

# MEMORANDUM

October 23, 1995

To: The Review Board  
cc: David G. Marwell  
T. Jeremy Gunn

From: Philip D. Golrick

Subject: FBI Records for Assassination Record Determination

Staff members of the FBI Team have reviewed portions of several FBI files that we wish to present to the Review Board for determination to what extent, if any, they are assassination records. Review Board members will receive a fuller staff briefing, and will have the opportunity to review copies of these records, at the October 23-24, 1995 meeting.

## I. Presidential Protection File (HQ 62-86607)

The first four sections of this file, containing serials 1 through 165 dated from 1948 to 1974, have been reviewed. There is considerable overlap between the contents of this file and duplicates in both the Secret Service Liaison file and in files already processed under the JFK Act (*e.g.*, the Assassination Investigation file, HQ 62-109060). Because this file relates solely to protection of the President, the staff recommends that all serials (the FBI term for “documents”) in this file up through a particular date (*e.g.*, December 1968) be designated as assassination records.<sup>1</sup>

## II. Secret Service Liaison File (HQ 62-27799)

We have reviewed Sections 5 through 11 of this file. These sections include serials 319 through 700, which have dates ranging from November 1955 to December 1970. This file documents all manner of interaction between the FBI and the Secret Service, including dissemination of information about possible threats to the President, *ad hoc* deployment of FBI agents to assist the Secret Service in

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<sup>1</sup>Only a few serials in this file pre-date the assassination of President Kennedy, and these serials appear to have been filed elsewhere before the assassination. Because it is potentially of historical interest that the assassination prompted greater FBI interest in Presidential protection, while the additional burden of processing these older serials is slight, the staff recommends that all serials dated up to December 1968 be designated an assassination record.

its protective function, coordination in law-enforcement matters unrelated to Presidential protection (*e.g.*, counterfeiting), jurisdictional agreements and controversies, and training and other administrative issues.

A large number of documents in this file directly relate to “core” assassination issues, such as the FBI’s and Secret Service’s parallel investigations of the assassination and the agencies’ dealings with the Warren Commission. Additionally, documents from this file regarding other matters, both before and after the assassination, would allow researchers to assess whether there was anything aberrational about the FBI’s failure to report Lee Harvey Oswald to the Secret Service as a potential threat to the President, and how the assassination and the Warren Commission’s findings affected relations between these agencies.

For these reasons, the Review Board may wish to designate the entire contents of this file for a specified time period (*e.g.*, from January 1960 through December 1968) as assassination records. Such a designation, however, would impose on the FBI the burden of processing a number of records that, in and of themselves, do not relate to “core” assassination issues. Accordingly, the Review Board may prefer a document-by-document approach, and provide criteria for the staff to use in culling individual records from this file for designation as assassination records.

### **III. Administrative Files for the Mexican Embassy (HQ 67-383675) and the Mexico City Legat (HQ 64-4532)**

Section 6 of the Mexican Embassy file, HQ 67-383675, contains serials 789 through 896 with a date range from January 1962 through October 1965. This Section deals principally with personnel matters at the FBI’s Mexico City Legat. Several serials from 1964 relate to the strain that the post-assassination investigation of Oswald’s visit to Mexico City placed on the Legat. A few others relate to security for President Kennedy’s trip to Mexico in 1962.

Sections 21 through 24 of the Mexico City Legat file, HQ 64-4532, contain approximately 420 documents with dates ranging from August 1959 through November 1966. These sections chiefly address non-personnel administrative issues, such as equipment, inspections, and reporting requirements. Many serials relate to some aspect of the Embassy’s move to new quarters in 1964. As with the 67-383675 file, several serials expressly relate to the investigation of Oswald and the 1962 Presidential trip to Mexico.

Some of the serials in these files that do not expressly relate to Oswald or Presidential protection nevertheless provide valuable insights into the nature and extent of FBI activities in Mexico City and elsewhere and the relations among the FBI Legat, the Ambassador, other components of the American Embassy in Mexico City, and local authorities. This information provides a useful backdrop for

researchers to analyze the collection and dissemination of information about Oswald. Other serials, however, appear to be of limited historical interest. Accordingly, the Review Board may wish to designate individual serials from these files as assassination records, to designate all serials in a given date range as assassination records or to adopt a combination of these approaches.

#### **IV. Files That the FBI Now Acknowledges Are Assassination Records**

The FBI has agreed to process as assassination records the entire contents of the Headquarters files on the President's Commission on the Warren Report (HQ 62-109717) and on John F. Kennedy (HQ 94-37374).

#### **V. Files Containing No Assassination Records**

ARRB staff members have also reviewed Sections 28 and 29 of the HQ 64-4532 file and Sections 9 and 10 of the HQ 67-383675 file regarding administration of the Mexico City Legat during the years in which the HSCA was active; Section 1 of the Bern Embassy administrative file (HQ 67-581753); Sections 2 and 3 of the London Embassy administrative file (HQ 67-383682); and Sections 2 and 3 of the Tokyo Embassy administrative file (HQ 67-530376). In this material we found no documents reasonably related to the assassination and accordingly are not presenting any of this material to the Review Board.