

MEMORANDUM

February 26, 1997

To: File

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: ARRB Letter of February 11, 1997 to USSS

On February 25, 1997, Cathy Rodriguez gave me an FYI copy of this letter. I am writing to clarify some issues pertaining to this letter.

I had written a draft letter responding to Jane Vezeris's letter of December 20, 1997, regarding the protective surveys designated assassination records by the Review Board. My approach was to account for all records in which the Service was taking postponements and list other sources where the postponed material was already open. Such an approach has forestalled Service appeals in the past.

At a meeting that included Jeremy, me, and David on January 22, 1997, Jeremy suggested that he should compose a letter regarding the protective surveys to Vezeris. The problem he addressed pertained to the need to prepare RIFs for these documents. Jeremy circulated drafts of his letter to David and to me. I suggested that the protective surveys would be more accessible to researchers if the RIFs reflected the Secret Service's "154" number and if these postponed documents were in sequence with the rest of the non-postponed protective surveys. The best way to proceed would be, in my view, for the Service to create the RIFs. David agreed with my suggestion that the deal Jeremy proposed in his letter should clarify that if the Service wished to continue with its postponements, the Service should create *all* of the RIFs for *all* of the protective surveys. At the end of the day, Jeremy changed the wording I had suggested, and which David had approved, to the wording as it now appears in this letter. The Service's obligation for preparing RIFs is now unclear. We are still waiting for their reply and/or request for clarification. As Jeremy's letter now has it, the Service could interpret his language to suggest that the Service would only be responsible for the protective surveys in which they have requested postponements. That seems to me to be a pretty weak suggestion on our part.

A second issue pertaining to this letter is the document summary now attached to it. Cathy had not been including document summaries on the FYI copies I requested in January and February. In fact, I had not even been receiving FYI copies. Last week, some of this was clarified for Cathy by Tracy. I had asked that I always receive document summaries and that I receive the FYI copy as soon as the letter is prepared to go out. The document summary now attached to the February 11, 1997 letter is not the correct summary. The summary attached to this letter is for an SS-12 draft that I wrote at

David's request. He wanted inventories. I did not think this request would produce much, but David thought it important to ask. So I wrote SS-12, and David added information that he had in mind.

In fact, Jeremy wrote the bulk of the letter dated February 11, 1997 to Jane Vezeris. My suggestion was eliminated without my knowledge before the letter went out. I did not see Jeremy's unfortunate change in the language of the letter until after it had gone out. What irony that my name should be attached to this letter as its author.

4.5.2.9 my file