

## MEMORANDUM

January 15, 1998

To: Carol Keeley

From: Laura Denk

Subject: FBI Records Concerning the Church Committee

As we discussed by telephone this morning, I have drafted language for a memo from the FBI that states that the Bureau intends to maintain the Church Committee records. To the extent that the draft is inaccurate, (for example, if you have any additional plans for the Church Committee records that I did not include in the second paragraph), you should, of course, feel free to change it. Once we receive the FBI's version of the memo, we will take steps to finalize our plans for the Church Committee records. Here is the proposed language:

The FBI has a large group of records relating to its liaison with the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities ("Church Committee.") Although some of the records relate to the JFK assassination, thousands of the records involve subjects other than the JFK assassination that fell within the scope of the Church Committee's inquiries. In 1993, before the President had even appointed the Review Board members, the FBI processed and assigned Record Identification Form ("RIF") numbers to *all* of its Church Committee records -- assassination-related records and records relating to Church Committee topics other than the assassination. When the Review Board came into existence, the FBI alerted the Review Board staff that the Church Committee files were largely not assassination related. The Review Board staff carefully reviewed all 62 volumes of Church Committee records and agreed with the FBI's assessment that most of the the records truly are not assassination records. The Review Board staff agrees that the FBI did not need to make RIFs for the non-assassination-related Church Committee records and that those records need not become part of the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives and Records Administration.

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As a practical matter, the FBI agrees that the Church Committee records that are not assassination records are important historical records and that the Bureau should permanently maintain the records. I can affirm that the FBI has no plans to destroy the Church Committee records.

Steve Tilley should probably be a "cc:" at the end of the memo.

Give me a call if you have any questions, and, as always, thanks for your help.

Laura