

November 6, 1997

Ms. Tina Houston
Supervisory Archivist
Lyndon Baines Johnson Library
2313 Red River Street
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Ms. Houston:

Thank you for sending us the copy of the audio cassette of Lady Bird Johnson's White House Diary for November 22-24, 1963. Your staff has been extremely responsive to our recent informal requests for information and database updates. We also appreciate the effort that went into processing the additional documents identified as assassination records by the Review Board in March 1997. As agreed, we will be responsible for coordinating the referrals on those records. We were also pleased with the Johnson Library's contribution to the NARA Initial Statement of Compliance which I found particularly helpful for assessing what remaining work needs to be done. Our compliance officer will be responding to your report in due time.

I would like to take this opportunity to request your assistance with several other matters related to the continuing review and processing of LBJ Library assassination records. We want to ensure that all assassination records identified under the Library's mandatory review are processed and sent to NARA before the Review Board's tenure ends in September 1998. We will be coordinating the referrals for the 293 documents Jeremy Gunn, Steve Tilley and I identified last March, along with a group of 16 records which the Library designated as MR case NLJ 97-10/JFK Review Board. Meanwhile, we still need to take appropriate action on the other records the LBJ Library identified between 1992 and 1995 as part of its systematic mandatory review. As far as we know, these are still in various stages of review and your staff has been providing any updates to Steve Tilley.

Document Referrals

I want to verify that our records are consistent with yours. According to the most recent information provided by your staff on October 2, the status of the LBJ Library's mandatory review cases is as follows:

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Outstanding Mandatory Review Cases

NLJ 93-467; all documents
NLJ 95-211; all documents
NLJ 95-261; documents 185, 186, 188, 194, 196, 197 (awaiting CIA concurrence)
NLJ 95-378; all documents
NLJ 95-380; all documents

HVCCO

NLJ 94-484
NLJ 95-263
NLJ 95-264

Mandatory Review Cases Containing Exempted and/or Sanitized Documents:

NLJ 92-228; documents #11,13, 14, 15, 21a, 24, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33a
NLJ 93-25; document #1
NLJ 93-26; documents #4a, 4d
NLJ 93-466; document #8a
NLJ 94-97; document #5, 14, 35, 28c-2, 34, 29c-z, 5a, 11c

HVCCO

NLJ 93-380
NLJ 94-78
NLJ 95-258; document #1d
NLJ 95-259; document #1f,1
NLJ 95-262; document #1
NLJ 95-382; document #7

During my last visit to NARA, I noticed that while copies of the documents corresponding to the "Outstanding" cases were available, only the redacted copies of the sanitized documents had been provided to Steve Tilley. The Board will need to vote on any documents that contain postponements as well as review those documents which have been exempted. In order to accomplish this, we request that you send to Steve Tilley, the clear, unredacted copies of those documents from the cases listed above as containing exempted and/or sanitized documents, including the codeword material, with the corresponding RIFs attached. I already discussed this with Steve Tilley so he is aware of this request. In addition, for the time being, Steve will be handling the codeword material. We are scheduling a special joint declassification session involving relevant federal agencies in December 1997 to include the review of some of the Presidential Library records, with the Johnson

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Library slated as a priority. As we would like to maximize this opportunity to include the outstanding referrals, we request that you send the copies of the sanitized/exempted records to NARA by November 28. Please let me know if there is a problem with having the copies by this date. Once we have the Board vote on these records and have completed the final determinations, which we intend to have after the joint declassification session, we will send you the results.

Jacqueline Kennedy Tapes

I mentioned in our last phone conversation that the Review Board is very interested in having the tapes of the conversations between President Johnson and Mrs. Kennedy opened. As I understand it, Mr. Middleton has not yet made a decision to open these particular tapes which had remained closed for privacy reasons. Please inform us of the current status of these tapes and whether there are any definite plans to open them. The Board will want to pursue this matter, and would welcome any suggestions you might have to facilitate this.

Additional Requests for Material Related to the JFK Assassination

We would also like to follow up on the remaining requests that resulted from our visit in March, some of which were noted in your initial statement of compliance, and determine what issues are still outstanding. Please verify the status of progress made in processing the following groups of records and/or files, noting if any decisions have been made to keep records closed:

- Mildred Stegall Files
- Walt Jenkins Shorthand Notes
- Drew Pearson Papers
- Walt Rostow Appointment books and Office Files not previously reviewed
- Clifton Carter Office Files
- John Macy Office Files
- Lawrence F. O'Brien Manuscripts and Archives
- William C. Westmoreland Manuscripts and Archives
- John McCone Briefing Memoranda
- Remaining Oral Histories to be processed

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I will call you next week to discuss these items in more detail. Thank you once again for your assistance.

Sincerely

Irene F. Marr
Senior Analyst

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