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23 August 1996

Note For: Fred Wickham, DO
Eleanor Neiman, DO
[redacted] DO/Mexico
[redacted] DO/EA
[redacted] DO/EA
[redacted], OGC

From: J. Barry Harrelson, CSI/HRG

Subject: Meeting with ARRB Staff

1. Thursday afternoon I met with Dave Marwell, Executive Director for the ARRB, and two of his staff, Jeremy Gunn and Mary McAuliffe. I briefed them on the four releases in the Lopez Report and Scelso Testimony that had been identified as potential appeal items, and on the Agency's concerns re the [redacted] documents. I requested that the Board reconsider the release of the statements on Mexico City political action programs, Scelso's comment on Agee, the reference to the [redacted] as a source and [redacted] as site of the Agency's Record Center.

2. Marwell agreed to send a "staff recommendation" to the Board recommending that they delay the release of these four items to hear additional evidence from the Agency. The rest of the Lopez Report and Scelso Testimony would be released on schedule. If the Board accepts the staff's recommendation, the four items will be addressed at the next Washington meeting (27 September). If the Board rejects the staff's recommendation, then we have the option of appealing to the President. Marwell and Gunn seemed confident that the Board would agree to delay the release.

3. Gunn requested that the Agency's additional evidence on these four items (if provided in writing) be to the ARRB staff by 23 September. The Agency can also brief the Board members at the 27 September meeting. As I understand it, DO/Mexico [redacted] will be preparing evidence memos on "political action programs" and [redacted] issues and OGC [redacted] will take the lead on Agee. I will contact the DA/IRO [redacted] on the [redacted] issue.

4. Concerning the [redacted] documents, Marwell agreed to delay Board action until the 16 October meeting. The Agency's proposal on these documents should be sent to the ARRB staff as soon as possible.

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