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Subject: FBI Appeal

Phil and I (Jeremy was out of town conducting the Groden deposition) met with representatives of the White House Counsel , the NSC, and the FBI (including Howard Shapiro) to discuss the current appeals filed with the White House by the FBI. Not surprisingly, Steve Neuwirth (White House Counsel's office) made it clear that it would be in everyone's interest if the Board and the bureau could find some way to reach common ground on the disputed issues. He did not receive much encouragement from the Bureau or from me. We all did agree to attempt to clarify what has been a murky State Department position which might result in removing some of the documents from the appeal. During the hour or so that we were there, the FBI was on the receiving end of the most pointed and persistent questions. We had a few, but it was my impression that we made the best case. You won't be surprised to learn that Phil was extremely impressive as an articulate and effective advocate of the Board's position. I will brief you in detail when we meet next week.

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