

departments of the United States Government during the course of all prior investigations into those deaths; and whether any evidence or information which was not in the possession of any agency or department of the United States Government investigating either death would have been of assistance to that agency or department, and why such information was not provided to or collected by the appropriate agency or department; and shall make recommendations to the House, if the select committee deems it appropriate, for the amendment of existing legislation or the enactment of new legislation.

The Select Committee identified four main issues to be analyzed to fulfill its legislative mandate. First, who was or were the assassin(s) of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? Second, did the assassin(s) have any aid or assistance either before or after the assassination? Third, did the agencies and departments of the United States Government adequately perform their duties and functions in (a) collecting and sharing information prior to the assassinations, (b) protecting John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. and (c) conducting investigations into each assassination and coordinating the results of those investigations. Fourth, given the evidence the select committee uncovered, was the amendment of existing legislation or the enactment of new legislation appropriate?

## II. Committee Organization

The Committee was composed of twelve members of the House. They were:

	LOUIS STOKES, Ohio, Chairman
RICHARDSON PREYER, North Carolina	SAMUEL L. DEVINE, Ohio
WALTER E. FAUNTROY, District of Columbia	STEWART B. MCKINNEY, Connecticut
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, California	CHARLES THONE, Nebraska
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, Connecticut	HAROLD S. SAWYER, Michigan
HAROLD E. FORD, Tennessee	
FLOYD J. FITZHIAN, Indiana	
ROBERT W. EDGAR, Pennsylvania	

The Committee was divided into two subcommittees, to carry out the investigation of the two major cases within its mandate. Members serving on each of the subcommittees were as follows:

*Subcommittee on the  
Assassination of  
John F. Kennedy*

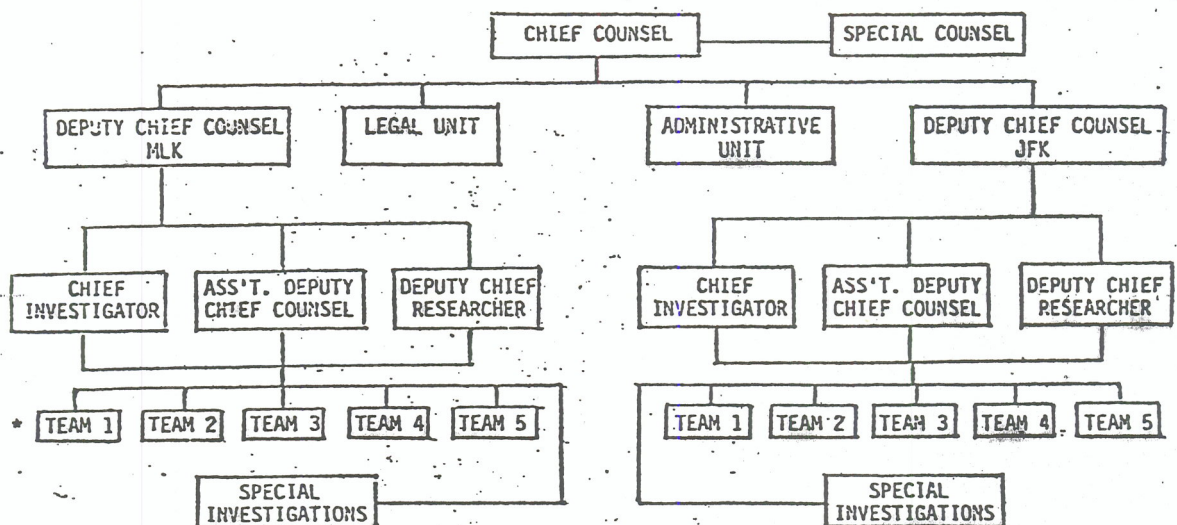
RICHARDSON PREYER, Chairman  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD  
CHARLES THONE  
HAROLD S. SAWYER  
LOUIS STOKES, ex officio  
SAMUEL L. DEVINE, ex officio

