

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1993
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

OLC 76-3724
24 November 1976



MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit of Mr. Richard Sprague, Chief Counsel,
House Select Committee on Assassinations

1. On 24 November 1976, Mr. Richard Sprague and other staffers of the House Select Committee on Assassinations visited Headquarters at my invitation. (See attached schedule.) The session started a bit late and ran until 1800 hours and provided a good basic introduction to the Agency's system for filing and retrieving information.

-- In line with my previous understanding with him, Sprague made it clear in his questions that he didn't want answers involving classified information, as he did not have a security clearance and was not entitled to classified information at this time.

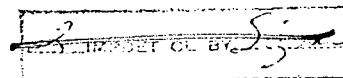
-- Sprague was extremely sympathetic over the drain on our manpower as a result of Freedom of Information Act requests.

-- Sprague is aware of the Task Force review of the extensive LA Division holdings concerning the Castro retaliation theory raised in the Schweiker Report. He does not intend to impose any requirement on this collection until the work of the Task Force is completed. In response to his query as to why we were reviewing this material at this late date, he was informed it was principally to satisfy ourselves as a result of the question raised by the Schweiker Report.

-- Sprague was provided with the DCI letter (attached) to Chairman Thomas N. Downing (D., Va.), House Select Committee on Assassinations, assuring that records of interest to the Committee will be preserved for them and not destroyed. Sprague had some questions with the wording and I suggested he draft a revision of the letter keeping in mind that it should not be so restricting as to impede our efforts in getting on with the routine destruction of documents which the Agency should not hold under the Executive Order.

-- Sprague was provided with a courtesy copy of our Guide to CIA Statutes and Law.

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Schedule for Richard Sprague, Chief Counsel, Richard Feeney,
Executive Assistant, and Donovan Gay, Research Director,
House Select Committee on Assassinations - 24 November 1976 - 2:00 p. m.

- 2:00 - Greet Committee Staffers
- 2:15 - Meet with Bruce Johnson, Information Services Staff - Room 1D-23
- Brief introduction to include an overall perspective
on our files and indices
- Brief demonstration or show and tell of how
the system works
- 3:00 - Meet with Russ Holmes and Bob Wall, CI Staff - Room 3C-28
- Sizing of Oswald/Warren Commission files
- General question/answer period
- 3:30 - Meet with Bill Sturbitts, LA Division - Room 3C-28
- Sizing of LA Division files
- General question/answer period
- 4:00 - Meet with John Hunt, Office of Security - Room GE-31
- Sizing of Security files
- General question/answer period
- 4:30 - Meet with John Waller, Inspector General - Room 2E-24
- Amenities from Mr. Propriety and
sizing of IG files
- General question/answer period
- 4:50 - Meet with Tony Lapham, General Counsel - Room 7D-01
- Amenities from Mr. Legality

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Washington, D.C. 20505

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OLC 76-3402

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

Distribution:

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		1 - Scott Breckinridge

OLC:LIM:ndl (22 Nov 1976)

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- General question/answer period
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- Sizing of LA Division files
- General question/answer period
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22 November 1976

NOTE FOR: Russ Holmes - 2D-4921 Hqs.
& Bob Wall

Earlier we were in telephonic contact with your office to alert you that the Sprague visit has been scheduled for Wednesday, 24 November. We will try to abide by the scheduling, although it is quite likely there will be some slippage and we will try to keep the next office in line informed of this slippage if it turns out to be substantial.



Lyle L. Miller
Deputy Legislative Counsel

Attachment

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