# TOPSECRET!

# OPERATION ZIPPER

22 DEC 1963

Distribution: DCI
JJA
MC

RTC WKH

### Abbreviations used in the ZIPPER Document

AF Abe Fortas, advisor of Lyndon B. Johnson

AFI Air Force One

AG Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy

ARM unidentified

AWD Allen Welsh Dulles, former DCI

BB Binjamin Baumann, Shin Beth (Israel)

D/NSA Director NSA, Gordon Blake

DCI Director of Central Intelligence, John McCone

DD/FBI Deputy Director of Federal Bureau of

Investigation, William Sullivan

JCS
Joint Chiefs of Staff of U.S. Armed Forces

JAM
James Jesus Angleton, CIA Counterintelligence
Code name for Security Service of J.F. Kennedy
MC Marshal Carter, senior officer of CIA, later NSA

MARLINSPIKE Probably a plan designed to draw the United

States into war with Cuba, a strong desire of the

JCS and its Chief. General Lyman Lemnitzer.

Met. Club Metropolitan Club, Washington, D.C.

NSA National Security Agency

OAS Organisation de l'armee secret, Secret Army

Organisation of former French officers who did

not recognize the independence of Algeria.

RFK Roberty F. Kennedy, Attorney General

RTC Robert Trumbull Crowley, CIA Clandestine

Operations

SC Sam Cummings, INTERARMOO
SG Sam Giancana, Chicago Mafia

SIGINT Signal Intelligence

U/C Union Corse, Corsican Mafia

UClub University Club, Washington, D.C.

USMC United States Marine Corps

VP Vice President, Lyndon B. Johnson

WJ Walter Jenkins, advisor of Lyndon B. Johnson

WKH William King Harvey, senior officer CIA

# O P E R A T I O N Z I P P E R CONFERENCE RECORD

#### Table of Contents

Page 2..... Statement of Policy

Page 3.... Statement of Policy

Page 4.... Statement of Policy

Page 5.... Statement of Policy

Page 6.... Statement of Policy

Page 7.... Photographs, JFK

Page 8.... Photographs, JFK

Page 9.... Photographs, JFK

Page 10.... Photographs, JFK

Page 11.... Photographs, JFK

Page 12.... Synopsis of exective meetings and communications

Pages 12-28.Conference record

Pages 29-97. Copies of NSA communications intercepts on RFK

# Summary of Conferences held March-November 1963

Reference: Operation ZIPPER

Date: 22 DEC 63

### Participants:

DCI McCone, James Angleton, Robert Crowley, William Harvey, DD/FBI Sullivan, LtCol Cass, USMC

Distribution as above

### Statement of Policy

- 1. The removal of the President and the Attorney General from their positions because of high treason has been determined.
- 2. By their contacts with top-level intelligence officials of the Soviet Union and the subsequent release by the President and the Attorney General of the highest level security material to a government that stands in direct opposition to the United States, these individuals cannot be permitted to occupy their official positions.
- 3. By treating with the enemy on the Cuban issue and actively blocking legitimate military actions against a Soviet/Cuban armed enemy in close proximity to the United States, these individuals have endangered the people of the United States and permitted enemies of this country to actively place atomic weapons within the reach of many American cities.
- 4. Removal by impeachment or other legal means is considered unfeasible and too protracted.
- 5. Therefore, an alternative solution has been found to effect this removal.
- 6. This removal is the result of a consensus between the various concerned official agencies.

7. This opertation, codenamed ZIPPER, was under the direction of James Angleton of the Agency, assisted by Robert Crowley and William Harvey, also of the Agency. 8. The government departments directly concerned consisted of: a. The Central Intelligence Agency. b. The Federal Bureau of Investigation. c. The Joint Chiefs of Staff. 9. Other government agencies involved but not with specific knowledge were: a. The U.S. Department of the Treasury, Secret Service Division. b. The National Security Agency. c. The Naval Security Group. d. INTERARMOO. e. The U.S. Department of State, Passport Division. 10. Following the removal of the President, the new President, who had been fully briefed prior to the act, agreed in the interest of national concerns" to appoint a special Commission chaired by the Chief Justice, for the purpose of setting public concerns to rest. Mr. Angleton was in complete control of all evidence presented to this Committee and worked closely in conjunction with Mr. Sullivan of the FBI to ensure that nothing was brought before the Committee that it did not want to acknowledge. 11. As both the Vice President and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been slated for replacement by the Kennedy faction, their support for this project was practically guaranteed from the outset. 12. The Vice President came to believe that an attempt would be made on his life at the same time and was greatly concerned for his own safety. 13. As the Vice President and the Director of the FBI were longtime neighbors and very friendly, the Director has repeatedly assured the President that he was not a target and that no shots -3-

