

MEMO

To: Board
From: Tom
Subject: Manchester Papers
Date: July 3, 2017

Background:

Prolonged efforts to secure permission from Manchester for Board to review materials have been unsuccessful.

Although Manchester has not unequivocally denied our request, with the passage of so much time since the Board's efforts began, it appears very unlikely that he will allow the Board's review.

Options:

Continue efforts to persuade Manchester to agree to the review of his materials.

Demand of JFK Library that the Board be allowed to review the materials, citing the authority of the JFK Act.

No further action.

Considerations:

Value of materials. This material is considered to be very important by historians and researchers.

Timing. Will the Board's pursuing the matter at this time adversely impact anything else we are seeking at this time, either from the JFK Library or parties associated with the Library?

Board's limited time to act. It is likely that it will take months to resolve this matter, thus making the Board's September 30, 1998 close date a factor.

NARA position. The former NARA general counsel supported the Board's right to review the Manchester materials. We do not know the acting general counsel's position.

Recommendation:

The Board pursue the Manchester papers and take the following steps:

1. Find out position of NARA acting general counsel.
2. Make demand of JFK Library for Board to review Manchester materials.
3. Take necessary steps in response to JFK Library answer.