

**Assassination Records Review Board**  
**600 E Street NW ■ Second Floor ■ Washington, DC 20530**

**MEMORANDUM**

*March 21, 1995*

TO: *The Board*

FROM: *David G. Marwell*  
*Executive Director*

SUBJECT: *JFK Library*

*In preparation for the Board's meeting with the JFK Library management and staff, I paid a preliminary visit on March 1. The following individuals were present at the meeting: Brad Gerratt, Director of the Library, Will Johnson, Chief Archivist, Suzanne Forbes, Archivist (Foreign Policy Materials), Megan Desnoyers, Archivist (Donor Relations), Allen Goodrich, Archivist (Audio Visual Materials) and author of the unfortunate Internet posting, and Steve Tilley.*

*I asked for an explanation of how the library functioned -- the types of records there were housed there and how access to them was regulated. In addition, I requested a review of the procedures employed in the review assassination-related material at the library pursuant to the act.*

There are four types of records at the JFK Library:

- Federal Records
- Records deeded to the Library and controlled by deeds of gift
- Records on Deposit at the Library controlled by deposit agreements
- Records that are "pending" (the term used by the library staff) -- held under courtesy storage, not governed by any formal instrument.

### Review Process

The Library staff conducted a review of all of their holdings for records related to the assassination. The initial list of potential records was created in May of 1992. Visits from Mary Ronan in late 1992 and early 1993 and from Steve Tilley in the summer of 1993 refined the search and resulted in formal guidance on what constituted an assassination record (See Tab \_\_).

As a result of the screening process, \_\_\_ records were released and forwarded to Washington. There were 369 postponements for privacy and national security reasons some of which have since been released. A large number of records were, however, not processed pending clarification and Board action.

### John F. Kennedy Medical Records

Although some of these records were made available to the HSCA for the purpose of authenticating the autopsy photos and x-rays, the library indicated that Burke Marshall would have to "be convinced of the relevance" of our request. According to

Will Johnson, there are additional medical records that were not requested by the HSCA that are arguably not relevant but clearly very private.

### William Manchester Papers

Sheryl's memo deals with the Manchester interviews that are under seal.

It should be noted that the Library is currently in negotiation with Manchester concerning the balance of his records. Manchester is reportedly firmly opposed to any disclosure of his records.

### Theodore White Papers

The Library reports that virtually all of the White papers are open, and the very few that remain closed are not related to the assassination .

### Robert F. Kennedy Papers

The RFK papers are subject to a deposit agreement. Access is regulated by a committee that is chaired by Michael Kennedy, Robert Kennedy's son. The Library has contacted Michael Kennedy and he has reportedly requested that he be able to see "everything" before access is granted to the Board. Some of the material is security classified, and Kennedy reportedly has contacted someone on the NSC in search of information about the Board and its members, and to inquire about getting a clearance.

### Oral Histories

There is an extensive collection of oral histories at the Library

