



APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1993
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

Dear _____,

The Agency's records indicate that you have been contacted by representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) in conjunction with the Committee's investigation into the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King.

As part of the Agency's effort to be fully responsive to the Committee's investigation, you were authorized to disclose classified information to Committee representatives. This was possible because of arrangements worked out between the Agency and the Committee whereby the Committee would obtain this information in secure surroundings and handle it properly once it was acquired.

The Committee has indicated that it plans to hold public hearings in conjunction with its investigation. These hearings are to commence this month and stretch over the next several months. The Agency, of course, has no way of knowing whether you will be called to appear during these public hearings.

You are hereby advised that the Agency's agreement with the Committee under which you have been authorized to disclose classified information to Committee representatives does not extend to public circumstances. Consequently, you are not authorized to disclose classified information during any public hearing in which you may be called to appear.

If you are called to appear in these hearings, and if you are asked a question which would require that you disclose classified information, you are entitled to point out this fact to the Committee and indicate that you are not authorized to reveal classified information in public circumstances. You should also indicate to the Committee that you are quite prepared to answer the question in an executive session, and you may request that the Committee convene such a session to hear your response.

If the Committee were to insist upon your testimony at this point, you are entitled to request that the Committee grant you an opportunity to confer with the Director of Central Intelligence before answering the question.

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22278

It is my opinion that the Committee would not continue to insist in the face of these responses from you. However, were it to do so, you must at this point use your own judgment as to how to respond, since your continuing refusal to answer could result in your being found in contempt of Congress.

If you are notified that you are to appear before the Committee in these public hearings, please notify the Agency of this fact promptly. You may do so by making a collect telephone call to the Agency's security duty officer, who can be reached at (703) 351-6161 at any time, day or night. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please indicate that fact to the duty officer, who will arrange for an appropriate Agency officer to return your call.

Yours truly,

7 August 1978

Distribution:

- 1 - Mr. Hitz/OLC
- 1 - Mr. Rininger/OGC
- 2 - SA/DDCI
- 1 - Mr. McMann/DDO
- 1 - Mr. Carpentier/OLC
- 1 - Mr. Blake/DDA
- 1 - Mr. Waller/IG
- 1 - SDB Chron
- 1 - RSG Chron
- 1 - OLC/Subj
- 1 - OLC/Chron

(No OLC No.)

OLC 10-10-78