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Subject: Definition of an Assassination Record Discussion
BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE DEFINITION OF AN ASSASSINATION RECORD(based on review of Board Files, Series 8.1 and Review Board Meeting Minutes)12 July 1994 - Public Meeting The first questions regarding the definition of an "assassination record" are brought up by Mr. Jim Lesar and Mr. Mark Zaid. The Board's position is that the legislation left this definition open until research could be conducted to determine what records should be included. This research will be the first priority of the staff when it is hired. 11 Oct 1994- Public Hearing Based on the legislation, the Board asserts its right to define the term "assassination record". The main purpose of this public meeting is to gather public input on how to define an "assassination record". The public pressure is for as broad a scope as possible. The Board ends the meeting by stating that it is still open to public input for this crucial definition. 14 Nov 1994 - Apparent first draft of memo from T.J. Gunn to David Marwell/Sheryl Walter. Draft of definitions of "assassination record" and "additional information". Contains handwritten comments expressing concern over what Steve Tilley's definition of "assassination record" looks like. Draft does not appear to have been submitted to the Board.18 Nov 1994- Public Hearing The public hearing in Dallas was used to gather more insights into how to define an "assassination record". The level of discussion sunk down to hearing bizarre theories and shifted away from the more relevant discussion conducted at the Oct meeting. Definition of an "assassination record" is still not clarified after this meeting.7 Dec 1994- Memo from Tom Samoluk to David Marwell Memo discusses criteria for relevance and makes case for records being relevant if they add to the public knowledge of the assassination.8 Dec 1994 - Staff Memo to the Board This memo from the staff seems to be based on the Gunn memo from 14 Nov 94, but addresses some broader conceptual issues than the earlier draft, including original vs. copied documents, artifacts, relevance, and definitions. This memo included an addendum which contained lists of additional subjects to look at as relevant.13-14 Dec 1994- Board Meeting Ms. Nesbit from NARA discusses NARA concerns of declaring artifacts to be "assassination records".26 Dec 1994- Faxed Memo Memo from Henry Graf praising the staff work on draft defining "assassination record". Responses from other Board members not in file.10 Jan 1995 - Memo from Sheryl Walter to David Marwell "Assassination record" guidance contains addition not found in earlier drafts that seeks to avoid future problems with agencies attempting to claim portions of responsive records are "not relevant". This memo is subsequently revised on Jan 18, Jan 20, and Jan 26.11 Jan 1995 - Memo from Sheryl Walter to David Marwell Memo discussing NARA concerns over inclusion of artifacts as "assassination records".1 Feb 1995 - Memo from David Marwell to the Board Memo apparently demonstrating that revisions in language regarding artifacts has been amended and
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