were fired at him in Dallas. 14. The President has been reassured but is still considered very leery of any possible such actions being taken against himself or members of his personal family. 15. One of the primary goals of ZIPPER, the removal of the Attorney General, has been discussed repeatedly with the President by the DCI, and the President has agreed to gradually force him out of his position. He has stated, however, that the popularity of the AG is such that this removal must be performed with care. 16. Representative Ford, R, of Michigan, a member of the Commission, is working closely with Director Hoover and reports all incoming information directly to him. 17. Full cooperation with friendly media sources has ensured that the public attention has been drawn to Oswald as the sole killer. The President feels strongly that any attempt to portray Oswald as a tool of the Soviets is liable to create too high a level of international tension" which the President feels, might lead to direct confrontation with the Soviet Union. 18. The President is not receptive to plans of the JCS, supported entirely by the Agency, to eradicate Castro and his Marxist government from Cuba. The President states that war almost occurred as a result of the last military attempt to dislodge the Cuban dictator and he does not wish to replay that aspect of the enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine. 19. The President has indicated, however, that an escalation of U.S. military involvement in French Indo China is not unreasonable. Reports given to him by the Agency as well as the JCS on this subject have been well received. 20. The President's aide, Jenkins, has also supported this idea and the Secretary of Defense has come down strongly in favor of it. 21. The President believes that his occupancy of the White House is due to the death of his predecessor and has a desperate desire to achieve a degree of legitimacy. -422. He has been advised that a war-time President is always assured of reelection (i.e., Wilson, Roosevelt) but only in the event that the war is prosecuted with vigor and has attendant military successes. 23. On a related topic, the French President, DeGaulle, while in Washington for the late President's funeral, held several conferences with the new President as well as other officials to include the Agency. 24. The General stated several times and with some asperity that he had been the object of a number of assassination attempts in the past, some going back to the war, and that he had grown tired of them. He stated that the OAS attempts to shoot him or bomb him had been known to members of the Agency who had, in a least one case, assisted the OAS assassins. 25. The General also stated that he was aware through French intelligence reports, that the assassins of the President were French citizens. 26. Because it is viewed as vital that the French become involved in NATO and to assuage the concerns of the General, guarantees were given both by the President and the DCI that no further actions would be undertaken that could result in an assassination and further, that the United States would actively support French commercial interests in French Indo China in return for French cooperation with NATO. 27. The French President agreed to this but made several oblique threats to the President about his reactions in the event of further Agency meddling in French domestic and foreign policy. 28. The General was reassured repeatedly on these points and is now apparently in agreement with United States aims in Southeast Asia. He made several remarks about the trade in opium in that area being extremely lucrative and stated that he had his own problems with narcotics traffic in the Mediterranean area. 29. It is not believed, and electronic surveillance of the President's lines of communication while in the United States does not support, the possibility that he might have actual knowledge -5-

- of any American involvement, or projected involvement, in this sensitive area.
- 30. Both the Agency and the President feel that the French President has fired a shot across our bows but that these issues have now become resolved. The President feels, however, that the French will hage to be watched carefully in the future and that if American interests become established in French Indo China, we had best consider our own interests at that time.
- 31. In the matter of the Soviet Union, it is evident that they were initially concerned that the removal of Kennedy might be laid at their doorstep. As this was certainly one of the objectives of the Agency as well as the JCS, it has been necessary to repeatedly reassure their leadership that there would be no such intimations in the future and, that in addition, there would be no further attempts to execute any military or overt clandestine operations against either Cuba or its leader, Castro.
- 32. In the matter of the public perception of the Dallas action, extensive use has been made of Agency connections with major American media organs, i.e., The New York Times and the Washington Post. The Times is strongly supporting the Commission and its findings and we are assured that they will continue to do so. The same attitude has been clearly and strongly expressed by the Post.

