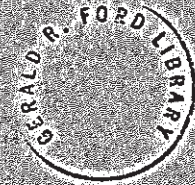


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1975



Dear Mr. Belin:

We have previously discussed interpretation of the President's Executive Order of January 4, 1975, by which he established a Commission on Central Intelligence Agency Activities within the United States, as the specified functions of the Commission may relate to allegations of assassination plots by persons involved with the CIA.

The President on March 17 stated he would determine the best course of action to handle these charges, and he and the Vice President have since discussed whether this Commission may properly under its present authority investigate what may have occurred.

I understand that you have met with the Vice President and the other members of the Commission and that all of you came to the conclusion that, subject to the President's concurrence, you could proceed under your present authority to (1) ascertain whether the charges of assassination plots have a basis in fact and involve unlawful domestic CIA Activities and (2) determine whether existing safeguards would prevent activities of that nature in the future regardless of whether they might involve domestic or foreign conspiracies.

I now wish to confirm the fact that the President has concurred in this approach. Once you complete your investigations in that regard, you should advise the President of the outcome, through me, and then it can be decided whether the subject should eventually be included as an integral part of the Commission's final report or whether it may call for an earlier submission to the President and possible immediate Presidential action.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Mr. David Belin  
Executive Director  
Commission on Central Intelligence  
Activities Within the United States

Rockefeller Commission - Parallel File, b7D, T1 Assassination Materials (2) A-I (P) 2  
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WA: Office of the Counsel to the President (Buchen)  
Letter to David Belin (ex-director of Rockefeller Commission)  
Confirming Pres. Ford approval for Commission to investigate  
assassinations

Mar 3, 1975

Source: Ford