

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Harbo *RH*  
FROM : I. W. Conrad *JWC*  
SUBJECT: *wa* ~~REQUEST FROM SECRET SERVICE FOR A SEARCH OF~~  
TWO ROOMS IN THE WHITE HOUSE FOR  
RESONANT CAVITY LISTENING DEVICES

DATE: May 8, 1953  
JUNE

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Security Surveys*

My memo to you of 5-6-53 on this subject reported negative results obtained from passive searching of the President's office and cabinet room in the White House on 5-6-53 from about 1 pm to 4:45 pm when those rooms were not in use. [redacted] Secret Service, who made the request, stated that no more passive searching was requested and active searching using transmitters could be started at 10 am 5-9-53 and continue through most of 5-10-53 when those 2 rooms and the study on the 2nd floor would be unused. He subsequently has advised that it will be possible to continue the active searching through Saturday night.

For record purposes it is noted that we have no positive information of any practical cavity operating lower than about 1200 mc. A British unit which was claimed to operate on about 700 mc was tested in this section 5-7-53 and gave no response lower than about 1400 mc. Separate consideration is being given to the British claim. Individual transmitters and the aperiodic receiver covering a range of 250 mc to 3000 mc will be used for the active search and a Bureau copy of the cavity microphone will be used from time to time to check the performance of the search equipment. The men will listen for a short time before turning on each transmitter as a precautionary measure.

[redacted] has advised Mr. Swartz that because of the very high level of information involved, he considers it much more important to remove any microphone than to develop the investigative aspects of who is operating the enemy transmitter used with it. He has further advised that he will work with our men this week-end and that Col. George J. McNally of the Signal Corps, who is in charge of technical security matters in the White House, will also be present. Col. McNally was not present during the passive searching conducted 5-6-53 since only [redacted] was there. *F*

In accordance with your instructions you will be immediately advised if any microphone is found and if none are found you will be advised at appropriate times during the course of the search and at its conclusion.

ACTION

No action is requested since the above is submitted for your information.

RWS:vrh

RECORDED-45  
INDEXED-45  
EX-108

162-97308-22

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ADDENDUM: The original approved request covered only the President's study and his office. [redacted] now has added the cabinet room, and the cabinet room will be covered by us unless otherwise advised.

*JWC*  
IWC:np

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