

## MEMORANDUM (DRAFT)

September 24, 1997

To: Laura Denk

From: Joe Freeman, Kevin Tiernan

Subject: Determinations Regarding FBI/Church Committee Records

### Introduction

During the week of September 15-19, 1997, Joe Freeman reviewed on FBI premises a group of records generated by the Bureau at the time of the 1975-76 investigation of the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (hereafter referred to as the Church Committee). These records had been previously reviewed by the FBI under the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act (JFK Act).

As a function of its review of these records, the Bureau had designated a small portion of them as assassination-related under the JFK Act. Records so designated were then processed accordingly: originals were sent to NARA to be incorporated into the JFK Collection; stamped copies were inserted in place of the originals within the FBI files, indicating where the originals had been sent and why. In addition, FBI personnel placed at the front of each section of reviewed records an index indicating which of the serials in that section contained assassination records which had been forwarded to the JFK Collection at NARA. Any records not so designated and copied were judged by the Bureau to be unrelated to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The purpose of the review of these same records by Review Board personnel was to confirm that non-forwarded records were, in fact, unrelated to the assassination. Joe Freeman reviewed sections 1 through 56 of these records during the week of September 15-19 (Section 17 actually consisted of two separate sections: thus the total number of reviewed sections was 57).

A summary of this review follows.

### Overview

The FBI's review of this material was thorough and fully consistent with the Bureau's responsibilities under the JFK Act. Joe Freeman's review of several thousand pages of documents yielded only a smattering of records which may have been incorrectly designated by the Bureau as non-assassination-related. In fact, for the most part, the Bureau clearly acted on a very liberal

reading of the statute in reviewing this cache of records. Omissions, when they occur, appear largely to be a function of human error (i.e. they were simply missed) rather than a result of a substantive Bureau judgment which the Review Board would want to take issue with. And, in any event, the omissions were few and far between given the volume of records reviewed.

### Possible Additional Assassination Records

Listed below are specific records in the first 56 sections of FBI/Church Committee files which the Review Board may wish to designate as assassination-related. Section and serial locators are provided along with a brief description of the cited record.

Section	Serial	Description
4	62-116395-189	Enclosure "M" contains a 7/25/61 communication from Director Hoover to Special Asst. to the President McGeorge Bundy, re: internal security programs. Hoover is writing in his capacity as Chairman of the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference (IIC). Attached to Hoover's communication is a document entitled "IIC Report on Internal Security Programs, 7/1/60-6/30/61," dated 7/25/61. A portion of this report ("Section III -Cuba") briefly references the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.
5	62-116395-238	This is a 6/10/75 Church Committee request for a memo of Director Hoover's dated 5/10/62, re: a meeting with Robert Kennedy on 5/9/62. Though the Committee's letter of request does not reference the meeting's subject matter, we know that it is the meeting where RFK talks to Hoover about CIA/Maheu/Giancana anti-Castro plots. The memo this letter requests is an assassination record; presumably the request letter is, as well. <b>This same request letter can also be found in Section 18, Serial 62-116395-436.</b>
7	62-116395-276	This serial contains a 2/19/64 letter and 2/28/64

airtel, re: general procedures regarding the provision by the FBI of assistance to the USSS on Presidential protection. There is no reference to JFK or the assassination, but the documents' temporal proximity to the assassination may make it relevant.

- 7           62-116395-281 This is a 6/20/75 Cregar memo to Wannall, re: CIA's so-called "family jewels" document. Page 4 of this memo references JFK and RFK and their knowledge of a domestic CIA break-in of an unnamed foreign establishment. This record *could* be an assassination record if the referenced break-in involves, say, Cuba. Someone with knowledge of CIA source document should be consulted.
- 7           62-116395-289 This is a statement by a Daniel Armstrong (in manila envelope), re: disposition of files from Director Hoover's office. On the last page (pg. 7) of the statement is a reference to a serial in said files concerning a Capitol Hill reception at which JFK (while still a U.S. Senator) was present. The reference is general and predates JFK's presidency: presumably this is *not* an assassination record, but it should be looked at again by someone with authority to decide.
- 9           62-116395-337 This is a 6/3/77 Fulton memo to Wannall, re: COINTELPRO, with attachment. Page 3 of attachment references "X. Cuban Matters" and cites 8/3/61 and 8/7/61 records concerning Cuba-related COINTELPROs. The '61 records are not themselves attached. **This same attachment is also located in Section 18, 62-116395-430 (yellow sheets).**
- 16          62-116395-422 This record references mail cover of mail to Cuba from Puerto Rico, 1/63-7/66.



from Senator Richard Schweiker about compliance with document requests from the Church Committee, and subsequent meeting with Church Committee staffers on the same subject. Date and names -- Sen. Schweiker and staffer Paul Wallach) *strongly* suggest that this record concerns documents requested in the JFK assassination phase of the Committee's investigation (Book V of the Church Committee report). A review of the requested documents would presumably confirm this. On the other hand, this memo contains no substantive information.

- 50            62-116395-1395      This is a yellow teletype from Director to SAC, San Diego, regarding a file search for any Bureau "operation" against the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in the early '60s which could have involved a SA Rinaldo/Arnold Orrantia. The teletype references a Church Committee request of 2/19/76. This is clearly related to the JFK assassination phase of the Committee's inquiry. **This same teletype can also be found in Section 52 at serial 62-116395-1451.**
- 54            62-116395-1523      Pink teletype of 3/15/76 to Director from ADIC, New York, re: attempt by Paton [sic] Fonzi to contact SA Cotter of NYO. Since Fonzi was on Schweiker's staff working exclusively on the JFK assassination, it is fair to assume this contact involved that investigation.
- 55            62-116395-1591      Memo of 5/3/76 from Legal Counsel to Mr. J.B. Adams, re: Church Committee efforts to secure testimony of SA George Tucker concerning his interview of Ed Morgan. This interview concerned Roselli, anti-Castro plots, etc. **Serial 62-116395-1583 concerns the same topic and should also be reviewed. A separate serial on the same topic which the FBI *did* process and forward to NARA under the JFK Act can be found at -1562 of the same**

**Section.**

- 55            62-116395-1592      Memo of 5/3/76 from Legal Counsel to Mr. J.B. Adams, re: FBI position that informant name requested by Sen. Gary Hart be withheld. Page 2 of the memo makes clear that this name relates to investigation of JFK assassination.
- 55            62-116395-1603      Phillips to Leavitt memo of 5/10/76 regarding an abandoned attempt on the part of the Church Committee to interview C. DeLoach on JFK-related issues.
- 55            62-116395-1612      Church Committee request of 5/17/76 for FBI's file copy of 9/9/63 *New Orleans Time Picayune* article entitled "Castro Blasts Raids on Cuba." This article arises in various investigations of the assassination, re: Oswald's motivation. This is clearly a JFK-related document request by the Committee.
- 56            62-116395-38 or 39?      Two-thirds of the way through Section 56 is a study entitled "Recent FBI High Lights [sic]" and dated 12/4/63. Parts of this study which directly reference the assassination have been processed and forwarded to NARA under the JFK Act. The very first page of the actual text of the study, however, was not forwarded, despite the fact that the assassination is directly referenced in the second paragraph under "Communist Party, USA." There is red line down the page, suggesting the reference was inadvertently missed.