

December 13, 1996

Mr. Paul Colborn
Special Counsel
Office of Legal Counsel
U.S. Department of Justice
Main Justice Building--Room 5246
Tenth Street and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: United States Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel Compliance with the
JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

Dear Mr. Colborn:

Thank you for contacting us earlier this week in response to our inquiry regarding the status of the Office of Legal Counsel's ("OLC") compliance with the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107. You designated Ms. Betty Farris, a legal assistant in your office, as our contact person. Phil Golrick and I met with her on December 12, and I am writing to set forth the results of our meeting:

1. OLC Assassination Records Collected to Date: Ms. Farris provided for our inspection the OLC assassination records that your office has thus far identified and collected. They consist of a chronological set of documents from 1963 through 1978; it is our understanding that these were identified by searching a computer database for the central chronological file (or "daybooks") for the OLC. The subjects covered by these records included, *inter alia*, legal issues involved in the start-up of the Warren Commission, public access to Warren Commission evidence, proposed legislation making Presidential assassination a federal crime, and responses to public inquiries regarding the assassination.

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Ms. Farris advised us that these records can be publicly released in their entirety. That being the case, we advised her that only one Record Identification Form ("RIF") need be prepared for this set of documents¹ and that the records can be forwarded directly to Steve Tilley at the National Archives for inclusion in the JFK Assassination Records Collection.

2. Additional Potential OLC Assassination Records: We reviewed with Ms. Farris additional records of the OLC that we believe may contain additional materials related to the assassination. In particular, we asked Ms. Farris to locate and review the files of the Office of Assistant Attorney General for OLC from the 1960's (the OLC AAGs for this period were Norbert A. Schlei and Frank Wozencraft). We also asked that the files of other OLC attorneys, whom we believe had substantive involvement in issues relating to the assassination, be located and reviewed; those individuals are W. David Slawson, Martin F. Richman, Dudley Chapman, and Harold F. Reis. Finally, we asked Ms. Farris to locate any available indices or Federal Record Center transmittal forms (SF 135) for 1960's records of the OLC that may have been archived.

We appreciate the assistance that you and Ms. Farris have provided us. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague, Phil Golrick, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron
Senior Attorney

cc: Ms. Betty Farris, Room 5263,
Main Justice Building

¹ If you prepare one RIF for this set of records, we request that the "Comments" field of the RIF give a reasonably detailed description of these records (e.g., "These records are taken from the central chronological file of the Office of Legal Counsel for the period 1963 to 1978. They represent all of the assassination records obtained from that file, and all of these records are being made available to the public in full.").