

NR_key_name: 931218602008367C852561CF004228E4

SendTo: CN=David Marwell/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Jeremy Gunn/O=ARRB @ ARRB

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BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB

From: CN=Mary McAuliffe/O=ARRB

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DisplayDate: 06/02/1995

DisplayDate_Time: 10:39:14 AM

ComposedDate: 06/02/1995

ComposedDate_Time: 8:02:38 AM

Subject: State Department records

Yesterday, June 1, BOB SKWIROT and I went over to DOS to review their JFK Assassination records. Nina Northing, of DOS's Freedom of Information, Privacy and Classification Review division, who serves as liaison with ARRB, had all of the postponed records from State's main collection of assassination-related documents ready for us to review. These consisted of the Melvin Belli file (privacy issues) as well as an assortment of foreign policy documents, many of which are either CIA-originated or have been coordinated with CIA and bear CIA redactions. These in turn are scattered and consist largely of presence, low-level liaison, and slug-line issues. It turns out that a number of documents currently listed on ARRB's postponed data base for State were released in full in March 1995. I will check with Steve Tilley to confirm these. There were also two instances where we had RIFs for documents which State did not have. Nina is checking on both of these. Nina then gave us 57 postponed documents to bring back to ARRB, where they now reside in the SKIF and are being logged in to a classified data base (one remaining batch of postponed DOS record will follow, probably next Wednesday, when Nina gets back in town). I signed for each of the 57 transferred documents and have a copy of this receipt. Where should this reside, and are there any other legal loose ends that need to be tied? In addition to reviewing Nina's collection, Bob and I also reviewed DOS collections held separately in Diplomatic Security and the Passport Office. Alice Ritchie, of Diplomatic Security, told us that her office had found nothing to withhold in this collection on its own behalf, but that the FBI, CIA, and Passport Office had all made redactions. Passport withheld virtually everything on privacy grounds, while CIA has withheld field report prefixes and numbers (including MC), evidence and details of presence, and examples of largely low-level liaison. FBI has protected sources, instances of liaison, and examples of DOS cover. It has also redacted what it considers "unrelated material"--that is, anything before the assassination, as well as some stuff following the assassination which is Cuba-related and may have some distant bearing on the assassination question. FBI has also introduced a serious breach of good archival practices by returning to Diplomatic Security complete documents where the referrals originally consisted only of document portions. If this practice stands, it will be difficult or even impossible for future researchers to know in exactly what form State originally received these documents. CIA has completed its referrals to Diplomatic Security, but FBI has not. The Passport Office is also going to take another look at its original decisions (see below). This means that Diplomatic Security still has a number of documents in the referral pipeline. Alice wanted to know whether she should follow through on this process herself, or transfer the entire thing--completed as well as incompleted referred records--to ARRB. Since she seems very much on top of the situation, for which Nina has oversight, I told her to keep everything there until

Body: Record

recstat:

DeliveryPriority: N

DeliveryReport: B

ReturnReceipt:

Categories: