

NR_key_name: 4DE5814529868C2D85256498004629D8

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From: CN=Jeremy Gunn/O=ARRB

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DisplayDate: 05/15/1997

DisplayDate_Time: 8:47:34 AM

ComposedDate: 05/15/1997

ComposedDate_Time: 8:46:22 AM

Subject: Re: Judith Exner

David and I spoke after receiving your initial message. I called Lesar and spoke to him. He said he would talk to her and see if she would like to talk to us. Lesar had a few additional points of relevance.

To: Jeremy Gunn/ARRB, David Marwell/ARRBcc: From: Tom Samoluk/ARRBDate: 05/14/97 03:58:48 PMSubject: Re: Judith Exner

At a minimum, I believe that making contact with her and asking if she has records would be worth the limited time and resources required to take that step. My thoughts on the questions you pose:

1. Why Exner rather than the dozens of other equally viable candidates? I would argue that the foundation for an interview is the apparent HSCA interest in talking to her. I do not know if there is a paper trail in the HSCA files on what they wanted to ask her. Depending on who else is on your list, I believe that the HSCA interest in Exner may set her apart from "other equally viable candidates." Query, would the HSCA have interviewed her if they had more time? Perhaps some sense of the Committee staff's views can be found in the files.
2. What do we think she might contribute to the story? The argument in favor of an interview would be that she could possibly add to the historical record on alleged organized crime links to the Kennedys and assassination plots against Castro. Again, any hints in the HSCA records? One additional point. Information and public appearances from Exner has come in "clumps" (1975 press conference after Church Committee revelations; 1977 publication of her book; 1988 People magazine revelations; 1996-97 Vanity Fair, ABC's "20/20," interview with Hersh). Given this history, her age and poor health, perhaps she is willing to say more to us at this point in her life.

To: Tom Samoluk/ARRBcc: David Marwell/ARRBFrom: Jeremy Gunn/ARRBDate: 05/14/97 01:51:45 PMSubject: Re: Judith Exner

I have no doubt that Exner would be interesting. According to what Lesar said, she probably would be willing to talk to us. My concerns regarding an interview (as opposed to just asking if she has any records) is, essentially, as follows.

Why Exner rather than the dozens of other equally viable candidates? What do we think she might contribute to the story? Let's suppose she fills out the story about being a courier between Giancana and JFK and that she makes her allegations regarding her sexual relations with JFK. Although I don't deny the possible relevancy of this information, I do wonder what we might get that really would be helpful. Although I would enjoy the preparation and the interview, she does seem to me to be somewhat peripheral.

David?

To: Jeremy Gunn/ARRBcc: From: Tom Samoluk/ARRBDate: 05/14/97 11:54:22 AMSubject: Judith Exner

Jeremy: I recently reread the January 1997 Vanity Fair article on Judith Exner. The author writes that: Between 1976 and 1978, the House Select Committee on Assassinations wanted to go to California and talk to Exner secretly. She refused. She asked for an open hearing so that her testimony couldn't be distorted or leaked in selective

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