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## JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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INTERVIEW WITH BRUCE CHEEVER  
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F. 102  
INTERVIEW AND MEETING SUMMARY

Page 1 of 6

**TOP SECRET**

This morning Joe DiGenova and I interviewed Bruce Cheever at the Carroll Arms. We focused on Cheever's tenure as deputy director of Task Force W.

Background:

1938-43	Marine Corps
1943-44	OSS Parachute School
1944-46	Marine Corps
1950-53	Office Police Coordination; headed Plans Section for Western European Division (4-)
1953-56	<del>Chief of Station, Sweden</del>
1956-60	Deputy Chief, European Division
1960-3/62	Headquarters, U. S. European Command (U. S. representative)
3/62-65	Deputy Director: Task Force W
1965-71	<del>Chief of Station, South America</del> 2-12
1971	Retired from Agency
3/64-2/65	Deputy Chief, Special Operations Branch (developing paramilitary capabilities for Agency)

Apparently selected for Task Force W because of extensive paramilitary background. Not sure whether slotted by Harvey or Helms.

Prior to his Task Force W assignment, Harvey was known to Cheever by reputation only. He described Harvey as one of the finest operatives the Agency ever had, citing Harvey's Berlin tunnel.

Cheever understood that Task Force W was Mongoose's instrument to get rid of the Castro regime; that the Cuban operations had White House backing; and that the Agency had been given an operational carte blanche, with the caveat that each operation had to receive explicit SGA approval prior to getting off the drawing board.

Cheever told us: "You don't pull in fast-rising men like [Ted] Schakley unless you have solid backing." Cheever believes that Lansdale was RFK's representative and that Task Force W would not suggest aggressive covert action to the SGA without Lansdale's approval.

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