



TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DA
TO: ER		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS: Please find attached revised version of the Downing letter. Also attached are the previous versions of the letter. Revised pages have been given out to individuals listed on distribution.		
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM RELEASE IN FULL 1999		
FROM: OLC		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55
REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.
(47)

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: Office of Legislative Counsel
7D35 Hq.EXTENSION
9010

NO.

DATE

10 December 1976

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. DDO
7E26 Hq.

2.

3. DDA (Hal Bean)
7D02

4.

5. OGC
7D01 Hq.

6.

7. IG
2E24

8.

✓ 9. ER

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

Attached is a revised letter to Chairman Downing, House Select Committee on Assassinations, concerning the moratorium on the destruction of Agency documents. The prior letter to Chairman Downing on this subject dated 23 November, was returned by the Committee as unacceptable. The main revision in the attached allows the Committee a review of the document disposition lists prior to destruction.

Pat Carpentier
OLC

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL
1999

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERNAL
USE ONLY

UNCLASSIFIED

Washington, D. C. 20505

8 DEC 1976

Honorable Thomas N. Downing, Chairman
Select Committee on Assassinations
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL
1999

Déar Mr. Chairman:

Mr. Lyle Miller, of my staff, has relayed to me the interest of your Chief Counsel, Mr. Richard Sprague, that records related to the investigation of the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. not be destroyed once the "moratorium" on the destruction of Agency records is lifted. Let me assure you that there is no cause for concern.

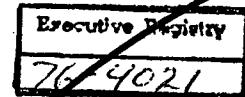
The "moratorium" was imposed on the destruction of CIA records in 1975 during the investigation by the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities and will expire on 10 December 1976. At that time regular document destruction will begin in accordance with records control schedules approved by the Archivist of the United States and subject to review by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. The Agency's policy in regard to the lifting of the destruction "moratorium" and the application of records control schedules to the orderly disposition of Agency records was published in the Federal Register, a copy of which is enclosed.

It is CIA's policy to fully support investigative bodies of the Executive, Legislative, or Judicial Branch, and we will continue to do so. Once the "moratorium" is lifted, we will destroy no materials which would appear to relate to your investigations or be of interest to your Committee. Further, we will make available for your review the lists for disposition of records prepared for the Archivist at the same time these lists are submitted to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Material designated for destruction in the lists will not be destroyed until your Committee notifies the Agency that it has completed its review, and has no objection. To date, 15 lists have been furnished to the Senate Select Committee and they will be made available for your review immediately.

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505



8 DEC 1976

Honorable Thomas N. Downing, Chairman
Select Committee on Assassinations
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Mr. Lyle Miller, of my staff, has relayed to me the interest of your Chief Counsel, Mr. Richard Sprague, that records related to the investigation of the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. not be destroyed once the "moratorium" on the destruction of Agency records is lifted. Let me assure you that there is no cause for concern.

The "moratorium" was imposed on the destruction of CIA records in 1975 during the investigation by the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities and will expire on 10 December 1976. At that time regular document destruction will begin in accordance with records control schedules approved by the Archivist of the United States and subject to review by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. The Agency's policy in regard to the lifting of the destruction "moratorium" and the application of records control schedules to the orderly disposition of Agency records was published in the Federal Register, a copy of which is enclosed.

It is CIA's policy to fully support investigative bodies of the Executive, Legislative, or Judicial Branch, and we will continue to do so. Once the "moratorium" is lifted, we will destroy no materials which would appear to relate to your investigations or be of interest to your Committee. Further, we will make available for your review the lists for disposition of records prepared for the Archivist at the same time these lists are submitted ~~by~~ the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Material designated for destruction in the lists will not be destroyed until your Committee notifies the Agency that it has completed its review. To date, 13 lists have been furnished to the Senate Select Committee and they will be made available for your review immediately.

Has no objection.

This letter (new version) was given to Sprague. It was subsequently revised to reflect changes above and a new version was delivered to Sprague by Mr. Cary.

I assure you that no documents which we are aware of as being related to your investigation will be destroyed.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Bush

George Bush

Enclosure

Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee w/encl.

1 - DCI w/encl. 1 - DDO w/encl.

1 - DDCI wo/encl. 1 - ER - wo/encl.

4 - OLC/Subj. w/encl. 1 - DDA (Hal Bean) w/encl.

1 - OLC/Chrono wo/encl. 1 - OGC w/encl.

OLC:PLC:dla:cra (typed 7 December 1976)

The Director
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

Old version

~~_____~~
Returned by
Sprague, Chief
Conrad

23 November 1976

Honorable Thomas N. Downing, Chairman
Select Committee on Assassinations
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Mr. Lyle Miller, of my staff, has relayed to me the interest of your Chief Counsel, Mr. Richard Sprague, that records of importance in the investigation of the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. not be destroyed once the "moratorium" on the destruction of Agency records is lifted. Let me assure you that there is no cause for concern.

The "moratorium" was imposed on the destruction of CIA records in 1975 during the investigation by the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities and will expire on 10 December 1976. At that time regular document destruction will begin in accordance with records control schedules approved by the Archivist of the United States and subject to review by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Within the next week we will publish in the Federal Register the Agency's policy in regard to the lifting of the destruction "moratorium" and the application of records control schedules to the orderly disposition of Agency records.

It is CIA's policy to fully support investigative bodies of the Executive, Legislative, or Judicial Branch, and we will continue to do so. Once the "moratorium" is lifted, we will destroy no materials relating to on-going Freedom of Information requests, cases subject to litigation, or cases under current investigation. I assure you that no documents which we are aware of as being related to your investigation will be destroyed.

Sincerely,

George Bush