*Subcommittee on the  
Assassination of  
Martin Luther King, Jr.*

WALTER E. FAUNTROY, Chairman  
HAROLD E. FORD  
FLOYD J. FITZHIAN  
ROBERT W. EDGAR  
STEWART B. MCKINNEY  
LOUIS STOKES, ex officio  
SAMUEL L. DEVINE, ex officio

### III. Organization of the Staff

The organization of the staff was designed to facilitate the implementation of the investigative plans that had been formulated for each case. The chief counsel, who was appointed on July 1, 1977, headed the entire staff. The substantive investigation was divided into two task forces, one to investigate the death of President Kennedy and another to investigate the death of Dr. King. Each task force was headed by a deputy chief counsel and then further subdivided to focus on particular issues that had been identified. The individual teams on each task force were composed of a combination of attorneys, investigators and researchers that worked together on particular areas or issues. (See the schematic diagram that depicts the fundamental organization of the staff.)



\* Each team was composed of a combination of Attorneys, Investigators and Researchers.

### IV. Make-up of the MLK-JFK Document Systems

As the Committee entered the month of December, 1978, it was in possession of approximately 370 cubic feet of files. The material contained in those files reflected the following categories:

- 1) Classified materials on loan from federal agencies;
- 2) Classified materials from federal agencies where no stipulation of loan was made;
- 3) Unclassified materials from federal agencies;
- 4) Materials generated by Committee staff that had subsequently

- been classified by federal agencies (i.e., document request letters, notes from classified documents);
- 5) Materials on loan from private individuals;
  - 6) Materials generated and acquired by the staff in the course of its investigation, including, but not limited to:
    - a) Interview reports,
    - b) outgoing and incoming correspondence to and from agencies and individuals,
    - c) outside contact reports,
    - d) materials and reports generated by scientific consultants to the Committee, and
    - e) deposition transcripts;
  - 7) Transcripts of Committee open session hearings and meetings; and
  - 8) Transcripts of Committee executive session hearings and meetings.

As noted, many of these materials were loaned to the Committee by federal, state and local governmental agencies, as well as private individuals. Because of their historical significance, the Committee was concerned about the ultimate disposition of these materials once they were returned to their original custodians. Discussions were had with each of the agencies to assure the retention of the affected materials and the Committee requested that wherever possible, they be retained and kept separate within the agency's file. Those discussions resulted in the following disposition:

- 1) The Central Intelligence Agency
  - a. All classified materials (with the exception of Committee interviews, depositions and executive hearing transcripts) were returned to the agency. The agency agreed to store the materials separately from its other files.
- 2) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
  - a. All classified materials were returned to the Bureau. They are to be maintained separately.
- 3) The Dallas Police Department. \*

\* An exception to this category was the dictabelts and tapes of the police department containing the sounds received on the department's police radio on Nov. 22, 1963. These materials were turned over to the Department of Justice

For that reason, all materials relating to these individuals have been placed into a special security system. Included in this system are all investigative files as well as card catalogue references to these sources. Because such contacts were logged into the system as they were incorporated, the Committee's document log has also been placed in the special system.

b) Sensitive Information. Staff reviews of the King Security, and COINTELPRO files have been put into the special system because, in many instances, the materials reviewed are still classified.

c) Immunized Testimony. Complete isolation of testimony received from witnesses to whom the Committee granted so-called "use immunity" during the course of its executive hearings is vital to enable the Government to meet its burden of demonstrating that evidence presented in any future criminal prosecution of such witnesses was not derived from immunized testimony taken by the Committee. For that reason, all immunized testimony taken in executive (closed) session was therefore secured in the special security system.

d) Autopsy Photographs. The Committee has a number of photographs relating to the Kennedy and King autopsies. For reasons of personal privacy, these photographs should not be released.

e) Classified Information. Because the Committee had access to raw intelligence files from the CIA and FBI that were classified (ranging from Confidential to Top Secret), all questioning of present and former CIA and FBI employees based on such materials that was recorded in interview reports, tape recordings, depositions and executive hearings transcripts, was placed in the special security system.

#### IX. Administrative Records

In addition to the investigative records, the material generated by the Committee includes the records of the Chief Clerk's Office, the Budget Office, and the Chief Counsel and Staff Director's office.