

June 6, 1997

MEMORANDUM

To: David Marwell, Jeremy Gunn
via: Doug Horne
From: Christopher Barger
Subj.: Army Califano papers Declassification Project

This is a brief synopsis of the three day declassification project recently undertaken by members of the ARRB staff and the Army's designated declassification specialist, Toni Bowie. No recommendations for further action will be made at this time.

Prior to Ms. Bowie's arrival, she was faxed a packet from ARRB which contained the ARCA, with sections 2, 6, and 11 bracketed to highlight for her the intent and scope of the JFK Act. In the cover letter we sent with this package, we explained to her that we were expecting her to identify, in documents with multiple equities, the other agencies for us and also to stamp the records "Army has no objection to release;" in cases where only the Army had an equity in a document, we told her that we expected her to conduct declassification review of those documents in accordance with Section 6. This was also explained in a meeting held with her on June 2 prior to commencement of the three day effort. It is the opinion of this analyst that there was no way Ms. Bowie could have misinterpreted our intent.

Over the course of the three days of this project, Ms. Bowie and ARRB staff members Horne, Barger and Scheinkopf were able to complete review of about 2½ of the six boxes of Califano papers. The results were disappointing. Ms. Bowie declassified only those documents which had a "group four" stamp; that is, documents automatically downgraded and declassified after twelve years. In cases where other agency equities were involved, she did not stamp them "Army has no objection to release," but rather merely wrote "defer to above agencies" on the cover sheet; her justification for this was that it was not Army information that was classified, so she had no authority to "pose objection or not." In instances where Army equities were involved in documents without a group four stamp, she referred them to other components of the Army; for example, INSCOM or DCSOPS. She told us that in her daily duties, she routinely refers material to other components of the Army, and that was what she would do in this case. It is the opinion of this analyst that 90% of the Army equities in the collection will still need to be declassified or stamped "no objection."

e://arrb1/cbarger/wpdocs/bowie.wpd
File No. 4.13.7

On several occasions, ARRB staff attempted to reiterate our position to Ms. Bowie; the following verbatim exchange is indicative of the response we received throughout.

Upon looking at a document originated by the Office of the Secretary of the Army (OSA) which had been flagged for her attention by ARRB staff, Ms. Bowie asked, "Why can't the Joint Staff or OSD (Office of the Secretary of Defense) handle OSA-- they're part of DoD?" Doug Horne responded, "Because they will say that (OSA) is a service secretary-- the Secretary of the Army-- and that therefore that service should declassify the document." Horne made it clear by his expression that he expected Bowie to handle the document. Bowie responded by saying, "Well, they're going to be saying that a lot, as far as I'm concerned." She proceeded to refer the document elsewhere for declassification.

This exercise was helpful only in that it enabled us to get other agency equities identified for about half of the collection. Beyond that, little was accomplished, and as far as Army equities are concerned, we are no better off now than before this exercise commenced. Army equities still remain in this collection which will need to be declassified.

Further strategy for declassification review of the Califano papers should be discussed at a time convenient to all interested parties.