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Subject: Meeting report re: Declassification session
Tim and I met with Steve Riley and Herb Roosevelt of NARA this afternoon to discuss the complexities of the proposed declassification session. The first thing he told us was that it would be acceptable, and in fact has been the practice, that when documents already under NARA jurisdiction are removed from their original collections to be placed in the JFK collection, a photocopy can be placed in the original collection and the original document placed in the JFK collection. So, we can work with the originals. Steve thought that we should set up the session so that after the initial review is completed, the originating agency should stamp the original document declassified. He feels that the cover sheets we devised are a good idea, and should be used, but that these cover sheets should in fact not be attached to the documents when they enter the collection. Rather, the cover sheets (and the postponement sheets, which he also felt are a good idea) should be maintained in the ARRB records as a method to document the review process. Steve emphasized that he would greatly prefer that the documents be RIFed before this process begins, as there would be far fewer opportunities for mistakes or confusion to occur. However, he did concede that if the best way to expediate the process is to assign ARRB record numbers to the documents and then assign RIFs after the fact, "we could live with that." If the RIFs are to be assigned afterwards, there would have to be a line in the "comments" field that states, "Reviewed as ARRB Record 0209" or something along those lines. Steve was very emphatic that NARA will not assign the RIFs themselves for any documents that were not in NARA's possession at the time the JFK Act was passed. This means that the Army would be responsible for RIFing the Califano papers. (Despite the fact that there are numerous originating agencies, they were located in an Army holding, so the Army would be responsible for them.) His attitude was that "they should have done this four years ago-- we got all the documents we were responsible for RIFed, and we had fewer people than they do." Steve was going to check on the accession date for the JCS records; if they were accessioned before the JFK Act, he said, then NARA will get them RIFed. He will get back to us on this. The Califano papers and JCS documents are being wrapped and prepared for delivery to us some time early next week. At that point, any review or other work can be done by us at our offices. We ended the meeting with the following understandings: 1. Steve will check on the accession dates of the JCS papers and inform us as to who is responsible for getting them RIFed. 2. Expediency is a priority, as our time limit looms, so whichever way works to hasten the release of these documents is the action we will take (relating to attaching RIFs before or after the session.) 3. Tim is going to go to the Army point of contact and inform him that they must RIF the Califano files, and ask them if they prefer to do it before or after the session. This will not be presented as "can you do this?", but rather, Record

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