

MEMORANDUM

December 12, 1997

To: Review Board
From: T. Jeremy Gunn
Subject: Update on Miscellaneous Issues

Anna sent a memo yesterday that I had not had the opportunity to review as of the time of our conference call. She raised some important questions and issues, and I thought it might be useful if all Board members receive the answers.

Issue 1. Ben Bradlee, Jr. papers in the JFK Library.

A few years ago, when Bradlee Jr. worked for the *Boston Globe*, he interviewed some of the medical people who had been involved in the treatment and autopsy of President Kennedy. He made tape recordings of some of his interviews. He donated his papers to the JFK Library. Anna asked whether we had checked on these papers. We in fact were aware of the papers in 1994 and asked the JFK Library to make sure that copies were sent to Steve Tilley. This has been done and the papers and recordings are open-in-full in the JFK Collection.

Issue 2. Nosenko references in Mangold's *Cold Warrior*.

Anna sent us photocopies of pages from *Cold Warrior* describing Nosenko's information about Oswald and urged us to pursue the types of references made by Mangold. We can assure you that *all* references to Oswald and the assassination in the Nosenko records *have already been transferred* (in redacted form) to the JFK Collection. The redactions in these records are slated for Board review this winter. The "NBR" Nosenko records are records that do not relate directly to the assassination. I can assure you that the staff is very much aware of the types of references to Nosenko-assassination issues that appear in Mangold and the many other books on Nosenko and the staff is fully committed to ensuring that all such records be in the Archives.

Issue 3. Staff understanding and application of Board Guidelines.

Anna raised a question about the extent to which the newer staff members are aware of Board guidelines and has expressed concern that, since the new staff members did not witness the

deliberative process by which policies were developed, they may not fully understand the Board's guidelines. We have made an effort to develop within the newer staff members a historical understanding of the process by which the guidelines were established. In applying Board guidelines, the newer staff members routinely confer with Bob -- who has been here from the beginning -- concerning even minor questions about particular redactions.

At this point, the newer staff members know that if there is any question about a redaction or a Board policy, they should raise the issue either with Bob or me. We have used Anna's memo as a basis for reminding them of the guidelines and of the necessity of continued diligence in the application of those guidelines. Board members are encouraged to review the records and the staff's applications of the guidelines any time they wish.

Issue 4. Mrs. JFK recordings in the LBJ Library.

Anna requested an update on where the LBJ Library is in releasing the "Jackie" recordings in the LBJ tapes. Our last contact on this issue with the LBJ Library was on November 25, in a conversation between Irene Marr and Tina Houston. Irene reminded Tina that this issue had been raised in our most recent (and comprehensive) status letter to the LBJ Library. Tina reported that Harry Middleton had still not decided. Irene advised that the Board would be likely to open up the tapes and that it might be better for the LBJ Library to do it on its own. Given our recent contacts on this issue, it seems to me inadvisable to do anything further at this time. The LBJ Library is well aware of our longstanding and continuing interest in this matter.