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Subject: ARRB Interviewed Carl Belcher
MEETING REPORT DOCUMENTS Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 10/25/96 Meeting Logistics Date: 10/22/96 Agecny Name: Witnesses/Consultants Attendees: Carl Belcher, Jeremy Gunn, Phil Golrick, Doug Horne, Dave Montague Topic: ARRB Interviewed Carl Belcher Summary of the Meeting Carl Belcher, former Head, General Crimes Section, Criminal Division of the Justice Department, visited ARRB October 22, 1996 and was interviewed. The interview was audiotaped, and was approximately 70 or 80 minutes in length. A summary of major findings of the interview follows: -He does remember being present at the inventory and cataloging of JFK autopsy photographs and x-rays which took place on November 1, 1966 at the National Archives; he said he received only short notice, about 30 min or one hour prior to the event, that his attendance was desired. -He said he does not remember who told him to go, or any specific tasking given to him, except that he had a recollection that he was supposed to witness the "validation" of the photographs by persons who had been at the autopsy. -He remembers approximately 3-5 medical persons ("doctors") present, and also remembered that the Deputy Archivist of the United States had been present, but said he could not remember a stenographer having been present. -He remembers general discussions about each photograph by the Bethesda medical personnel, which in some cases included confusion and uncertainty about how to orient certain photos. He remembered remarks by the doctors indicating that they had not seen the photos previously, and them feeling that they should have. He said he did NOT remember any discussion by those viewing the photographs about any photographs being missing from the collection (i.e., photos which they believed to have been taken not being in the collection). -He remembers some kind of labeling of photographs going on, but said he had no recollection of any list or draft report or inventory being written down by anyone in the room. -He said the meeting lasted more than one hour, but probably less than two hours. -At the conclusion of the meeting, he remembered that the Deputy Archivist said someone would have to make a list of everything, and he vaguely remembered a feeling of relief that it would not have to be him, and feeling relieved that his participation was ended. -He said his recollection now is that he only saw Dr. Humes one time, and that this one time was at the inventory (which was held on November 1, 1966). -When shown the draft (unsigned) version of the inventory (MD 12), he said he did not recognize it. -When shown the signed version of the inventory (MD 13), on which 4 signatures dated November 10, 1996 appear, he said he did not recognize it. -When shown the memo for file dated November 22, 1966 which he supposedly wrote (MD 49), he said he did not recognize it and had no memory of writing it. He volunteered that writing such a four-page, single-spaced memo would have required a considerable amount of effort, and he thought he would have
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