

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

17 AUG 1979

Jeffrey P. Hoyle
56 Lockwood Circle
Swansea, MA 02777

Dear Mr. Hoyle:

This is in response to your letter of 24 July, in which you asked several questions concerning the alleged "entry" by a CIA officer into a safe belonging to the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

I have been asked to advise you that this matter has been thoroughly investigated. In essence, a CIA officer who had been assigned as a Security Escort to the HSCA staff offices did look through a HSCA notebook containing photographs of the autopsy of former President John F. Kennedy. He did this on at least two occasions when the notebook was left unsecured in the reading room of the HSCA, where he had been sent to control Agency classified material.

The investigation has established that this officer acted on his own out of curiosity, not at the direction of anyone else. Certainly his actions did constitute a serious indiscretion, although they should not be described as "rifling" HSCA files. Immediately after the occurrence of this incident, the Agency asked for, and received the officer's resignation.

With respect to your second question (Were steps taken by the HSCA to authenticate the evidence after they became aware of the entry?), I suggest that this question would be more appropriately directed to:

Stanley Brand
General Counsel
Office of the Clerk
House of Representatives
Room H-105, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Brand has custody of the records of the HSCA, and may be able to answer more fully. As to the allegations of Mr. Groden, the former HSCA consultant whom you quote, to the effect that the photographs themselves are forgeries, I have no way of knowing whether Mr. Groden is right or wrong. I do believe that the Agency has taken appropriate action under the circumstances.

I hope that I have been able to resolve your problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Owens

George W. Owens
Information and Privacy Coordinator