

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Board

FROM: David Marwell

DATE: July 12, 1996

SUBJECT: August Open Meeting

We have discussed among ourselves the issues raised at the last Board Meeting concerning the question of the relevance of records outside agency "core assassination" files. As you know, these records range from those of direct relevance to the assassination and others for which we are unable to identify any relevance. We believe that finding an approach to the handling of these records that is fully consistent with our mandate and responsibilities and, at the same time, reflects a reasonable and appropriate investment of (Board, staff, and agency) resources is crucial to our completing our job on time. We met yesterday with representatives of the CIA to discuss this issue in the most general terms and plan a similar meeting with the FBI in the near future.

Public Meeting

We propose that the Board hold an open meeting on August 5, 1995. Relevant agencies (CIA, FBI), will be invited to offer (under oath) a complete unclassified description of the non-core collections at issue. The staff will provide the results of its preliminary review of these collections, addressing the question of relevance, and will also present the various legal and procedural options available to the Board. Members of the public will be invited to offer comments. We suggest that the period for public comment be limited to approximately one hour and that the speakers be limited to 5-10 minutes. The Board will have an opportunity to question agency representatives, members of the public, and the staff. We suggest that no decision be made at the meeting, although the Board probably should engage in some preliminary deliberations. Following the meeting, the staff will prepare a detailed plan of procedures for Board considerations. Final Board deliberations and a decision could be scheduled for mid-September in California or for a later meeting.

We need to proceed immediately with notification of this meeting and would appreciate your comments as soon as possible so that we can get started with concrete planning. Absent objection from the Board, we will submit the appropriate notification to the Federal Register on Tuesday afternoon.