

NR_key_name: 58E2BF73333E230D852564450075D375
SendTo: CN=Tim Wray/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Jeremy Gunn/O=ARRB @ ARRB
CopyTo: CN=Joseph Masih/O=ARRB @ ARRB
DisplayBlindCopyTo:
BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB
From: CN=Christopher Barger/O=ARRB
DisplayFromDomain:
DisplayDate: 02/21/1997
DisplayDate_Time: 4:46:52 PM
ComposedDate: 02/21/1997
ComposedDate_Time: 4:26:58 PM
Subject: Joint Staff Records at NARA II

On Friday, February 21, Joe Masih and I went up to review the records stored at NARA. There are approximately 16 boxes full of Joint Staff records; the JS has had a representative review and "flag" records for us, so that we were, in theory, supposed to only have to review approximately 150 of these documents. There are two problems with the review they have done. First, much of the material they flagged seems to have little to do with the assassination. It only fits in general topics we gave them, such as Vietnam or Cuba. It appears to this analyst that the JS reviewers did little more than look for keywords; they used little analysis to determine whether these records were actually relevant. There are items on Vietnam from 1961 and 1965 included in their "flagging" which I do not consider even remotely close to our needs. Joe Masih dismissed approximately 70% of what he reviewed today; I dismissed about 50% as not relevant. More troublesome, however, is what they didn't flag. just out of curiosity, I began looking through the rest of the folders. I found a cable going out from the CJCS to about a dozen naval commands dated November 22, 1963, and stating that "press reports that the President and Governor Connally have been wounded by an assassin in Dallas Texas today. Will update as reports follow. Now is a good time to be on the alert." This cable was not flagged, nor was the follow-up cable announcing the President's death. These are just two examples of what was not flagged; there are several others that are just as egregious. I regretfully submit that, in the light of what they have not flagged for our review, the Joint Staff review cannot be considered sufficient. We should undertake to review all documents in each of the boxes. I do not suggest that there is anything deliberately overlooked or that there was an attempt to distract us; I merely suggest that their search was incomplete and perhaps sloppy, and we must determine whether anything else was missed. This will be time-consuming and tedious, but in the interest of a complete review, we ought to take this step. Steve Tilley was out of his office until just before we left, so we did not have the opportunity to discuss with him our plans for this mass review. It is suggested that we call him as a group on Monday, and explain both what we want to do, and that it would be much easier for us if the documents were transported here to ARRB offices as opposed to NARA. We should ask his input as to what he thinks needs to be done regarding the "originals/photocopies" question. Please let me know your thoughts.

Body:
recstat: Record
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
ReturnReceipt:
Categories: