb
HAL VERB

Dear Mr. Verb:

My account of the Kennedy investigation came from interviews of five or more staff people, plus EW, Jr.: Joe Ball, David Belin, W. David Slawson, Arlen Specter et al.

all are archived at UCLA Dept of Special Collections Best, X Cray

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FRANK, J.F. CHEN/CCG - 1/30/98

Flurry of U.S. Schemes to Destroy Castro in '60s

Associated Press

Washington
America's military leaders signed off on a plan in 1963 to provoke Fidel Castro into attacking the United States so that retaliating U.S. forces could squash him "with speed, force and determination," newly declassified records show.

The records were among 600 pages opened at the National Archives by a government agency, the Assassination Records Review Board, to help researchers into John Kennedy's assassination in 1963 explore the possibility of a Cuban connection.

Some Cuban involvement has

been theorized because of slain suspect Lee Harvey Oswald's association with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

"These military records further demonstrate how high on the U.S. government's radar screen getting rid of the Castro government was in the early 1960s," said John Tunheim, a federal judge in Minnesota and the review board's chairman.

The documents showed that in February 1962, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Deputy Defense Secretary Roswell Gilpatric approved a plan to "lure or provoke Castro, or an uncontrollable subordinate, into an overt hostile reaction against the United States."

The attack "would in turn create the justification for the U.S. to not only retaliate but destroy Castro with speed, force and determination," the memo said.

But by the following year, another Pentagon policy paper discussed a new scheme to make it appear that Cuba had attacked a member of the Organization of American States so that the United States could retaliate.

In all, five scenarios were spelled out, foreseeing either real or faked Cuban attacks on a U.S. ally. There is no record that any ever went beyond the drawing board.

The planners got cold feet, the

documents show. They feared that news of their schemes would eventually leak.

"Any of the contrived situations described above are inherently, extremely risky in our democratic system in which security can be maintained, after the fact, with very great difficulty," a memo said.

The documents were the second set about Washington's preoccupation with getting rid of Castro to be made public by the board. Late last year, 1,500 pages showed that military planners had come up with a variety of dirty tricks intended to harass or humiliate Castro.