

THE LEGAL ADVISER  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1964

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Dear Mr. Rankin:

I am responding to your letter of March 24, 1964, concerning the Department's contacts with the Secret Service.

The Department's Office of Security is charged with responsibility for continuing liaison with the Secret Service. The Division of Protective Security in this Office maintains continuing contact with the Office of the Chief of the White House Detail and the Office of the Chief of Protective Research of the Secret Service. Enclosed is an internal Departmental memorandum dated December 7, 1960, covering the Division's liaison responsibilities with the Secret Service.

The Division maintains a "crank and threat file" of all letters and other materials received by the Department which contain threats to any Government official. This file is cross-referenced to similar files maintained by the Protective Research Section of the Secret Service.

In addition, all reports from Department posts throughout the world concerning any assassination or attempted assassination of a foreign ruler or other official are delivered immediately upon receipt to the Protective Research Section of the Secret Service. Enclosed with my letter to you of January 16, 1964, were nine such assassination reports. All "crank or threat letters" received by the Department that contain even a remote reference to the President or the White House are also immediately delivered to the Protective Research Section.

Mr. J. Lee Rankin,  
General Counsel,  
President's Commission on the  
Assassination of President Kennedy,  
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.,  
Washington, D. C.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1354

The Protective Security Division in the Department's Office of Security also furnishes, upon request, support to the Secret Service in connection with Presidential trips abroad. This assistance includes assignment of electronic engineers to prevent compromise of discussions of classified information by the President or members of his party at U.S. installations, and arrangements for Marine Guard protection for the classified documents which accompany the President on his trips abroad. The Division has also, on occasion, obtained additional Marine Guard protection for the President's residence abroad. Finally, a copy of every Department telegram relating to a Presidential visit abroad is immediately delivered to the Secret Service upon receipt.

I am enclosing a copy of a lecture concerning Presidential trips, trips by the Secretary of State, and conference security, delivered by Mr. K. Q. Lynch, Chief of the Division of Protective Security. This lecture is included in a manual sent to all Department Security Officers throughout the world. Also enclosed are three Department airmgrams concerning Presidential trips abroad. At the request of the Secret Service, these airmgrams were sent to all diplomatic and consular posts abroad.

The Protective Security Division also works with the Secret Service on security measures relating to every ceremony, dinner or movement, in which the President and the Secretary of State or the President and a visiting dignitary are together. Secret Service agents and agents of the Division conduct a joint survey of the area involved on each such occasion, and on the basis of this survey, agents of the Division are assigned to cover specific spots. In this work the Division and the Secret Service act as a team, but the Service is always in charge of the operations.

The Domestic Operations Division of the Department's Office of Security assists the Chief of the White House Secret Service Detail, upon request, when the President visits State Department buildings in Washington. This assistance generally includes inspection of the areas to be visited by the President, assignment of General Services Administration guards to aid the Secret Service and any other duties that may be requested by the Secret Service. I am enclosing Departmental memoranda dated February 10, 1961, February 20, 1962, May 11, 1962, and August 9, 1962, discussing this function of the Domestic Operations Division.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1354—Continued

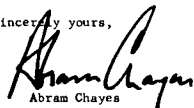
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Finally, I should emphasize that all Office of Security personnel in this country and abroad are instructed to participate in the personal protection of the President only when requested to do so by the Secret Service. They are also instructed to transmit any information which concerns the safety of the President immediately to the Secret Service.

In response to the last paragraph of your letter, we do not have any specific recommendations to make regarding possible improvements in any aspect of Presidential protection. Department officials would be pleased to discuss this matter with you or your representatives, however, if you believe this would be helpful.

Please let me know if we may be of further help in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Abram Chayes

Enclosures:

As stated plus Marine Security  
Guard Handbook (see Chapter VI)

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1354—Continued



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
WASHINGTON 25,


April 24, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel, President's Commission  
on the Assassination of President Kennedy  
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.  
Washington, D.C., 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In response to your letter of March 24, 1964, attached are reports from the three military departments and the Defense Intelligence Agency concerning arrangements for safeguarding the President.

Sincerely yours,



Frank A. Bartimo  
Assistant General Counsel  
(Manpower)

Attachments

1. DIA report 10 Apr 64
2. Army report 17 Apr 64
3. Navy report 17 Apr 64
4. AF Report 16 Apr 64

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1355