

# MEMORANDUM

April 10, 1998

To: T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

From: Laura Denk  
Chief Analyst for FBI Records

Subject: "NBR" Information in the FBI's "Nosenko" "See Reference" File

The FBI Team has completed its review of the FBI's assassination records on Nosenko. Only *one* document within the FBI's Nosenko assassination records appears to have information that the staff believes is not relevant to the assassination. The staff recommends that the Review Board designate the majority of the information within this record as not believed relevant to the assassination, or "NBR."

## *Description of the Nosenko file and the FBI's Records on Nosenko*

As you know, Nosenko is a former KGB officer who was stationed at the KGB Center in Moscow, from 1959-1964. While attending disarmament talks in Geneva, he sent a coded message to CIA headquarters, stating that he wished to defect. For the four years following Nosenko's defection to the United States, the CIA kept Nosenko in solitary confinement for questioning.

The FBI previously processed 16 documents referencing Nosenko as part of the "core and related" files. In the "HSCA Subject" files, the FBI has a main file and a "see" reference file on Nosenko. The FBI has processed and released the vast majority of its documents in the Nosenko main file. (The FBI team will have records from the main file available for the Review Board's review at the April 13, 1998 meeting.) The FBI has also processed and released the vast majority of the records in the Nosenko "see" reference file, which contains records in which Nosenko's name comes up as a cross-reference in other FBI files.

## *Description of the Record that is Not Believed Relevant to the Assassination*

Among the "see" reference documents in which Nosenko's name appears is a record that originated in a New York field office "134-" informant file.<sup>1</sup> The informant who is the subject of the file is not

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<sup>1</sup> The document is FBI file number HQ 105-213721-2774 dated 5/29/75.

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Nosenko and does not appear to be an informant who is relevant to the assassination. The document itself appears to be an update on a number of different subjects about which this informant reports to the FBI. The record is 11 pages long and covers seven separate subjects before coming to the section referencing Nosenko. The FBI has consented to release in full the first page of the document and the entire section on Nosenko. None of the other subjects that the informant discusses are relevant to the assassination.

*Recommendation*

The Review Board's Guidelines for NBR information state that where information in a record under review truly has no apparent relevance to the assassination and where the information appears, on its face, to fall within one of the specific grounds for postponement, the record fits within the Review Board's definition of an "NBR" record. Because the staff believes that the bulk of the information in the record at issue is not relevant to the assassination, and because the record, on its face, appears to be eligible for postponement under section 6(1) of the JFK Act, the staff believes that the sections of the record that are not about Nosenko fit within the Review Board's "NBR" Guidelines.

The staff recommends that the Review Board designate this record as "NBR," **except for the section on Nosenko**, and release the FBI from any further obligation to provide evidence in support of its postponements for the "NBR" sections. Of course, the Review Board staff will review and negotiate all other records in the Nosenko files according to the Review Board's standards for review of the Segregated Collections.