

Postponement Identification Numbers
Research and Analysis Handout
August 29, 1997

Postponements are identified on the Record Identification Forms (RIFs) and in the ARRB computers in one of two ways. First, they may be identified by reference to the relevant JFK Act Section number. (*E.g.*, the most common CIA postponements refer to JFK Act sections 1a and 1b, while the most common FBI postponements are to sections 1b and 4). Second, they may appear as a unique binary-code number that has been assigned for each type of possible postponement.¹

Although in the ordinary course of your work you will not need to know which binary-code numbers refer to which postponements, there will be occasions when understanding this system will be of value. The purpose for assigning the number is to allow not only for each individual postponement to have a unique number, but to assign a unique number to each possible combination of postponements. (*E.g.*, the specific combination of postponement numbers 2 and 32 is assigned the unique number 34. Some binary-code numbers include as many as five digits.) Assigning unique numbers to all possible combinations of postponements greatly facilitates computer identification of postponements and assists us with our computer-generated statistical analysis.

This handout is a reference sheet that correlates JFK Act section numbers to the unique ARRB postponement numbers and to selected combinations of postponements. It also references relevant statutory language that may be of assistance when evaluating postponements. A more comprehensive identification of the unique postponement numbers is attached.

¹When the binary-code number appears on the RIF, it appears on the “restrictions field.” The FBI now writes the JFK Act section (*e.g.*, 1b, 1c, 4) in the margin of the document to show which section it believes serves as grounds for its proposed postponements.

<u>Five Digit No.</u>	<u>JFK Act Sect.</u>	<u>Subject/ Statutory language</u>
1	1a	<p>Agent (typically an employee of an intelligence agency or a person with a clandestine contractual relationship with an intelligence agency)</p> <p>Record reveals an intelligence agent currently requiring protection</p> <p>AND disclosure of the record threatens: (i) national defense; (ii) intelligence operations; or (iii) the foreign relations of the United States</p> <p>AND the threat to national security is sufficiently grave so as to outweigh the public interest in disclosure.</p>
2	1b	<p>Sources or Methods</p> <p>Record discloses a source or method that is or could be utilized by the U.S. government</p> <p>AND the source or method has not been officially disclosed</p> <p>AND the disclosure of the source or method would threaten: (i) national defense; (ii) intelligence operations; OR (iii) foreign relations</p> <p>AND the threat to national security is sufficiently grave so as to outweigh the public interest in disclosure.</p>
4	1c	<p>Other National Security</p> <p>Disclosure of the record would reveal any other matter that would demonstrably impair national security (including the national defense, intelligence operations, or foreign relations)</p> <p>AND the threat to national security is sufficiently grave to outweigh the public interest in disclosure.</p>
8	2	<p>Confidential Informant</p> <p>Record discloses the name or identity of a living person</p> <p>AND the person provided confidential information to the United States</p>

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AND disclosure of the information poses a **substantial risk of harm**

AND the substantial risk of harm would be inflicted **on the person who disclosed the information.**

16 3 Invasion of Privacy

Disclosure of the record would constitute an **unwarranted** invasion of privacy

AND the invasion of privacy is **so substantial** that it **outweighs the public interest** .

32 4 Understanding of Confidentiality

Disclosure would compromise **an understanding of confidentiality**

AND that understanding **currently** requires protection

AND that understanding is between a **government agent AND** a cooperating **individual OR** a **foreign government**

AND public disclosure would be **so harmful** that it **outweighs the public interest** in disclosure.

64 5 Protection of Government Officials

Disclosure of the record would reveal a **protective procedure** that is **currently used** OR that **reasonably could be expected to be used** by the Secret Service or another government **agency responsible for protecting government officials**

AND the disclosure would be **so harmful** that it **outweighs the public interest.**

32768 10a2 Grand Jury information

1024 11a IRS records restriction

Five Digit No.	JFK Act Sect.	Subject/ Statutory language
128		Donor restriction
256		Referred to third agencies
308		Combination of 1b and 1c
512		Open in full
1024	11a	IRS records restriction
2048		NBR (not believed relevant)
32768	10a2	Grand Jury information