Synopsis of executive meetings and communications.-

In most cases, the participants listed above were in attendance. In some cases, not noted, one or more of the participants were absent but subsequently fully informed of salient material discussed or were involved by telephonic participation in meetings.

In the following compendium, many meetings, conferences or telephonic communications are not fully covered.

Summary of Conferences held March-November 1963

1 MAR 63

8:30 AM- Noon

Conference with DCI, JJA, RTC. Implementation of ZIPPER. Presentation of RFK intercepts to DCI. Review of investigative data to date. DCI requests more data.

2 MAR 63

9:45 AM- 11:15 AM

Presentation by JJA and RTC to DCI of evidentiary material.

2:00 PM

Request by DCI for interview With Director/FBI

4 MAR 63

8:15 AM 10:00 AM

Conference with DCI, JJA With Director/FBI and DD/FBI Sulivan.

7 MAR 63

8:30 PM- 12:06 AM

Conference with JJA and Sulivan.

# 8 MAR 63

2:02 PM-3:45 PM

Conference with JJA, RTC in re RFK.

4:15 PM- 4:48 PM

Telephone conference JJA DCI concerning above meetings.

### 12 MAR 63

8:30 AM- 9:23 AM

Conference JJA and Sulivan.

1:20 PM- 2:10 PM

Lunch conference with JJA and RTC. Joined by DCI.

### 13 MAR 63

9:10 AM - 9:30 AM

Telephone conference by DCI with Walter Jenkins in re VP. Request for personal interview.

# 14 MAR 63

9:45 AM- 10:23 AM and 3:37 PM- 4:11 PM

Conferences with JJA, Jenkins, RTC and telephone conference with WKH on ZIPPER. Views of VP are discussed. Extreme Caution on part of VP subject of both conferences. Tenative acceptance of basic thrust of ZIPPER. VP to speak with DCI on 15 MAR.

# 15 MAR 63

12:35 PM - 1:43 PM

Luncheon conference with DCI,
Jenkins and A. Fortas, Met Club.
Present: JJA and RTC. Discussion by
VP's aides of two conversations with
DIR/FBI Hoover on ZIPPER. AF requests
copies of telephone intercepts.

16 MAR 63

1:08 PM- 1:16 PM

Telephone conference by RTC with SG in re U/C.

1:24 PM- 2:19 PM

Telephone conference by RTC with JJA in re SG.

2:45 PM- 3:10 PM

Telephone conversation by JJA with DCI in re SG.

3:32 PM-4:50 PM
Telephone conference with WKH
by JJA in re SG.

18 MAR 63

8:44 AM-9:29 AM

Telephone conference by JJA w SC/ INTERARMCO in re weaponry and delivery

3:04 PM-3:30 PM

Telephone conferences with DCI and RTC in re SC analysis.

9:30 PM-11:27 PM

Conference RTC with WJ and AF. Copies of RFK reports for VP.

19 MAR 63

11:45 AM

Telephone report by SG to RTC concerning need for US passports.

20 MAR 63

3:27 PM - 3:39 PM

Telephone conference by RTC with SG in passports Affirmative response.

### 21 MAR 63

11:55 AM-2:37 PM

Lunch meeting with DCI, RTC and JJA. Review of telephone surveillance on RFK. Report by JJA on Soviet Receipts.

# 25 MAR 63

9:45 AM-10:17 PM

Telephone conference with Jenkins in re VP. RTC

#### 28 MAR 63

3:15 PM- 4:25 PM

Conference with DCI and JJA. Coordination of JCS objectives with ZIPPER.

