AGENCY INFORMATION

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

AGENCY ORIGINATOR: CIA
FROM: THOMAS A. TwETTEN
TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TITLE: MEMO: DECLASSIFICATION OF JFK ASSASSINATION DOCUMENTS
DATE: 04/20/1993
PAGES: 3

SUBJECTS: RESOURCES
PROTECTION
JFK ASSASSINATION

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10331-10039
MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director
FROM: Thomas A. Twetten
       Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT: Declassification of JFK Assassination Documents
REFERENCE: Memorandum from Executive Director, dated 13 April 1993, Same Subject (ER 93-2248)

1. Your referenced memorandum has asked that the Directorate of Operations take steps to speed up the process of reviewing JFK records.

2. I had earlier been made aware of the slow pace of the DO review (the ratio of HRG to DO officers was 10 to 1) and I have taken action to alleviate the resulting backlog. On 12 April, the DO work force reviewing these materials was increased to the full time equivalent of four persons. Barring any unforeseen difficulties, we anticipate that our increased effort will eliminate the 57,000 page backlog before the end of June. The DO officers currently involved in this review can then turn their collective attention to the additional 135,000 pages to be completed by 22 August 1993.

3. I am hopeful that the extra resources will turn the tide. With this in mind, this Directorate will reexamine the progress of the workforce by mid-May and decide on the feasibility of additional help. Because I have detailed these officers to this project from the FOIA effort, you also need to be aware that my FOIA response capability has been severely strained. A decrease in FOIA case output is inevitable, resulting in one Congressionally mandated effort being in competition with another.

4. I believe that the efforts to protect DO sources and methods have been entirely justified thus far, particularly our determination to protect liaison involvement, covert employees' names, sources' identities and locations of stations worldwide. I understand considerable concessions have been made already which depart from the DO's normal withholding criteria, such as the release of many officers' names and the contents of intelligence and operational reporting.
SUBJECT: Declassification of JFK Assassination Documents

5. While the JFK procedures do not set a precedent for current and future FOIA cases, I expect the treatment given to JFK documents will inevitably affect the criteria used in other release projects/investigations in the future. We cannot afford to be imprudent about protecting DO sources and methods in this or any future circumstance.

6. The DO coordination officers have been reminded of their responsibility to be responsive to the letter and the spirit of the JFK Act. They are fully prepared to meet the standard of demonstrating damage to the national security should any withholding be challenged.

Thomas A. Twetten
Tom

I have given Don Cynn a copy of this. He will respond ASAP.

Eudie is not right about some of his criticism. And we will make these points correcting the Eudie paper.

You might remember that Cynn has a plan to pull us on the same level of competence as Historical Staff by June.