

MEMORANDUM

April 7, 1997

To: Laura Denk

From: Ronald G. Haron

Cc: David G. Marwell

T. Jeremy Gunn

Sydney Reddy

Brian Rosen

Kevin Tiernan

Joan Zimmerman

Subjects: Official & Confidential Files of Hoover;
Office Logs of Hoover

Set forth is a summary of my review on April 4 of certain records relating to Hoover's Official & Confidential ("O&C") files and of a sample of Hoover's office/telephone logs.

A. O&C Files

I reviewed an administrative, or control, file that the FBI has regarding Hoover's O&C files. This file contains internal FBI memoranda, mostly from the mid-1970s, relating to the organization, contents, and disposition of the O&C files. The FBI apparently did an internal investigation regarding the O&C files in 1975 as a result of Congressional and public inquiries regarding these files. This control file is designated 62-HQ-116606 (Serial 1). Of note are the following:

--The O&C files were inventoried in 1972, shortly after Hoover's death, by ASAC Cornelius G. Sullivan. Because of the interest in the O&C files in 1975, and the subsequent internal FBI investigation, he prepared a memorandum summarizing his inventory of Hoover files in a January 28, 1975 memorandum to Inspector Hunter E. Helgeson. Sullivan prepared a number of indices to these files, which were submitted with his memorandum. These were referenced as items 1 through 15 in the memorandum, and I did not have a chance to review them since they were separately retained in

the Special File Room at the FBI. Apparently, these indices were created in 1972.

--On February 21, 1975, FBI Director Kelley was provided with an alphabetic and numerical listing of the O&C files (62-116006-13x) and an analysis of the files (62-116006-14). It is not clear whether those indices were the ones that Sullivan prepared per his review of Hoover files in 1972.

--Within this file are communications with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (the Church Committee) regarding the O&C files, including a request by the Committee for all O&C documents relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. At the time of the request, the Committee had identified a November 26, 1963 memorandum from Hoover regarding a conversation with President Johnson about the assassination, and this apparently had been identified as coming from the O&C files. An internal FBI memorandum notes that the O&C indices were then reviewed, and it was concluded that there were no other O&C materials on the assassination responsive to the Church Committee's request. Thus, by 1975, the FBI apparently concluded that there were no assassination-related materials among the O&C files, except for the November 26, 1963 memorandum.

--There is another control file, no. 62-116607, which relates to additional Hoover files that were separately maintained by the FBI Assistant to the Director, Lois B. Nichols, and his successors.

--In 1975, the FBI interviewed Hoover's housekeeper, who stated that there were 6 cabinets of materials at Hoover's home. It was unclear whether these contained any Hoover FBI files or whether this was part of what had been inventoried by Sullivan in 1972.

B. Office/Phone Logs of Hoover

--The FBI made available for review copies of Hoover's office and phone logs for November and December 1963.

--The logs were kept on a daily basis and indicate who Hoover spoke with, the time of the conversation, and whether the conversation was by phone or in person. The subject of discussion is not indicated. Among the people with whom Hoover spoke in this period were Tolson, Belmont, DeLoach, Shanklin, Katzenbach, and the President.

--Joe Iazzetta, the FBI contact who arranged for my review of Hoover materials, said that they checked whether Hoover recorded his conversations and the answer is no (they even checked with one of Hoover's former assistants [I think it may have been DeLoach] who stated that Hoover did not record his conversations).

C. Recommendations for Follow-Up

In our meeting with Jeremy, we decided upon the following:

1. We will need to account for all of Hoover's files, including the Official & Confidential files, the Personal & Confidential files, and any other work-related files that may have ended up with Hoover's estate.
2. We should, to the extent possible, account for the files of other high-level FBI persons who worked with Hoover on the JFK assassination investigation, including Tolson, Belmont, and DeLoach. We should ask to inspect their original files. With respect to Tolson in particular, we should inspect the original files since the Tolson files in the reading room are redacted. There are two categories of Tolson files that should be accounted for -- (a) memos from Hoover and (b) personal files that contain materials relating to the disposition of Hoover's files.
3. Determine what accounting of the Hoover files (and the files of other high-level FBI officials) was done by the Church Committee and, to the extent applicable, the House Select Committee on Assassinations.
4. With respect to the Hoover logs, we should determine to what extent these logs have been made available to the public, for what time periods, and in what form. We should then review the logs for communications that may relate to the the following subjects: Oswald defection (Oct./Nov. 1959); Judith Campbell; Balletti matter; CIA assassination plots against Castro; Oswald involvement in Fair Play for Cuba Committee (Summer 1963); JFK assassination and subsequent Warren Commission investigation (Nov. 22, 1963 through 1964); Manchester book (Sept.-Dec. 1966); review of autopsy materials (Sept.-Dec. 1966); Jack Anderson story on JFK assassination (March 1967); Garrison investigation (1967); Angleton trip to Mexico City after Win Scott's death (1971). As we review the logs, these dates and subjects may be revised. We should then propose for Review Board determination whether the logs for certain time periods should be designated as assassination records.

In meeting these objectives, I propose we take the following initial steps:

1. Request to inspect, and perhaps obtain copies of, the O&C indices prepared by Cornelius Sullivan, as well as the indices submitted to Director Kelley in 1975.

2. Consider what original O&C files should be inspected for assassination-related records,¹ but at a minimum we should inspect the files on John F. Kennedy (this, I understand, has already been done; there are 2 files on JFK), Robert F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and any files that may exist on any members of the Warren Commission (Earl Warren, Richard Russell, John Cooper, Hale Boggs, Gerald Ford, Allen Dulles, and John McCloy) or Warren Commission staff. (Frank Menna, a former review Board intern, apparently reviewed redacted versions of certain O&C files available in the FBI's public reading room; we should inspect the originals of any files that he selected for copying).
3. Identify the November 26, 1963 Hoover memo and attempt to determine, to the extent possible, what Hoover file that came from so that we can inspect the original of any such file.
4. From the control file (62-HQ-116606), designate as assassination records the documents relating to the Church Committee's request for assassination-related documents in Hoover's O&C files (I need to identify the serial numbers for these documents in the control file).
5. Determine what the contents, and disposition, was for the file cabinets of Hoover material referred by Hoover's housekeeper in 1975.
6. Review the control file (62-116607) for the O&C files that were in the possession of Hoover's assistants.

¹ If the FBI maintains the originals of all the O&C files together in one location, then we may want to consider inspecting the entire set so we can better understand the volume and organization of these materials and, perhaps, ascertain how and where any assassination-related materials might be filed among Hoover's records.