

## MEMORANDUM

June 20, 1996

To: David G. Marwell

cc: Mary S. McAuliffe

From: T. Jeremy Gunn

Subject: JFK Library Visit

Mary and I arrived at the JFK Library on Monday, June 17, and were joined by Barry Harrelson of the CIA. Five additional CIA reviewers, all of whom had declassification authority, arrived later that day, as did Nina Noring from the State Department. Four ARRB staff analysts arrived the following day. The JFK Library set aside a large conference room for us to work in, and made several library staff members available for our work. There was a very high degree of cooperation among all of the participants and I am very pleased about how the work was proceeding at the time of my departure (Wednesday afternoon). The JFK Library repeatedly stated how pleased they were that this massive declassification effort is underway and how much they are looking forward to making the records available to the public. Mary and the CIA team along with the CIA reviewers and Nina Noring will be at the Library through Friday. Stewart Aly of the Department of Defense arrived today (Thursday) and will also stay through tomorrow.

### *Phase One: White House Cuba Records*

The CIA has agreed to review all of the White House records on Cuba that are national security classified. We estimate that there are approximately 30 archival boxes of such records (most of which pertain to the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis). By our agreement, they are conducting this review prior to any determination that we might make whether they are assassination records. It now appears that CIA will be able to complete this phase of the project by tomorrow morning. Nina Noring is reviewing the same records and declassifying them. Because she is by herself, she probably will not be able to complete her portion of the review.

Once CIA and State complete their review of these records, our staff will be reviewing them for the purpose of identifying assassination records and for determining whether any of the redacted portions contain any information that would "enhance the historical understanding" of the assassination. Mary reports that the CIA is releasing virtually all of the records -- even though very few have any

immediate relevance to the assassination. I believe that releasing this large block of records should constitute a significant contribution to the historical record of the Kennedy Administration.

*Phase Two: RFK Records*

While the CIA was beginning its review of White House records, the Review Board staff began its comprehensive review of the RFK papers. During our review we sought out (a) assassination records (which we designated as such); (b) records that *might* “enhance the historical understanding” of the assassination; and (c) records related to Cuba. We have completed this process. The JFK Library will be sending these records on to agencies for declassification.

*Phase Three: Other Collections*

We have identified approximately 40 other collections at the JFK Library that contain closed records that *may* relate to the assassination. We are identifying such records along the same terms as those in the RFK papers. The staff is now in the midst of its review of these records. Although I do not expect that this review will be completed by Friday, we are making substantial progress.

*Summary and Conclusion*

I am very pleased by the cooperation that we received from all parties. Although I do not anticipate that a great number of “assassination records” will be identified beyond those that previously were designated by the Library, we have made substantial inroads in obtaining the release of Cuba-related documents and have been conducting a much more comprehensive review than previously was done by the JFK Library.