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Subject: ARRB Meeting with AFIP Compliance Official
MEETING REPORT DOCUMENTS AUTHOR: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 03/17/97 Meeting Logistics Date: 03/11/97 Agency Name: AFIP Attendees: Ron Haron, Doug Horne, and Mike Rhode Topic: ARRB Meeting with AFIP Compliance Official Summary of the Meeting On March 11, 1997, Ron Haron and Doug Horne met with Mike Rhode, the AFIP's designated JFK Act Compliance Official. Mr. Rhode's full time employment at that agency is at AFIP's National Museum of Health and Medicine, where he serves as Archivist at the Otis Archive. Documents pertinent to this meeting were: (1) ARRB's Compliance Program Letter dated December 6, 1996; (2) AFIP's letter response of December 12, 1996 designating Mr. Rhode as AFIP's Agency Compliance Official; and (3) AFIP's Initial Statement of Compliance, dated January 30, 1997, and signed by Mr. Rhode. The contents of AFIP's Initial Statement of Compliance were reviewed, and during that discussion Mr. Rhode reviewed with us the methodologies used for searches conducted to date. Mr. Haron requested that AFIP make the following additional searches:-1963-1964 records for the following AFIP officials: General Blumberg (Director); Major Frank Kiel (Chief of the Forensic Pathology Branch); and Lt. Col. Pierre Finck (Chief, Wound Ballistic Branch).-FOIA Files related to the assassination.-An additional search to determine whether any 1963-64 AFIP records were sent to the Federal Records Center at Suitland. Mr. Haron asked AFIP to explain in their Final Statement of Compliance what steps have been taken to review the Blumberg Papers for additional papers related to the Kennedy assassination (over and above Finck's two reports submitted to Blumberg in 1965, and the Stahl trip report). Mr. Rhode explained that the Forensics division (from 1963) does not exist anymore--that it was dissolved in 1977 and absorbed by the Aerospace Pathology Division, and that its functions were later incorporated into the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner. It is the records of this office which will be searched for potential 1963-4 assassination records from the Forensic Pathology Branch. Additional documents provided to ARRB staff by Mr. Rhode (which will be placed in ARRB's compliance file):-April 9, 1992 ltr from Mike Rhode to Army JAG, Subj: Circumstances of Transmittal of Finck's "Blumberg Report" from the Blumberg Estate to the Otis Archive (and the fact that the Otis Archive will retain the originals);-May 13, 1993 ltr from Mike Rhode to AFIP Legal Counsel, Subj: Transmittal of Photocopies of Blumberg's assassination-related papers to the National Archives in response to the JFK Act;-May 17, 1993 ltr from Col. Armbruster, Director, AFIP, to Army Surgeon General transmitting the same items from Blumberg's estate to the Army Surgeon General that the May 13 ltr transferred to the National Archives;-December 19, 1996 and December 31, 1996 internal memos from Mike Rhode (Designated JFK Act Compliance Official) to various AFIP staff members directing that searches for records be conducted. Since Mr. Rhode had previously

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