

Date: 12/15/98
Page: 1

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : CIA
RECORD NUMBER : 104-10400-10239
RECORD SERIES : JFK
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : RUSS HOLMES WORK FILE

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : CIA
FROM : DCI
TO : HONORABLE NICHOLAS DEB KATZENBACH
TITLE : LETTER: SECURITY CONTROLS OF CIA CORRESPONDENCE.
DATE : 02/24/65
PAGES : 2
SUBJECTS : KATZENBACH, NIC

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTIONS : OPEN IN FULL
CURRENT STATUS : OPEN
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 11/03/98
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : JFK-RH01:F032A 1998.11.03.19:28:13:310102:

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1998

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DD/P. S.-6728

Executive Order

65-660/a

24 FEB 1965

✓ *card*
The Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
The Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Katzenbach:

att
Reference is made to your letter of 8 February 1965 regarding the security controls of CIA correspondence furnished to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

Throughout the existence of the President's Commission, representatives of this Agency were in close contact with Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel, and other members of his staff, including Mr. Howard P. Willens of your Department. Each item of correspondence was carefully examined by Commission attorneys and an agreement was reached with this Agency as to what could be entered into the public record and what should be withheld under rigid security controls. Three criteria were applied in making this determination:

- a) The evidential value of the information;
- b) The protection of sensitive sources and methods of operation;
- c) Possible international ramifications since the bulk of the material was acquired on foreign soil, particularly in Mexico and the U. S. S. R.

In a few instances, the Commission attorneys examined a CIA document, ascertained that only a portion was necessary for their purposes, and authorized submission of a sanitized version that satisfied their needs. Copies of the document as originally submitted were retained by the President's Commission to preserve the integrity of its records.

Warren Commission

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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Our representatives were instructed by me to cooperate fully with the President's Commission and to withhold nothing from its scrutiny. These individuals also were given the utmost latitude to downgrade classifications where this could be accomplished without jeopardizing security or this government's posture abroad. I believe you will find that these instructions were scrupulously observed and that a very close rapport existed between our personnel and staff investigators of the President's Commission.

As a result of the above policy, and continuing coordination with the President's Commission, very few items of CIA correspondence were withheld from the public domain. In no instance did they have a direct bearing on the assassination of President Kennedy. I firmly believe that national security outweighs any other consideration with respect to these documents and request, therefore, that they not be excepted from the normal 75-year disclosure period. When this time elapses, I suggest that another security appraisal be made before they are released to the general public.

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN A. MCCONE

John A. McCone
Director

DDP/SA/CCI:John Mertz:em 16 Feb 65
x-6537

John Mertz

Orig & 1 - Addressee

1 - ER

1 - Signer

1 - DDP

1 - ADDP *withheld*

1 - SA/CCI:Mertz

SIGNATURE RECOMMENDED:

James Angleton

Chief, CI

16 FEB 1965

Richard Helms

Deputy Director for Plans

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