

MEMORANDUM

November 7, 1996

To: Board Members

cc: David G. Marwell

From: T. Jeremy Gunn

Subject: Update on William Manchester's *Death of A President* Records

In July I spoke to William Manchester by telephone about our obtaining access to his *Death of A President* papers (except the Robert and Jacqueline interviews) at the Kennedy Library. He told me that he had "no objection whatsoever" to our examining the papers at the library. Shortly thereafter, we received a letter from Brad Garrett, saying that Mr. Manchester did indeed object to our seeing the papers. In August, we sent another letter to the JFK Library that recounted the entire history of the affair, included another written request for access to the records, and said that we would, by virtue of the powers of the JFK Act, expect to have access to the papers by September 16.

Last week, Amy Krupske of the NARA General Counsel's office spoke with Mr. Manchester's attorney, Joseph Lynch, who told her that "Manchester will fight this to the end." I thereupon sent a copy of the attached letter to Amy.

Subsequently, I had a very pleasant conversation with Mr. Lynch, and explained the Board's interest in the records and how I believed it was in everyone's interest to cooperate. Mr. Lynch said he would talk to Mr. Manchester and then get back in touch with me. I expect to hear from him shortly.