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ComposedDate_Time: 8:47:19 AM
Subject: Lady Bird Tapes

To: Tom Samoluk/ARRBcc: Jeremy Gunn/ARRB (bcc: Non-Record/ARRB)From: Irene Marr/ARRBDate: 10/22/97 12:51:48 PMSubject: Lady Bird TapesI just spoke with Tina Houston regarding the tapes. First of all, Lady Bird has signed the deed covering all of her diary materials including the recordings and transcripts. They are now just waiting for John Carlin's signature and then the Library will commence the preservation of the tapes as well as the rest of the processing. Ultimately the material will be available to the public at the LBJ Library. They do have a copy of the tape that was made available to Nightline and Tina offered to send us a copy or, if we prefer, we can wait until they do the processing of all the November and December portions. (The recordings made available to Nightline correspond approximately to pages 3 to 10 of Lady Bird's book.) Tina indicated that they will handle the processing of Mrs. Johnson's tapes in the same way as the LBJ tapes, anything they identify as being assassination related they will add to the JFK collection.I also asked about the remaining LBJ tapes. According to Tina, all recordings belonging to the JFK series have been opened. These were the recordings initially identified as being clearly assassination related. The recordings from the White House series are being reviewed and released on a periodic basis and any references to the assassination are being processed accordingly, i.e. added to the collection. They go through this series chronologically, have completed through August 64 and are currently working on the Sept. - Dec. 64 tapes. When I asked specifically about the Jackie Kennedy conversations, I was surprised to learn that they were still closed with the exception of 2 or 3 which are of Mrs. Kennedy speaking to somebody other than President Johnson. There are another 6 or 8 which remain closed. The Director (Middleton) apparently has not made a final decision on these tapes but Tina reassured me that she was going to discuss it with him. As you probably know, these conversations were all closed out of respect for Mrs. Kennedy's privacy before her death. I had thought the issue with the tapes was resolved along with the letters which are open. I will stay on top of this and inquire again next week if Tina doesn't get back to me before then with a more definite answer. If Middleton still has a problem with releasing the tapes, we will have to discuss how we want to proceed. Also if we want the Nightline tape now, we just need to let her know.

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Categories: