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Subject: Report on September 18, 1997 JFK Library Visit

I. REVIEW OF CLOSED DEEDED OR UNDEEDED ITEMS ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1997, I VISITED THE JFK LIBRARY AND REVIEWED various records. This is a report on the materials that I reviewed and can serve as the basis for discussion of possible Board action. Although the Board has donor permission to review these materials, because they are not publicly available yet, I will not describe the contents in detail, out of respect for the current wishes of the respective donors. In one instance (Smathers oral history transcript), there may also be classified information contained in the document. I reviewed the following collections of deeded or undeeded personal records: Senator Edward M. Kennedy (undeeded) The records consist of two folders of approximately 30 letters written to Senator Kennedy regarding the assassination. Most of them are from the mid 70's and were written by constituents urging Kennedy to support a new investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. Each letter is accompanied by a form letter response from the Senator. Most of the letters are not particularly important to the JFK Collection. However, there are three letters that were interesting. The first letter of interest is from a William Trantham, P.O. Box 395, 404 West Oak Street, Suite 311, Denton, TX 76201; (817)382-7340. He claims that his father was a Dallas police officer involved in the arrest of three men on the third floor of the Texas School Book Depository minutes after the assassination. The second letter I noted was from an individual who lived in Oak Cliff at the time of the assassination and presents an analysis of Oswald's movements after the assassination, based on the writer's knowledge of the area. The third letter worth mentioning was an April 4, 1975 letter from Bernard Fensterwald urging the Senator to support another assassination investigation. I see no reason why all of these letters should not be opened. Burke Marshall (deeded; closed until 2022) This document is an oral history transcript. There are seven pages with the following four topics: 1. Judicial Appointments This part of the transcript is not relevant to the assassination. 2. Evelyn Lincoln I believe that the historical record would benefit from this section being opened up because of interest in Lincoln's role in certain matters following the assassination. 3. The William Manchester Affair This information should also be opened up, not because the assassination is directly discussed, but because the privacy concerns the Kennedys expressed that are the basis for their desire to keep certain materials closed are articulated and may shed additional light on why the family did not want this information public. 4. Family Control of Assassination Records This section is the most important because Marshall traces the chronology of events surrounding the photos and x-rays and his knowledge of what happened with this material following the assassination. It is not detailed, but does give the perspective of someone who was involved in relevant decisions. It should be opened. Arthur Schlesinger (undeeded) (considering opening these papers) I reviewed Record

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