

MEMORANDUM

May 12, 2017

To: Laura Denk, Executive Director

From: Irene Marr, Senior Analyst

Subject: NBR Foreign Government Information in LBJ Library National Security Files

After reviewing the seven documents from the LBJ Library that contain foreign government information, I determined that three of these should be designated as NBR since they fall outside the scope of the assassination. These NBR documents come from the LBJ Library's National Security Files (NSF) and deal primarily with the foreign government's conversations with Khrushchev. I believe these records ought to be declassified under the Executive Order, but do not think it appropriate to have them opened under the JFK Act. This is not the first time where documents submitted for mandatory review by a presidential library were assigned RIFs and thus attained status as an assassination record. In those cases, the records were declassified with the assistance of the Review Board through the third party referral process. In this particular case, it becomes more problematic for the Review Board to make the determination to release since the NBR records in question are foreign government-originated. To sum up, it would not be completely credible to invoke the JFK Act in this instance.

Summary of NBR Information

A total of four documents fall within the category of NSF, Country File, USSR, Khrushchev Conversation and are dated June 4, 1964. Only one of these documents, RIF 177-10001-10278 contained information relevant to President Kennedy. This document has been submitted to the foreign government for declassification. The State Department has concurred with its release. The other three records 177-10001-10277, 177-10001-10279 and 177-10001-280 discussed aspects of the foreign government's relations with the USSR, President Johnson's foreign policy toward the USSR, the German problem, nuclear weapons, arms control and military tensions between the East and West. These three contained no mention of Kennedy's policies nor the assassination.