4:45 PM-4:48 PM

Telephone conference with Jenkins in re VP. RTC

4:55 PM-5:01 PM

Telephone conference with DCI on VP. RTC

29 MAR 63

2:35 PM-3:15 PM

Telephone conference with DCI with FBI/Sullivan

6:60 PM-9:55 PM

Conference with RTC and WKH reference logistics of ZIPPER.

#### APRIL

#### 3 APRIL 63

11:08 PM-1:21 AM

Telephone conference between JJA and AMOS Manor, Israel, in re possible cooperation in ZIPPER.

#### 4 APRIL 63

11:31 AM- 1:02 PM

Conference with JJA and RTC in re Manor assistance.

3:35 PM- 4:45 PM

Telephone conference With RTC and SG. Sicilian referral.

5:20 PM- 5:45 PM

Telephone conference RTC, JJA in re SG conference.

### 9 APRIL 63

8:31 AM- 8:45 AM

Telephone conference

JJA with LtCol Cass,
S'Domingo in re Zipper.

Agreement for conference.

9:08 AM- 9:14 AM

Conference with DCI and JJA concerning Cass meeting and SG progress.

10:20 AM- 10:45 AM

Conference with MC, JJA, RTC, WKH in re Cass and SG report.

1:20 PM- 4:35 PM

Conference with MC, WKH in re continuation of RFK surveillance and possibility of additional NSA surveillance of subject.

5:25 PM- 5:50 PM

Telephone conference with RTC and SG in re payments.

6:20 PM - 8:15 PM

Telephone conference with RTC and JJA in re SG payments.

8:30 PM- 9:05 PM

Telephone donference with JJA and MC in re SG payments.

9:30 PM- 10:04 PM

Telephone conference with JJA and RTC in re MC conference.

### 10 APRIL 63

8:24 AM- 9:30 AM

Telephone conference JJA with DCI in re SG payments.

1:45 PM- 1:55 PM

Conference DCI. Payment OK

2:45 PM- 2:50 PM

Conference, JJA, MC in repayments (SG)

3:20 PM-3:45 PM

Telephone conference, JJA and RTC in re payments (SG)

4:40 PM- 4:55 PM

Conference JJA, RTC, WKH in re ZIPPER.

5:10 PM-5:23 PM

Telephone conference RTC with SG in re payments.

### 11 APRIL 63

1:45 PM- 1:56 PM

Telephone conference with Jenkins in re VP. Clarification of DCI memo.

2:30 PM- 2:46 PM

Telephone conference with Pentagon in re Cass meeting.

4:36 PM- 5:15 PM

Meeting JJA and DCI on progress for ZIPPER. No direct contact between DCI and CASS

#### 13 APRIL 63

8:22 PM- 9:07 PM

Telephone conference RTC and SC in re ZIPPER.

#### 14 APRIL 63

9:35 AM- 11:07 AM

Conference with DCI, JJA, WKH.
Reference update with WKH.
Suggestion received from Lemhitzer
ref LtCOL Cass. S'Domingo.

2:35 PM- 3:12 PM

Telephone conference with LtCOL Cass in re ZIPPER.

#### 15 APRIL 63

12:35 PM-2:23 PM

Conference with WKH and RTC concerning weaponry and logistics. INTERARMCO.

5:20 PM-5:45 PM

Telephone conference with Jenkins in re VP. RTC

#### 18 APRIL 63

1:23 PM-1:25 PM

Telephone conference with SC. INTERARMCO.

2:01 PM- 2:05 PM

Telephone contact with SG in Chicago in re RTC meeting. RTC

2:25 PM - 2:31 PM

Telephone conference with JJA concerning SG.

2:33 PM- 2:40 PM

Meeting with DCI in re Chicago. RTC, JJA

#### 19 APRIL 63

Telephone conference with ARM in re LANCER SS protection. JJA

# 23 APRIL 63

Conference with RTC and SG concerning logistics for ZIPPER. Chicago.

# 24 APRIL 63

Conference with RTC and SG concerning logistics for ZIPPER. Chicago.

3:09 PM- 3:33 PM

Telephone conference with JJA and LtCOL Cass in re ZIPPER.

# 30 APRIL 63

9:31 AM- 1:45 PM

Telephone conference with RTC and Jenkins in re VP. Further clarification on post-ZIPPER.

