

# MEMORANDUM

September 30, 1997

To: T. Jeremy Gunn  
Acting Executive Director and  
General Counsel

Tom Samoluk  
Deputy Director

From: Ronald G. Haron  
Associate General Counsel

Subject: Coordination of Issues Relating to Federal Government Assassination Records

For our meeting today to discuss coordination of Federal Agency assassination records, I have set forth for each agency certain issues or projects (of which I am aware through my compliance-related work). This memorandum does not cover all outstanding issues, particularly the status of processing already identified assassination-related records. While most of the issues are "compliance-related," I have made some suggestions for research projects.

You may want to circulate this to the attendees of our meeting today to apprise them of compliance-related issues, but I will leave that up to you.

## A. Compliance Program (General)

To give you an overview of the compliance program, I have attached a chart showing the status of each agency's adherence to the requirements of our formal compliance program under the JFK Act. The major compliance-related tasks that we need to address are as follows:

1. Prepare "post-meeting" compliance letter to Secret Service (in process)..
2. Review and evaluate FBI initial Compliance statement and set up meeting to discuss. Before the meeting, we will need to carefully and comprehensively evaluate FBI compliance to date, including an assessment of all of the record files that have been identified as assassination-related.
3. Review and evaluate NARA/Presidential Libraries' initial Compliance Statement and set

up meeting to discuss.

4. Review Final Compliance Statements for agencies that have submitted them, and send an acknowledgment letter for each agency. In the letter, we need to indicate whether or not we intend to go forward with a compliance deposition (for the less significant agencies, we probably will not have a deposition).
5. Set up compliance meeting with the Department of the Army.
6. Request CIA to commit to a timetable for the submission of their initial Compliance Statement. Begin to substantively evaluate compliance (Ron with Michelle and Bob).
7. Evaluate NSA's initial Compliance Statement and set up meeting to discuss.
8. Consider our response to the compliance affidavit submitted by the White House Communications Agency.
9. Consider other agencies that should be asked to formally document their compliance with the JFK Act (*e.g.*, Library of Congress, IRS, NSC, DOJ--OLC).

#### **B. Intelligence Agencies**

##### **1. CIA**

- Request submission of initial Compliance Statement by a date certain.

##### **2. National Security Agency (NSA)**

- Review initial Compliance Statement and set up informal meeting.

#### **C. Department of State**

- Final Compliance Statement due in late October
- Consider which records we want to review directly (based on archive transmittal forms submitted to us by the State Department)
- Additional Rusk Telephone Records -- we asked to review
- FRUS Materials -- we may want to review

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- Perhaps contact Alexis Johnson family re possible records. Johnson died recently, and he was a key point person at the State Department regarding the assassination.
- Board should rule on postponed records in the SCIF
- Moscow Post Records

D. Department of Defense

1. **Washington Headquarters Services (Dept. of Defense).**

- Final Compliance Statement due October 27
- Possibly inspect original SF-135's at OSD
- Inspect McNamara Records at NARA
- Determine whether OSD has talked to John Kester, OSD's liaison to the HSCA. We should consider interviewing him informally.

2. **Joint Staff**

- Inspect specific Max Taylor records at NARA relating to Joint Chiefs meeting with German Military staff on the day of the assassination.

3. **Army**

- Schedule Compliance meeting

4. **Army Central Security Facility.**

- Final Compliance Statement has been submitted. Need to send acknowledgement letter.

5. **Army Criminal Investigative Command**

- Final Compliance Statement has been submitted. Need to send acknowledgement letter.

6.. **Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.**

- Final Compliance Statement has been submitted. Need to send acknowledgment letter.

7. **Navy (including Marine Corps).**

- Review and evaluate initial Compliance Statements submitted for various components of Navy, and follow-up with a letter if necessary.
- Call to find out status of Final Compliance Statement, which was due on September 15.
- Request for additional information on ONI records.
- I suggest we interview Rufus Taylor (if alive) or someone on his staff re ONI records and re affidavit on Oswald.
- We need to press Navy to identify and make available the files for Taylor, who was head of ONI in 1963. Also the files for head of ONI in 1958-59 (also Taylor?).

8. **National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda**

- They submitted their Final Declaration of Compliance -- need to evaluate and prepare acknowledgement letter.

12. **Air Force.**

- Final Declaration of Compliance is past due -- check on status.

13. **Defense Intelligence Agency**

- Final Declaration of Compliance is due October 1. We have made two requests -- Naval attache records (DIA No. 1) and McNamara affidavit records (DIA No. 2)
- Send letter requesting further information regarding potential assassination records that DIA has located.

E. **Department of Justice**

1. **FBI.**

- Initial Statement of Compliance has been submitted. Need to review the Statement and enclosures and prepare preliminary analysis. Review the organizational charts and manuals to assist in compliance. Set up meeting.
- Hoover Files -- Inspect designated Hoover files collected by FBI. Review original telephone logs from Nov. 1963 to Dec. 1964. Prepare final internal "wrap-up" memo (to be filed in 4.50) re designating assassination records.
- High-Level FBI Officials (Compliance related issue) -- Account for the files of Mohr, Tolson, Sullivan, DeLoach, Belmont, Shanklin, Rosen, Evans.
- Oswald as FBI informant -- Was a "wrap-up" memo done on FBI-5? What was the status of doing a cross-check on source no. 175 (allegedly Oswald)? Interview Carver Gayton (check LaFontaines and J. Newman) (Ron research project).
- Interview Robert Gemberling (if alive) re Dallas FBI files
- Locate William Sullivan files which we know he took with him from the FBI
- Interview DeLoach and inspect whatever original notes/records he has (letter has gone out to him)
- Consider which other high-level FBI officials we want to contact.

