

MEMORANDUM

October 8, 1997

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

Cc: Tom Samoluk
Deputy Director

From: Ronald G. Haron
Associate General Counsel

Subject: Status of Processing Assassination Records by Certain Agencies

Set forth below is the status of the processing of identified assassination-related records by certain agencies.

1. INS-- INS has identified and is processing numerous alien registration files that were reviewed by the HSCA. INS identified at least 25 such files and then identified another 40 relevant alien registration files for potential processing. I have a call into INS to find out the status of this processing. We have asked INS to locate a number of other files for our review, and I do not presently know what, if any, such files have been identified by INS that we may need to review.
2. DOJ (Civil Division)-- The Civil Division has no further records for processing. The outstanding issue is whether we want the Civil Division to review its FOIA litigation files in connection with Kennedy assassination records requests. The Civil Division has taken the position that the FOIA files are too tangential to the assassination and that review of those files would require too many resources.
3. DOJ (Criminal Division)-- In its July 31 supplemental compliance report, the Criminal Division stated that it was currently processing approximately 500 documents, 3 audio tapes, and a video copy of the Zapruder film. I was informed today by Mr. Frank Newett of the Division that the 500 documents are almost ready to be transmitted to the JFK Collection. Most of the records come from the Division's main Kennedy investigation file (no. 129-11). Another 100 documents are in various stages of processing. These are rough estimates, according to Newett. The Zapruder video will be transmitted to the Review Board; Mr. Newett does not know how this was located or what the chain of custody was. In addition, we are currently reviewing various organized crime files, and I do not

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anticipate a lot of assassination records to be generated from this review (perhaps 30 or less -- this is just a guess). In addition, we should identify certain internal security files for review.

4. DOJ (Civil Rights Division)-- They have no further assassination records to be processed.
5. DOJ (Leadership Offices)-- The leadership offices have several files that have been designated as assassination records and that are being processed (I would say 200 to 300 documents but this is a rough estimate). The files, for the most part, relate to DOJ's work in connection with the HSCA investigation. According to the compliance official (Ms. Pustay), all the records are processed and can be sent to NARA except that they are awaiting responses on documents that have to be cleared by other agencies, primarily FBI. In addition, we yesterday identified some additional assassination records from our review of original files from the offices of Attorneys General Levi and Bell; I roughly estimate that this will result in approximately 50 or so assassination records having to be processed.
6. DOJ (Office of Legal Counsel)-- OLC is still still processing between 30 and 100 documents (my rough guess).
7. Main Treasury-- Main Treasury is processing 2 files relating to the HSCA and the Church Committee, as well as part of a third file relating to the Church Committee. In addition, they are processing less than 10 documents from the file of Mr. Belin, General Counsel at Treasury at the time of the Warren Commission. I have seen all this material, and I would estimatee that it encompasses about 100 documents, maybe less.
8. ATF-- ATF has identified less than 20 assassination records that are being processed.
9. Postal Service-- The Postal Service has no further assassination records for processing. The main Postal Service file relating to the Service's work on the JFK investigation has been forwarded to the JFK Collection at NARA.
10. GSA-- The GSA has, at present, identified no assassination records. We have to review certain GSA files at NARA, including files from the 1960's for the GSA Administrator.
11. Social Security Administration ("SSA")-- SSA is processing less than 40 assassination records (my reasonably confident estimate) consisting of documents from Marina Oswald's file in connection with her claim for survivor's benefits, Lee Oswald's original application for a social security number, and a small number of documents from SSA's FOIA and Congressional liaison files.

12. Library of Congress-- The Library has identified no assassination records to date.
13. White House Communications Agency (WHCA)-- WHCA identified one file, consisting of less than 10 documents (statements of WHCA personnel regarding the events of November 22, as well as list of White House phone calls on the day of the assassination), as an assassination record. WHCA has stated that these documents have been submitted to NARA. WHCA has stated it has no other assassination records.
14. Drug Enforcement Agency ("DEA")-- DEA is not currently processing any assassination records. We had reviewed several files, some of which apparently had been reviewed by the HSCA. I am not certain of the volume of files. We need to give DEA some direction as to which, if any, files could be processed.
15. IRS-- The Warren Commission holdings include three boxes of IRS records. In addition, 400 pages of documents have been referred by NARA to the IRS for clearance. See Feb. 27, 1997 Letter from T. Jeremy Gunn to D. Squires. We have not yet resolved the legal issues with respect to opening up certain IRS records that have been seen by either the Warren Commission or Congressional committees. It is not clear what other assassination-related records IRS may have or the volume. We told IRS that we would defer requiring them to file a compliance statement pending resolution of the legal issues; I suggest we formally request such a statement, as we did with the Social Security Administration (*note*: Laura may have more specific information regarding IRS records; I have not had a chance to speak to her about this).