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Subject: ARRB Military Team Met With Joint Staff Secretariat
MEETING REPORT DOCUMENTS AUTHOR: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 11/24/97 Meeting Logistics Date: 11/24/97 Agency Name: Department of Defense -- Joint Staff Attendees: Doug Horne, Jim Goslee, Will Kammer, Ed McBride Topic: ARRB Military Team Met With Joint Staff Secretariat Summary of the Meeting Doug Horne and Jim Goslee met today with Will Kammer and Ed McBride of the Joint Staff Secretariat. The original intent of our visit was to provide training to Will Kammer on how to create RIFs, but before we could begin that training, Mr. Ed McBride (Will Kammer's boss) asked to meet with us. The subject was last week's press releases concerning JCS documents from 1961-64. He explained that the reaction in the E-Ring of the Pentagon was simply one of irritation that "the Joint Staff had released those documents." He said that he and Will Kammer are confident they acted appropriately under the JFK Act's guidelines, but that the challenge was to continue to try to explain the JFK Act's provisions to 2-star and 3-star generals. He said that in light of the embarrassing nature of the media attention (which he characterized as "yellow journalism," and a game of "gotcha" with the military), the only question from the E-Ring continued to be, "were these documents reviewed and released at the appropriate levels?" Ed McBride and Will Kammer admitted that they have an internal education problem within the Pentagon regarding the JFK Act--not a direct quote, but an accurate paraphrase, I believe, of the substance of their remarks. They are hoping that their own internal "flap" will blow over in a couple of days. [After this short meeting with Ed McBride, Will Kammer informed me that Mr. McBride still has to write a paper explaining everything that happened (and will continue to happen) to superiors at the Pentagon.] During the meeting with Ed McBride, he also asked when our next document release would be, and asked what the subject matter would be, approximate numbers, etc. I told him the next release would be in December, and that it would be about 50% on Vietnam (from JCS documents), and 50% on Cuba (from the Califano papers). He wanted to know the subject matter of the Vietnam documents, and I told him: SECDEF Conference on Vietnam from May 1963 (complete minutes); the Diem Coup; and OPLAN 34A. He took very careful notes. Will Kammer volunteered that last week, consideration was given to changing the way they were doing business in regard to these documents, but that they may now have weathered the worst of the storm internally. I did not specifically ask whether they would attend the next Joint Declassification Session, nor did they volunteer whether or not they would attend. Apparently the answer hinges on how well Mr. McBride's report is received in the E-Ring during the next few days. Jim Goslee conducted training for Will Kammer on how to create RIFs. This is extremely important, since the Joint Staff secretariat presently has approximately 1,500 pages or so of Mongoose material which needs to be RIFed and reviewed. Once they RIF

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