

MEMORANDUM

March 13, 2017

To: Review Board

From: Jeremy Gunn

Subject: Update on Activities

In David's absence, I thought it might be helpful if I send a brief update on some of the Review Board's business and recent staff activities.

August 28-29 Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for this coming Monday and Tuesday, August 28-29. There will not be an open component to the meeting. The CIA currently is scheduled to provide a short briefing at 10:00 a.m. on some matters related to Cuba. The principal focus of the session will be the continuing review of CIA Mexico City documents. The Board also will be reviewing a few FBI records. As far as we are now aware, all of the Board members will be in attendance.

Status of the FBI's Appeal

As you know, the FBI appealed the Board's decisions on nine of the first ten records. The Bureau's appeal, dated August 8, 1995, was delivered to us on August 9. We were told by Marvin Krislov of the White House that he wanted to have our reply by the morning of August 11 which, with a great deal of effort, we were able to accomplish. Messrs. Krislov and Mikva discussed the appeal and our response before they left for vacation later on the 11th. The issue will next be discussed when Messrs. Mikva and Krislov return on the 30th.

On August 16, 1995, the Bureau submitted a three-page letter answer (signed by Director Freeh). We are now drafting our final response, although we may decide that it might be preferable not to submit it. All of these documents are classified SECRET, and they will be available for the Board's review during the next meeting.

In its memoranda to the President, the FBI argued that the State Department supports its opposition to the release of certain information. In order to address this issue directly, we have arranged for a meeting with the relevant officials at the State Department to ensure that they are aware of the full implications of the statute and of the records that are at issue. That meeting is to be held on August 23. Jack Tunheim, Phil Golrick, and I will be attending.

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Status of CIA Records from August 2-3 Meeting

As the enclosed letter from John Pereira states, the CIA decided not to appeal any of the Board's decisions on the 37 records from the August 2-3 meeting. We see this as a very positive sign of the Agency's efforts to comply with the spirit of the JFK Act. This process is obviously very difficult for the Agency, but they appear to be making a good faith attempt to work with us.

Secret Service

As you are aware, we are very concerned about the status of the Secret Service's compliance with the JFK Act. In response to our letter of August 7 (which was sent to you earlier), the Secret Service requested the opportunity of meeting with us and addressing the issues raised in our letter. David Marwell, Joan Zimmerman, Phil Golrick, and I met with the Secret Service representatives on August 16. Although we continue to be concerned about how the Service is handling the matter, we tried to phrase our response in the most positive manner that we could in order to promote our ultimate goals (keeping records from being destroyed and obtaining access to records). I am enclosing copies of my letters to Messrs. Basham, Personette, and Machado.

Grand Jury Records

We have heard nothing further from the Justice Department or New Orleans regarding the Grand Jury records.

Other Agency Contacts

We have been developing our contacts with the following additional agencies and entities: Customs; State; DEA; Army; Navy; Marines; ATF; Treasury; and Justice. We will advise you further when there is useful information to report.

Public Relations Issues: COPA

COPA held a Board meeting by telephone conference call last week to discuss the Board's postponements of CIA records and the FBI appeal. As soon as we heard about the planned meeting, I drafted a letter (for Jack's signature) that outlined the reasons for the Board's voting for postponements. A copy of the letter was faxed to you. We hoped that the letter would explain in comprehensible terms what the Board is doing. The responses we have received to the letter have been very positive. Copies have also been sent out to our regular

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mailing list. Fortunately, COPA is now devoting its principal energies to lobbying the President on behalf of the Board rather than attacking the Board for the withholding of information.

I will be vacationing on Campobello Island next week (the reservations were set before the Board's schedule was established). I look forward to seeing you in September.