

DRAFT -- 9/26/95

Name of Agency: FBI

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ARRB staff members are working with FBI documents on a daily basis. Their efforts include: (i) reviewing postponements proposed by the FBI, together with the FBI's supporting evidence, to make recommendations to the Review Board regarding these postponements; and (ii) reviewing documents provided by the FBI in response to requests for "additional records and information," in order to identify and locate assassination records that have not been so designated by the FBI.

The ARRB staff conservatively estimates that there will be 18,000 to 20,000 FBI assassination records containing claimed postponements. (No exact figure is available because the FBI has approximately 300,000 pages of assassination records left to process.) To date, the Review Board has made formal determinations on the postponements in 27 FBI records. The FBI also has agreed, after consultations with ARRB staff, to release in full approximately 145 additional records that previously contained postponements. Accordingly, the ARRB staff has not presented these records to the Review Board for formal determinations.

The ARRB has made eight formal requests for additional records and information to the FBI. These requests have included portions of files from the relevant time periods that may contain assassination records (*e.g.*, the FBI Headquarters file on Presidential Protection), as well as records or information that may assist ARRB staff in identifying or locating assassination records (*e.g.*, FBI manuals). The FBI has complied, in whole or in part, with each of these requests, and review of requested materials is ongoing. It is the sense of the ARRB staff that the FBI has acted in good faith in seeking limitation or clarification of requests that it perceived as overly broad or unclear as originally framed.

After reviewing materials provided in response to one of these requests, the Review Board designated FBI Headquarters file 92-3171 for the period January 1, 1960 through January 1, 1963, as an assassination record. (The FBI had acknowledged that this file constitutes an assassination record from 1963 forward.) This file pertains to organized crime figure Sam Giancana.

On the whole, the ARRB staff views its day-to-day relations with FBI personnel as cooperative and productive. However, there has been considerable delay in obtaining from the FBI meaningful evidence in support of its proposed redactions. Although the ARRB wishes to afford the FBI every opportunity to present its justifications for continuing to withhold information in assassination records, difficulties with this process appear to be the greatest impediment to discharging the ARRB's responsibilities as to FBI records.