2:20 PM- 5:38 PM

Conference DCI and Sullivan in re contact with Director/FBI. Supply RFK transcripts.

#### MAY

# 2 May 63

1:00 PM- 2:59 PM

Conference with DCI, JJA, RTC, Sullivan in re intercepted phone conversationS from Hickory Hill. Also, intercepted and decoded conversations with Soviet Embassy.

4:09 PM- 4:21 PM

Telephone conversation RTC and SG on Marseilles contacts.

#### 4:30 PM- 5:37 PM

Conference with RTC and JJA concerning SG referrals. Also Mass, sailboat plan. Rejected.

### 5 MAY 63

2:02 PM- 4:45 PM

Telephone conference between JJA, RTC. In re progress on ZIPPER. Subject of discussions.

1. SS Presidential security.

Projected Presidential visists,
 a. Inside US.

b. Outside US.

- 3. Disinformation in reports to White house aimed at disrupting channels of communication.
- 4. Contact with NSA in re blocking of calls transmitting information to Soviet Union.
- 5. Close coordination with JCS concerning military action against Cuba.
- 6. Ascertaining attitude of VP in

re para 5.
7. Communicating compromising material

on President to Soviet Union...loss

of confidence.

8. Information on planned RFK prosecution of VP aides. To discredit VP and give motive for removing from the ticket in

64. Give to AF?

# 6 MAY 63

9:34 AM- 10:21 AM

Conference JJA with DCI in re 5 May conference. Approval noted.

# 11:10 AM- 3:17 PM

Telephone conferences by JJA & RTC with:

a. WJ in re VP

b. JCS in re ZIPPER and plans

c. SG in re team progress

d. SG in re logistics

### 10 MAY 63

Lunch conference
DCI, Sullivan, JJA, RTC, WKH
Discussion of progress of ZIPPER.
Decision to launch disinformation
program in re Soviets.
Decision for dual payments to
UC and to SG.

#### 14 MAY 63

4:45 PM

Report by SC in re weaponry

### 21 MAY 63

3:20 PM- 4:11 PM

Conference DCI, RTC in re NSA communications surveillance.

### 24 MAY 63

2:25 PM

Contact with source on AFI.

3:10 PM

Conference DCI, JJA on subject payment for AFI.

# 25. MAY 63

2:10 PM- 4:43 PM

Conference, UClub, RTC, JJA
WKH with rep Chair/JCS
in re ZIPPER.
Coordination of ZIPPER w. MARLINSTRIKE.

# 27 MAY 63

9:45 AM- 12:00 PM

2:30 PM- 5:52 PM

Conference JJA, RTC in re ZIPPER

28 MAY 63

8:32 AM- 9:01 AM

Telephone conference JJA with LtCOL Cass in re ZIPPER.

11:34 AM- 12:30 PM

Conference JJA, DCI in re NSA transcripts.

31 MAY 63

1:35 PM- 2:50 PM

Conference JJA, AF in re VP Discussion of VP attitudes in re MARLINSTRIKE, ZIPPER.

3:00 PM- 3:21 PM

Telephone conference JJA, JCS in re AF conference.

3:30 PM- 3:34 PM

Telephone conference JJA, DCI in re AF & JCS.

JUNE

3 JUNE 63

2:20 PM - 3:05 PM

Conference with DD Carter and GEN Blake, DIR/NSA concerning ZIPPER.

1. NSA SIGINT surveillance of Cuba, Mexico and Dominican Republic.

2. NSA domestic surveillance.

3. Confirming reports on RFK conversations.

4. TASS communications.

5. Soviet internal communications.

6. White House communications.

### 4 JUNE 63

Lunch conference, DD/MC, JJA, RTC in re Blake position.

### 6 JUNE 63

7:30 PM- 9:20 PM

Conference, JJA, RTC in re NSA intercepts.

### 11 JUNE 63

9:55 AM- 10:02 AM

Telephone conference with AF in re VP. Anxiety.

### 12 JUNE 63

12:30 PM- 12:45 PM

Telephone conference with LtCOL Cass, S'Domingo.

