

March 5, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Mr. Nelson D. Hermilla  
Chief, Freedom of Information/  
Privacy Acts Branch  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
1425 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Re: United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division's Compliance  
With the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

Dear Mr. Hermilla:

This letter follows-up on our February 13, 1997, meeting to discuss the Civil Rights Division's initial Statement of Compliance with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 ("JFK Act"). As we discussed, only a few matters need to be addressed in connection with the Civil Rights Division's compliance with the JFK Act.

The Civil Rights Division has deposited with the JFK Collection at the National Archives a collection of documents relating to alleged civil rights violations by District Attorney Garrison in New Orleans (DOJ File No. 144-32-1220). The Civil Rights Division has located no other assassination records.

In your initial Statement of Compliance, you noted that DOJ File No. 144-017-32 had been "retrieved," but no other information was provided about this file. In our meeting, you explained that this file was the predecessor file to the Garrison civil rights file (DOJ File No. 144-32-1220), that--as an "017" file-- it was created prior to the opening of an investigation, and that this predecessor 017 file had been destroyed once a formal investigation and file were opened.

Aside from clarifying this matter in the Compliance Statement, we also discussed the possibility of locating any available records for Burke Marshall, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations. The reason for locating his files was because, in 1966, he had negotiated the deed of gift transmitting certain autopsy materials from the Kennedy family to

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the United States Government. However, you had checked and advised that Mr. Marshall was not Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at this time in 1966 (you reported that Mr. Marshall was AAG for Civil Rights from March 29, 1961 to January 15, 1965). Accordingly, we agreed there was no further follow-up search to be done in connection with AAG Marshall's files.

Finally, I advised you that the Civil Rights' Final Declaration of Compliance will need to be executed under oath in the form prescribed by 28 U.S.C. § 1746.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron

Senior Attorney