

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM

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FROM : TURNER, STANSFIELD  
TO : STOKES CHAIRMAN  
TITLE : LETTER: I APPRECIATE YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 26TH FOLLOWING  
UP ON OUR  
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A.C. Copy

26 June 78

The Honorable Louis Stokes, Chairman  
Select Committee on Assassinations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I appreciate your letter of June 26th following up on our helpful conversation a few nights before. I must say I am most disappointed at your rejection of my proposal to have Agency personnel of a particular quality interview the personnel from whom you desire information.

As I mentioned at our meeting, it is of great importance to us to preserve the sanctity of our type of relationships with sources of intelligence. The fabric of the human intelligence business is the inviolateness of the privacy of our contacts with such personnel. Once we let this fabric unravel, we may do ourselves irreparable harm.

Beyond this, as I mentioned to you, I am held responsible by, and report to the committees of the Congress, and was confirmed in my position by the United States Senate. I cannot accept it as anything but a slight on my integrity that you would feel that dealing through constituted, duly appointed authorities would involve an impropriety. I sincerely believe that you have no reason to suspect that I would participate in a cover up or in any

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way fail to respond fully to your legitimate needs in this instance. I have gone out of my way to propose measures, which I believe are quite unnecessary, to help still your concerns. Obviously, your lack of confidence in me is too deep-rooted for you to accept my proposals.

I wish it were otherwise. I do want to be cooperative with your committee in every way. There is no question that we can obtain the information that you desire. I stand ready to do that. I cannot in good conscience/and with respect to my obligations under the statutes of the Congress of the United States -- take an action which I believe could compromise an intelligence source and do long-term damage to our Nation's ability to work with similar intelligence services only to relieve the committee of an unfounded suspicion of my corruptibility.

Again, I reaffirm my desire and willingness to obtain for you all the information which you desire in order to conduct your investigation. I stand ready.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER