

## MEMORANDUM

April 10, 1998

To: T. Jeremy Gunn

From: Ronald G. Haron

Cc: Laura Denk  
Kevin Tiernan  
FBI File

Subject: Meeting with FBI Regarding its Compliance Statement  
under the JFK Act

On April 9, Laura, Kevin and I met with the FBI to discuss its compliance statement under the JFK Act. Representing the FBI were Carol Keeley, ~~Acting Unit Chief~~, and LuAnn Wilkins, both of the ~~JFK Task Force~~ [FBI's Historical and Executive Review Unit](#), and an FBI attorney, [Eleni Kalisch](#). Most of the issues [we](#) discussed were previewed in my March 2, 1998 letter [and outline](#) to Ms. Keeley. (["3/2/98 Outline"](#)) Ms. Keeley ~~was the FBI representative who~~ addressed our questions. Set forth is a brief summary of certain issues that arose in the meeting.

### 1. Record Searches Generally

The FBI searched its Central Records System ("CRS") indices and its ELSUR indices at Headquarters and the Field Offices. [All informant files are part of the CRS.](#) No other indices were searched. [Ms. Keeley agreed to check the indices that I listed in my 3/2/98 Outline to determine whether the FBI included each index in its search.](#)

The FBI agreed to have copied the CRS index cards that identify the [CRS](#) main ~~CRS~~ files for key assassination-related subjects -- Lee Harvey Oswald, Marina Oswald, Jack Ruby and John F. Kennedy. The index cards will be copied from FBI Headquarters, as well as the Dallas, New Orleans, Mexico City and Washington, D.C. field offices. We requested that the copies be attached to the Final Declaration of Compliance so that the public can see first hand, from the FBI's own records, what main [files](#) ~~records~~ the FBI has relating to Oswald<sup>1</sup> and the assassination. For

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Keeley confirmed that the ~~disclosure of the~~ CRS main file cards ~~will~~ [would](#) show, ~~with respect to Lee Harvey Oswald, that no~~ [whether an](#) ~~formal~~ informant file (134 or 137 series

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practical reasons, we have limited this request to the key subjects and offices. We have also excluded index cards that list these subjects as cross-references in other files. Otherwise, the volume would be too great. Ms. Keeley stated that, at some future date, the original cards would be accessioned to the National Archives under its the FBI's regular document retention procedures.

The FBI also agreed to copy the search slips showing the results of the ELSUR searches for these same subjects and field offices.

As part of documenting its search efforts under the JFK Act, both generally and in response to Review Board requests, the FBI has agreed that the relevant portions of its JFK Act administrative file will be placed in the JFK Collection (HQ 62-102905 \*\*check this file number -- Carol said it was 1 million and something\*\*) (the Review Board staff will review the file ~~file will first have to be reviewed to exclude documents that relate to FBI internal personnel and procedural matters. non-essential personnel documentation~~). The FBI also has agreed that it will place in the JFK Collection a its working (or "tickler") file it used ~~had relating to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which file the FBI has consulted~~ to identify the "HSCA subjects" to be processed as assassination records under the JFK Act.

## 2. Administrative Files

As you know, the FBI maintains its administrative files under "62-" and "66-" classification numbers. ~~We raised the issue of~~ asked whether the FBI could provide a listing of all of its ~~indices could be provided for the 62 and 66 series~~ classification files. ~~(The FBI has maintained many of its~~ assassination records in administrative files such as the administrative file for the JFK assassination investigation, the administrative file on the Warren Commission file, the administrative file on the HSCA's assassination investigation, the administrative file on the Church Committee's assassination investigation, the Hoover telephone logs, and Tolson's chron file). Ms. Keeley stated that administrative files relevant to the assassination would have been identified through the various name searches that ~~were~~ the FBI conducted. ~~Any further inventorying of administrative files appears impracticable. We were told that~~ Ms. Keeley explained that there are over a million ~~hundreds of thousands of~~ administrative files and that a computer generated index could ~~not~~ only be generated for those files created after 1978, when the ~~all such files (the CRS was automated in 1978 and does not cover pre-1978 files, according to the FBI's compliance statement).~~ Thus, in order to generate a complete list of administrative files, the Bureau would have to create a list of the administrative files from its ~~manual search of thousands of numbered index cards. would have to be done, which would~~

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classification file) exists for Lee Harvey Oswald.

~~not be practical.~~ We agreed that the costs associated with the FBI's creation of such a list would likely outweigh any added value (in terms of locating additional assassination records) that the list might provide.

### 3. Files of Top FBI Officials

In my opinion, we still have not obtained a satisfactory explanation for whether or not the FBI has any working, or "ticker" files that were separately maintained by the top FBI officials who would have had involvement in the assassination investigation. ~~investigating the Kennedy assassination.~~ Ms. Keeley said that she does not know ~~could not state~~ whether or not there are FBI maintains such files. The FBI has not searched for such files in the CRS. ~~including whether any such files would have been separately serialized under a CRS file number or—~~ In response to my question about whether these types of files ~~they~~ might have been sent to storage without being assigned a CRS file number, Ms. Keeley said that she simply did not know.

It is my impression that the FBI has not conducted a separate search for these records because they believe that, to the extent that assassination records in these files exist, the records would appear in a CRS search. ~~—does not consider this category as essential based on their assumption that any documents on the Kennedy assassination in the working files of the officials would be in a Central Records System file.~~ \*\* Ron -- in an effort to present a balanced view, I think you should include LuAnn's "impression" that records that appear in working files tend to be duplicative of records that are present in the CRS. \*\* ~~Ms. Keeley stated her opinion that this matter was not a—~~ We discussed whether the FBI's search for files of top-level officials is a "compliance-related" issue or a simply a potential request for additional information.<sup>2</sup> To the extent that it is a compliance issue, I recommend that we have the FBI document their search for assassination records in the files of top-level officials, and require the Bureau to include as part of the documentation an explanation of their search for the files of those officials. On the other hand, if we want to review all of the records in the files of the top-level officials at issue, we need to make an additional request.— ~~Ms. Keeley stated that, to the extent that we want an accounting of these files, we should submit a specific search request to the FBI.~~

We need to decide how to proceed. I believe that this category is sufficiently important that we should consider making a separate search request to the FBI, yet noting in the request that this issue

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<sup>2</sup> ~~(However~~ I note that, in Phil Golrick's January 22, 1997 letter to Ms. Keeley, we had previously raised, as a compliance issue, the matter of identifying any existing working files for top FBI officials).

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was explicitly raised in our prior communication in January 1997. (In our request, we could also suggest that the FBI consult on this matter with the FBI's "archival office" referenced in the compliance statement).

#### 4. Destruction of Records

We asked for a description of the Dallas files ["see" reference documents](#) that were identified in the compliance statement as having been destroyed ~~and as having Oswald and Ruby related records (these files appear to contain miscellaneous references to Oswald and Ruby and appear not to be main files relating to the assassination)~~. Ms. Keeley said that she would check to see whether there is any further information describing these files [in which the "see" references appeared](#).

#### 5. Submission of Final Compliance Statement

Ms. Keeley asked when we would like to have the Final Declaration of Compliance submitted to the Review Board. I suggested August 1, 1998.