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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

28 January 1997

Mr. David G. Marwell  
Executive Director  
Assassination Records  
Review Board  
600 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear David:

This is to acknowledge your letter of 3 January 1997 to the Director of Central Intelligence concerning the Assassination Records Review Board's recent formal determinations with respect to CIA Records.

The appropriate Agency components have again reviewed the documents that the Board has decided to release either totally or with some information postponed. While the Agency does not plan to appeal to the President for additional postponements at this time, we ask that the Board reconsider its decisions with respect to six documents. These documents contain information relating to foreign government provided data, foreign liaison relationships, and intelligence sources--information that we believe merits protection under current standards set by the Board. A list of these six documents, together with Agency comments concerning them, is enclosed.

We plan no further action on these documents pending discussion with your staff and review by the Board.

John F. Pereira  
Chief, Historical Review Group

Enclosure

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ENCLOSURE

(We request that this enclosure be returned to CIA once the Review Board has completed its deliberations on the issues discussed below.)

(U) The Central Intelligence Agency requests that the Assassination Records Review Board reconsider its determination on the six documents listed below:

(U) 1. 104-10012-10080 and 104-10009-10224  
(substitute--language for a foreign country document).

(S) The foreign government in question has expressed strong concern about USG and CIA's inability to keep secrets, and current relationships are very tense. If we are required to release the date and/or narrow the geographic choices too closely, the foreign government will be able to identify the document as theirs. Because this document is scheduled for another review in July 1997, we request that the ARRB reconsider the inclusion of the date of the document and designation of the country of origin as "Pacific Rim Country", and accept our originally submitted wording.

(U) 2. 104-10051-10106 (release of location)

(S) We request reconsideration of the release of the location identified in the last three words in the eleventh line, paragraph eight. This CIA base currently is undeclared to the host government.

(U) 3. 104-10055-10072 and 104-10054-10007 (foreign government activity/liaison).

(S) Regarding the release of the reference to the passport camera on page 3, it is not the USG's position to confirm that a foreign government undertakes such activity. In addition this is an on-going operation. Further, releasing the words in question would establish a strong inference that the two Agency officers were permitted by foreign officials to inspect the camera, thus

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tending to confirm the liaison relationship. We request that the last seven words of line four, paragraph "h", be replaced with substitute wording such as "the public security facilities".

(U) 4. 104-10004-10213 (source)

(S) We request that the ARRB reconsider releasing the word "agent" in this context (page 32); suggested substitute, "contact." Nielson was not a paid agent of the REDSKIN project and does not appear to have worked for the Agency in any other capacity. To describe him as a CIA agent could cause danger either to him or his family, especially if they are still in Russia.