

MEMORANDUM

June 30, 1998

To: T. Jeremy Gunn

From: Ronald G. Haron

Subject: Donation of Abe Fortas Papers
To the JFK Collection

This will summarize the status of our efforts to have certain Abe Fortas papers relating to the assassination placed into the JFK Collection at NARA.

On May 28, 1998, I reviewed certain papers of Abe Fortas at Yale University in New Haven. Through that review, we identified the following files relating to the assassination:

Warren Commission -- 1

Warren Commission -- 2

Jacqueline Kennedy

These papers contain drafts of President Johnson's and Lady Bird Johnson's statements to the Warren Commission, as well as material rebutting certain points made in William Manchester's *The Death of a President*.

The representative of the Fortas estate, Mr. Duane Vieth, a partner at Arnold & Porter, has agreed to place *copies* of these files into the the JFK Collection. He has requested, however, that the materials not be opened to the public until January 2000. This is the date set for the opening of Fortas' papers under the deed of gift to Yale University.

Since the Fortas papers are subject to a deed of gift, and we cannot compel immediate disclosure under the JFK Act, I would recommend to the Review Board that they approve the transfer of copies of the relevant Fortas records to the JFK Collection with the proviso that they will not be opened until January 2000.