2. **INS.**

- Final Compliance Statement is overdue (check on status).

3. **Civil Division**

- Final Statement of Compliance has been submitted. Need to evaluate and send acknowledgement letter.
- Need to respond to Civil Division letter re FOIA files.

4. **Civil Rights Division**

- Final Compliance Statement was submitted. Need to review and send acknowledgment letter.

5. **Criminal Division**

- Continue review of organized crime records.
- Prepare letter memorializing status of review and designating any assassination records.
- Prepare letter requesting inspection of Internal Security files.

6. **Leadership Offices (OIP)**

- We need to review DOJ records at Suitland (including records of Levi and Bell relating to the HSCA and Church Committee). Final Statement of Compliance will be submitted thereafter.

7. **Office of Legal Counsel.**

- Initiate compliance program with them.

F. **Treasury**

1. **Main Treasury.**

- Final Declaration of Compliance is due October 17.
- Review Belin (Treasury General Counsel) records at NARA (Done) -- Send letter to Treasury designating assassination records we identified.
- Send letter to Treasury requesting that they doublecheck for files of McBrien and Dillon in light of interview with McBrien (who was Treasury's liaison with the Church Committee).

2. **Secret Service.**

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- Letter memorializing meeting with Secret Service.
- Conduct interviews to determine whether high-level Secret Service officials (*i.e.*, Rowley, Kelley, Bouck) took records with them.
- Inventory Secret Service memos and correspondence with the Warren Commission that are open in the JFK Collection (possible project for our intern).

3. **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF).**

- Final Compliance Statement has been submitted. Need to review and send acknowledgement letter.

4. **IRS.**

- What is the status of opening IRS records held by the Warren Commission?
- Need to request ATF records from IRS.
- Should we request compliance statement?

5. **Customs Service.**

- They have submitted their Final Declaration of Compliance. Evaluate and prepare acknowledgement letter.

G. **NARA/Presidential Libraries**

1. **Main NARA**

- Initial Compliance Statement submitted July 28. Need to review Statement, evaluate compliance issues, and set up meeting to discuss. Need to identify whether NARA has certain high-level officials' files and whether those files have been reviewed. (Need a directory to 1963-64 administrations). Should we perhaps make a formal letter request to NARA and Southwest NARA that they verify whether they have custody of files for certain key officials and, if so, whether those files have been reviewed?

- We need to consider what records at NARA we want to review (*e.g.*, McNamara and GSA Administrator's files).

## 2. **Southwest NARA**

- Initial Compliance Statement submitted. FRC for Dallas/Fort Worth -- What accounting should we request?

## 3. **LBJ Library.**

- Initial Compliance Statement submitted -- need to review and follow-up with meeting/letter.

## 4. **JFK Library.**

- Initial Compliance Statement submitted -- need to review and follow-up with meeting/letter.

## 5. **Ford Library.**

- Initial Compliance Statement submitted -- need to review and follow-up with meeting/letter.

## H. White House

### 1. **White House Communications Agency.**

- Compliance affidavit has been submitted -- need to consider how we respond.
- Judge Tunnheim suggested interviewing an WHCA employee.
- We may want to locate (if alive) the WHCA person responsible for making the communications arrangements in Dallas on November 22. He was identified in a Secret Service report as Arthur Bales, Jr..

### 2. **National Security Council**

- Need to initiate some formal compliance-type program

3. **White House Physician's Office**

- Need to initiate contact

4. **White House Photographer's Office**

- Need to initiate contact

I. Other Agencies

1. **Postal Service**

- Final Statement of Complacance of Compliance submitted. Need to send acknowledgment letter.

2. **General Services Administration (GSA).**

- Review records at NARA.

3. **Social Security Administration (SSA).**

- Final Compliance Statement due to be submitted shortly.
- Consider how to memorialize inspection of certain (employer) records.

4. **DEA**

- Determine what needs to be done

5. **FAA**

- Determine what needs to be done (Ferrie)

6. **Library of Congress**

- Initiate some sort of compliance program

## J. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Church Committee

- Review Board needs to consider postponements among 41 boxes of released records (follow-up on recent letter)
- Follow-up on matters raised in recent letter to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

### 2. Pike Committee

- Obtain index to holdings
- Request referral of certain records on an expedited basis
- Contact is Mike Sheehy (202-225-4121)

### 3. Eastland Committee

- Kevin to prepare wrap-up memo.

### 4. Eastland Papers, University of Mississippi

- Follow-up with Sobotka and determine status

### 5. House Un-American Activities Committee ("HUAC")

- Contact John Kornacki, Office of the Clerk; also perhaps call Mike Stern, General Counsel's Office (Jeremy may want to handle).

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<sup>1</sup> We need to get the formal reports for all relevant Congressional Committees so that we can evaluate more specifically what records we should be seeking from these Committees. We should then prepare letters that set forth precisely what needs to be done in the coming year by these Committees.

6. **Edwards Committee**

- Contact John Kornacki. May want to send an introductory letter to the Chairman.

7. **Abzug Committee**

- We are waiting authorization to inspect records. May want to contact Kornacki.

8. **McClellan Committee**

- Kevin to prepare "wrap-up" memo.

9. **Rockefeller Commission**

- We are awaiting responses to agency referrals.

10. **Kefauver Committee**

- DONE. Brian prepared "wrap-up" memo.

11. **Russell Papers**

- Russell records sent to NARA -- are these now open?

12. **Other Congressional Papers**

- Boggs, Cooper, Dulles, Schweiker -- Hold off for now

13. **Administrative Practices & Procedures Subcommittee (Under Edward Long)**

- Need to consider, although lesser priority.