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1 May 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting With House Select Committee on Assassinations
(HSCA) - 1 May 1978

1. (S) On 1 May 1978, a meeting was held with HSCA representatives and FBI representatives. Present from the HSCA were: G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director; Bill Triplett, Gaten Fonzi, and Edwin Lopez. Present from the FBI were: Danny Coulson, John Kaul and Jim Freeman. Also present were Norbert Shepanek, O/SA/DO/O; Patrick Carpentier, of OLC, and myself.

2. (S) Mr. Blakey called the meeting to discuss Bernardo de Torres, who is purported to be a potential assassin and who was purported to be in Dealey Plaza on 23 November 1963. De Torres was scheduled to appear in executive session before the HSCA on 2 May 1978. Mr. Blakey opened the meeting criticizing the FBI for not notifying him of their current operational interest in de Torres until 1 May even though de Torres had been subpoenaed for the last 30 days. Mr. Coulson responded that the FBI began an operational relationship with de Torres in January 1976, and he requested that the HSCA not divulge that relationship in its hearings. Prior to 1976, Mr. Coulson, on behalf of the FBI, denied any interest in Bernardo de Torres.

3. (S) Mr. Blakey then turned his attention to the Agency's response to his written request for any and all files on de Torres. Mr. Shepanek pointed out that although there had been an earlier difficulty in locating the 201 on de Torres because of a matronymic/patronymic filing problem, the HSCA had been given access to all files over a month ago. Mr. Shepanek acknowledged that third agency documents were inadvertently left in the file which was provided to HSCA researcher Edwin Lopez. Mr. Lopez took notes upon these documents and submitted his notes for review at which time the error became known. The third agency documents, FBI items, were forwarded to Mr. Coulson on 28 April (Friday) for FBI review and possible release to HSCA. Mr. Coulson acknowledged that he had these materials and hoped to make them available to the Committee at FBI Headquarters immediately following the meeting.

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4. (S) Mr. Blakey, in conclusion, sought a statement from both the FBI and the Agency regarding any relationships with de Torres. The FBI responded that they began an operational relationship in January 1976, continued to have that relationship, and had no other relationship prior to January 1976. Mr. Shepanek indicated that the Agency had a relationship with de Torres during the days of Brigade 2506 and that we had no further relation with him.


RODGER S. GABRIELSON

Distribution:

1 - O/SA/DO/O - Mr. Shepanek