#### 4:11 PM- 4:34 PM

Telephone conference with JJA & A. Manor in re UC team. Union CoRSE (CONSIGN MEST)

### 5:30 PM- 6:45 PM

Telephone conference with JJA & AF in re VP. More reassurance needed.

# 19 JUNE 63

11:35 AM- 12:40 PM

Telephone conference, DD/MC with D/NSA Blake concerning NSA intercepts.

1:45 PM- 1:50 PM

Telephone conference, DD/MC with RTC concerning SG.

# 24 JUNE 63

Report from SG in re weaponry.

5:39 PM- 5:51 PM

Telephone conference, DCI

and JJA, RTC and WKH.

### 25 JUNE 63

Receipt of NSA report.

3:09 PM- 3:30 PM

Telephone conference, WKH with LtCOL Cass, S'Domingo.

#### 26 JUNE 63

9:30 AM- 9:54 AM

Telephone conference. AF to RTC in re VP. Agreement in general.

10:07 AM- 10:09 AM

Telephone conference RTC with DCI in re AF call.

11:30 AM- 11:45 AM

Telephone conference, RTC with Lemnitzer aide in re ZIPPER.

### JULY

# 3 JULY 63

Arrival of B. Baumann from Toronto.

# 4 JULY 63

Receipt of courier reports NSA

7:39 PM- 11:45 PM

Personal interview with JJA, RTC, MC with Baumann.

# 5 JULY 63

Evaluation of AF 1 material by JJA, WKH, RTC

2:33 PM- 3:15 PM

Conference with DCI, JJA on AF 1 findings. Negative.

### 11 JULY 63

Review by JJA on RFK and White House telephone transcripts.

11:00 AM- 12:15 PM

Conference with JJA, MC and RTC in re intercepts.

### 16 JULY 63

10:45 AM - 11:14 AM

Telephone conference with MC and Blake in re NSA intercepts.

1:45 PM- 5:15 PM

Conference with BB, JJA, MC in re ZIPPER and UC team.

### 17 JULY 63

6:30 PM- 11:00 PM

Conference with JJA & BB.

9:45 PM- 10:15 PM

Telephone conference JJA & BB with SC in re weapons.

# 19 JULY 63

7:01 PM- 11:45 PM

Conference with DCI, AWD, MC, JJA, RTC in re ZIPPER. Agreement in principle on all issues.

31 JULY 63

9:40 AM - 10:20 AM

Telephone conference with CHAIR/JCS in re AWD, VP overviews.

11:30 AM- 1:29 PM

Conference, MC, JJA, RTC in re ZIPPER. Transfer operation to WKH

AUGUST

9 AUG 63

1:50 PM- 2:10 PM

Conference, WKH, JJA. Progress Report.

16 AUG 63

7:50 PM- 11:01 PM

Conference, WKA, JJA. Progress Report.

23 AUG 63

8:15 PM- 10:19 PM

Conference, WKH, JJA. Progress Report.

30 AUG 63

7:50 PM- 8:45 PM

Conference, WKH, JJA. Progress Report.

SEPTEMBER

6 SEPT 63

3:19 PM- 5:12 PM

Conference, WKH, MC, JJA. Progress Report.

12 SEPT 63

2:45 PM- 3:18 PM

Conference, WKH, JJA. Progress Report.

20 SEPT 63

10:20 PM- 1:45 AM

Conference, WKH, RTC, MC. Progress Report.

27 SEPT 63

9:30 AM- 10:17 AM

Conference, WKH, DCI, MC, JJA, RTC. Progress Report.

OCTOBER

18 OCT 63

7:45 PM- 11:30 PM

Conference, WKH, JJA. Progress Report. Dallas

24 OCT 63

11:20 AM- 11:22 AM

Telephone conference, SG, JJA in re UC arrival Montreal.

NOVEMBER

1 NOV 63

8:40 PM- 12: PM

Conference, WKH, RTC Progress Report.

14 NOV 63

1:45 PM- 1:56 PM

Telephone conference, WKH, MC in re UC/Dallas.