

MEMORANDUM

April 7, 2017

TO: Laura Denk

FROM: Doug Horne

SUBJECT: "NBR" Memo Re: ONI Defector Records

1. Written direction from the CNO to ONI on February 28, 1997, confirmed by subsequent telephonic requests from the Review Board staff in early March of 1997, resulted in ONI informing the ARRB staff in a March 11, 1997 meeting that it had located files on defectors that were responsive to the categories identified in the CNO guidance letter detailing searches desired by the ARRB. In an April, 1997 meeting attended by me, these records were represented as containing information on many defectors from the East to the West, and on a few defectors from the West to the East. The primary focus of discussions at that meeting were on procedures for document review and declassification under JFK Act standards, not upon review of document content. The few documents I did review at that meeting were from the late 1950s and early 1960s, and appeared initially, at least from the standpoint of timeframe, to be relevant, since both the HSCA and Warren Commission had been interested in defectors.

2. Considerable delays were experienced in receipt of these documents on defectors from ONI; they were not transferred to the ARRB until May of 1998, and did not go before a declassification review session until June of 1998. Upon further review in June of 1998, it was determined that all of these records concerned only defectors from the Eastern Bloc to the West, and that only 3 of 8 volumes concern the time period of the late 1950s through the early 1960s. Therefore, I recommend the following:

(1) That volumes 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 (containing material from the 1970s) be declared "NBR:"

(2) That volume 4 and supplemental papers (Minutes of the International Defector Committee), and the alpha

Horne e:\wp-docs\ONINBR.wpd

File: 4.12.3 (ONI)