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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with HSCA Staff Director G. Robert Blakey

1. I had what seems to have been a satisfactory meeting with Mr. Blakey at his offices Saturday morning, 3 March 1979. The final results will be the proof of how well we communicated, but he seemed cooperative and well disposed to work with us, at least on security matters.

2. I told Mr. Blakey that in recent times there had been heightened concern over publicity concerning Agency activities in Mexico. I recited recent political developments there affecting the Station, including steps concerning the COS because of a campaign against him. I asked if he had been in a position to review some of the recent written comments on draft reports by his staff, in which the question had been raised. He said that he had, and that care had been taken to not even mention CIA presence there. He said that it must be apparent to the reader what is involved, but the final report refers to CIA headquarters receiving certain reports (the October 1963 report of Oswald's contact with the Soviet Embassy was published by the Warren Commission, for example), and to CIA headquarters taking certain actions, but there is no explicit mention of CIA in Mexico. I expressed appreciation for this avoidance of explicit discussion of the Agency's activities in Mexico, and described in general terms the formula that could refer to employees assigned there to the investigation, making it subject to the interpretation that this group was not regularly located there. He feels that the final report will be such that there is nothing -- in his judgment -- that is classified. I said that I could not express an opinion until I had read the draft, but observed that we had offered some approaches in the comments we had submitted to him.

3. We will be reviewing the report Monday. He wants our comments then to result in declassification of the paper -- if some sanitization is necessary, or some formula can bridge any problems, then so much the better. He feels that when it goes to the Committee members, it must be declassified, as once it does go to them, he assumes there may be some publicity.

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4. I said that he is familiar by now with our substantive reservations about presentations in the drafts we had reviewed, and that our emphasis on Monday would be on security considerations. I said that after the Committee has reviewed the paper our next review under the "five day procedure" of our agreement would also, of necessity, concentrate on security. We might have negative reactions to some substantive aspects, and would offer them, but any eventual position on such points would be a later consideration because of the nature of the five day timing problem. He said that if I can meet with him towards the end of next week, on questions of "fact" arising from our Monday review, he would be ready to work on the final draft with us. I said that I would probably come down with Messrs. Holmes and Sturbitts, our best informed members on the Latin American and Oswald aspects of the matter.

5. Mr. Blakey was relaxed and friendly, and seemed very cooperative. He understands that we may miss things in Monday's review, and I told him that we might add points not identified then, when we get the final review. I got the impression -- and he said as much -- that he feels it to his advantage to clarify as many issues as possible, and resolve them, to avoid a confrontation.

6. As we are entering the final phase of this exercise, it may be that there are considerations more important to him than how heavily the report hits at CIA's performance in the Warren Commission inquiry. He said that he thought we would find ourselves a minor part of it all, and that the headlines would address the role of organized crime and the question of the "fourth shot" in Dallas. We shall see.

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