

VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST CLASS MAIL

April 7, 1998

Ms. Kristen Wilhelm
Center for Legislative Archives -- Room 205
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20408

Re: Public Disclosure, Under the JFK Act, of Certain Records of the House
Committee on Government Operations, Subcommittee on Government
Information and Individual Rights ("Abzug Subcommittee")

Dear Ms. Wilhelm:

Thank you for making available for Review Board inspection the approximately 50 boxes of records for the House Government Operations' Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, chaired by the late Congresswoman Bella Abzug ("the Abzug Subcommittee"). Having reviewed these files, we recommend that the records identified below be designated "assassination records" under the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act ("JFK Act").

A. Box No. 25

We recommend that this box be designated, in its entirety, as an assassination record under the JFK Act. This box contains materials relating to the Abzug Subcommittee's investigation of FBI record keeping practices, including the Subcommittee's investigation into the destruction of FBI Director Hoover's files. Interspersed throughout these files are individual documents that relate directly to the assassination of President Kennedy. As the Subcommittee's files show, issues surrounding the assassination and FBI records did intersect. Accordingly, we believe that the documents relating directly to the assassination should be viewed in the context of the Subcommittee's general investigation of FBI records. Only in this manner can the full meaning of the documents and the Subcommittee's work be understood. Set forth below are the documents that are explicitly and directly related to the assassination (but, again, we believe these should be released as part of all files contained in box no. 25):

Folder Labeled "Hear[ing] -- 12/1/75 -- FBI 'Do Not File' System"

- December 13 [?], 1963 FBI Memorandum from Mr. Rosen to Mr. Belmont reporting on interview conducted with Governor Connally and his wife in Austin, Texas on December 11, 1963 regarding the assassination (the document contains the note "Route in envelope" and does not have a serial number).

Folder Labeled "Hear[ing] FBI Record-keeping 12/1/75"

- Typed notes regarding availability of William Sullivan, Assistant Director, FBI, for interview by the Abzug Subcommittee. No author is identified. Under the entry for 11/3/75, the notes state: "Sullivan advises that other people definitely knowing about Oswald threat letter and its destruction were Alex Rosen, Ivan Conrad, Jim Adams, Leonard 'Bucky' Walters, Eugene Walsh, and Nicholas Callahan. Procedure involving note: Hosty told Shanklin, Shanklin told Mohr who told Tolson who told Hoover. Tolson was only a conduit, he never made decisions. Hoover told Mohr to tell Shanklin to destroy note."
- Report of interview with W. Mark Felt on October 25, 1975 by TJJ and TIF.

Folder Labeled "Hoover Files"

- October 24, 1975 Letter from Bella Abzug to FBI Director Clarence Kelley requesting "all index cards in the FBI central card file index for Lee Harvey Oswald"
- September 30, 1975 Letter from Bella Abzug to FBI Director Kelley apprising Mr. Kelley of the Subcommittee's intent to investigate the destruction of the Oswald note.
- October 8, 1975 Letter from Bella Abzug to James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States, requesting information relating to Warren Commission records.
- October 8, 1975 Letter from Bella Abzug to Kenneth E. Gray of the Congressional Research Service regarding declassification of Warren Commission records.
- October 8, 1975 Letter from Bella Abzug to Michael Uhlman, Assistant Attorney General, Legislative Affairs, requesting information on the FBI's investigation of allegations by William Walter regarding the JFK assassination.
- October 8, 1975 Letter from Bella Abzug to Alexander Clark, Curator of Manuscripts, Princeton University Library, requesting information on the papers of Alan Dulles relating to the Warren Commission

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Folder Labeled "Sullivan Statement -- Oswald Letter"

This file consists of a statement by William Sullivan regarding the destruction of the Oswald note, as well as the envelope that apparently was used to mail the statement from Sullivan to the Abzug Subcommittee. The statement of Sullivan is entitled, "Statement Given Voluntarily to Inspector Best and Special Agent in Charge Bates of the FBI, September 16, 1975, Re: Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963 by Lee Harvey Oswald."

In box numbers 42 and 46, we recommend that certain materials be released as assassination records. They are:

B. Box No. 42

Folder Labeled "GI -- National Archives"

Within this folder, we identified two assassination records:

- December 9, 1975 Letter from Bella Abzug to James Rhoads regarding the classification of Warren Commission records.
- December 9, 1975 Letter from Bella Abzug to James Rhoads regarding Warren Commission records and FOIA.

C. Box No. 46

Folder Labeled "94 (SCR) Archives -- Natl Archives & Records Service"

This entire folder should be designated as an assassination record since it relates to public access to Warren Commission materials in the custody of the National Archives.

Please coordinate the processing and placement of these records into the JFK Assassination Records Collection ("JFK Collection") at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland. We would appreciate written confirmation when these materials are placed in the JFK Collection. Please call me if you have any questions, and thank you again for your assistance.

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Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron
Associate General Counsel