
INSERT TO CHAPTER SIX

B. RECORDS ON CUBA

3. Presidential library collections

JFK Library records. To augment the JFK Library's initial search and identification of assassination records, a joint team of Review Board staff and representatives of CIA, State Department and OSD, visited the JFK Library in June, 1996 to conduct a comprehensive review of JFK Library closed collections. The Review Board staff was granted access to all of the Library's National Security Files containing records on Cuba from the Kennedy administration. As a result of this effort, The Review Board identified additional assassination records on Cuba and coordinated the declassification of those records requiring multiple agency review. Of particular value were those records which discussed the Kennedy administration's policy toward Cuba, proposed anti-Castro activities, and Operation Mongoose planning, most which were generated by the Standing Group Committee of the National Security Council. The Review Board

staff also identified Cuban records in the Robert F. Kennedy Attorney General papers, the Richard Goodwin papers and in the DOJ Criminal Division microfilm collection.

The release of the RFK papers proved to be more problematic than anticipated; in addition to requiring declassification these records were also subject to a deposit agreement requiring the express permission of the RFK screening committee to authorize their release.¹ The initial decision was made to designate the RFK Cuba-related records as EHU's rather than as assassination records. The JFK Library then moved to process them as part of the Executive Order mandatory review declassification and included them in the pilot scanning project conducted by CIA, with the stipulation that they be reviewed under JFK Act guidelines. The process was further delayed due to a combination of technical problems with the scanning project and a change in leadership of the committee following the death of Michael Kennedy, who had formerly been the head of the committee.

¹The RFK Screening Committee was established in the 1970's for the purpose of overseeing the processing of RFK papers which were held on a deposit agreement at the JFK Library. It has traditionally been comprised of Kennedy family members and scholars. Current members are Max Kennedy, John Nolan and John Siegenthaler.

Most of the Cuba-related documents of interest to the Review Board were designated as EHU's, and were earmarked for release at the JFK Library upon declassification. Highlights were records on Operation Mongoose, reports on Cuban exile groups, anti-Castro activities, various files on the Cuba study group. Subsequent to the June, 1996 review, additional assassination records were identified in this collection by JFK Library staff and were processed for release. JFK Library foreign policy staff has worked on behalf of the Review Board in negotiating the release of the RFK papers with the RFK screening committee.

LBJ Library. As was expected, the LBJ Library was not as rich in material pertaining to Cuba. When the Review Board reviewed the LBJ Library Collections, the frame of reference or barometer with which it measured assassination related material was whether there was any discussion or indication of a change in policy between the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. Records in the LBJ Library indicate Shift from Cuba to Vietnam was evident in the days. Some records from Johnson's tenure as

Vice President that pertained to Cuba and papers of Mac Bundy.
