

Dear Will:

I am writing in regard to our upcoming review of records at the JFK Library during the week of June 17. As you know, representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department will be at the Library concurrently to review Cuba-related records. It is our hope that we will be able to arrange for the declassification of a significant number of documents.

We hope to make the week as productive as possible. In order to facilitate that end, I thought that it might be helpful for you if I were to describe, in writing, our plans as we now foresee them. We have three concurrent goals: *first*, having the CIA and State Department review and declassify Cuban-related materials; *second*, identifying all records at the JFK Library that are “assassination records” that have not previously been designated (all such records *must* be processed under the JFK Act); and *third*, identifying any other records at the Library that would enhance and broaden the historical understanding of the assassination (which would not necessarily need to be processed under the JFK Act).¹

Tentative Plans:

Phase I: Monday

ARRB. Mary McAulliffe and I will arrive mid-morning to lay the foundation for the ARRB staff review. We can meet with you, Stephanie, and others and establish the procedures to be followed. To the extent that time permits, we will begin our review as described below in Phase II.

CIA. It is our understanding that the CIA reviewers will arrive mid-morning and begin their declassification review of all classified NSF and POFCuba files. It is our understanding that the Cuba files are found principally in NSF Boxes 35-64 and POF Boxes 41, 98, 114a-115

Phase II: Tuesday through Thursday (or Friday)

¹We are very interested in receiving your own suggestions as to how we might best approach our tasks of identifying “assassination records” throughout the Library’s collection and to arrange for declassification of records that currently are national security classified. The types of records would include materials such as audiotapes that make reference to the assassination of President Diem or to President Kennedy’s plans related to Vietnam (particularly the October 2, 1963 tapes).

ARRB. Three additional members of the ARRB Staff will arrive Tuesday morning.

Some will begin review of RFK boxes searching for three categories of records: *first*, Cuba records (which will in turn be passed on to CIA, State, and DOD reviewers); *second*, records clearly identifiable as "assassination records"; and *third*, records that will enhance and broaden the historical understanding of the assassination and that *might be* "assassination records." (All records that are identified as "assassination records" will need to be processed under the JFK Act.) Our goal with the other categories of records is to have discussions (where appropriate) with the concerned agencies regarding the possibility of declassification.

Others will begin review of the donor collections that I previously identified in my December 4, 1995 letter and that we discussed on my previous visit to the Library (with appropriate modifications). In addition to these collections, we would appreciate your suggestions as to any additional collections or records that we should be reviewing in order to insure that all assassination records have been identified.

ARRB staff will review the NSF and POF Cuba files after declassification to ensure: (a) all assassination records have been identified, and (b) that all information that illuminates the historical context of the assassination has been declassified.

CIA and State. Continued review of NSF files and beginning review of RFK Cuba files.

Phase III: Thursday and Friday?

ARRB. Review of additional NSF and POF files that may be of interest, particularly Vietnam (approximately July 1963-November 1963). (Under current plans, CIA will presumably *not* be reviewing these documents during this week.

Priority Number 1: Declassification review by CIA and State of Cuba-related records.

Priority Number 2: ARRB staff review of as much of the Library's non-public holdings as possible to identify assassination records and records that would enhance public understanding of the assassination

Subpriority 1

Priority Number 3 (to the extent reasonable and practical):

Classified and closed Cuba files [we will be reviewing only those records that are not fully available to the public. To the extent any of the records identified below are already open, we are not requesting access to them at this time.]

POF

NSF

WHCF

WHSF

Presidential Recordings

Other Collections

Oral Histories

To be reviewed initially by CIA

NSF Boxes 35-64, 184

To be reviewed initially by ARRB First Priority

POF boxes 41, 98, 114a-115

RFK/AG boxes 14

WHCF 46-52, 79, 90, 92, 228, 234, 237, 240, 451, 452, 569, 637, 638, 662A, 667, 815, 918, 924

Schlesinger WH 5-6, 31-33

Sorenson Papers box 48-49

Presidential Recordings 10/16/62, 10/27/62

To be Reviewed by ARRB (second priority, and in order of importance)

NSF 198-202, 204 (Vietnam)

NSF 27-35 (Congo)

NSF 130-138 (Laos)

NSF 236-37 (President' Trip to Mexico)

NSF 242 (Vice President's Trip to South Asia)

Other Closed files to be reviewed initially by ARRB

Other ARRB review of finding aids