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BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB
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DisplayDate: 07/01/1998
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Subject: Board Meeting -- Church Committee

Since I will be out on Thursday, I want to summarize the Church Committee issues, which I have discussed with Bob and Michelle. There are 7 Church Committee transcripts that are potentially ready to be voted on by the Board. I think you should quickly look at the few postponements in the Helms, Scelso, and Halley transcripts to see if the Board should consider them (although they are probably green issues). The Angleton postponements are green and not of any consequence to the assassination so you need not review that. The last 3 transcripts -- 2 volumes of Bronson Tweedy and one of JD Eisenhower -- involve issues relating to the Congo, including the Scheider issue. We have no consensus as to how to handle the Congo postponements. On the one hand, they do not relate to the JFK assassination and, thus, may not be worth fighting over. On the other hand, we have made the initial decision to process Church Committee records relating to Lumuba's death and some postponements may be relevant, directly or indirectly, to that story. You should look at the Congo postponements to get a sense of them. Barry will want to discuss the Congo issue with you and Bob on Thursday. On the Scheider issue, Barry will want to have Scheider's friend speak to the Board on his behalf. On the larger Congo issue, Barry wants the Review Board staff to recommend to the Board that they NBR certain covert action issues, including any involving the Congo, that are unrelated to the JFK assassination. Barry will have sample issues/documents. His position is that they have nothing to do with the JFK assassination and that many of these same issues will come up in connection with FRUS declassification. My personal recommendation -- Bob and Michelle may not agree -- is to have the Board consider and vote on the postponements, including the Congo postponements, in the context of the specific records and have the CIA make its arguments (including arguing non-relevance) on those postponements. I personally think the Congo-related postponement in the Eisenhower transcript should be presented to the Board at the next meeting (we have previously delayed a Board decision at Barry's request on the grounds that it is a covert action issue). I suggest we decide what postponements in the Tweedy transcript should be presented to the Board and notify CIA that those will be presented at the next July meeting. This would be my approach.

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