

MEMORANDUM

May 12, 2017

TO: David G. Marwell

CC: T. Jeremy Gunn

FROM: Irene Marr

SUBJECT: LBJ Library Status

General Status

Based upon our review of the LBJ Library records at NARA II and our discussions with Steve Tilley, it appears that the LBJ Library has conducted a reasonably comprehensive search of its collections, identified assassination records, prepared RIFs, forwarded the assassination records (in redacted form) to the JFK Collection, and has referred third agency documents to originators. There are three principal steps that must be taken to ensure completion of LBJ Library work. First, it must send to the JFK Collection *unredacted* copies of all documents for which postponements have been sought. (The Library has promised to complete this action shortly.) Second, the Review Board staff needs to visit the Library to ensure that all relevant collections have been reviewed for assassination records. Third, the Board must review the postponed records. The following paragraphs provide some additional detail.

Need to Forward Unredacted Records and Coordination with National Archives

The LBJ Library has begun to transfer to NARA unredacted copies of documents for which it has asserted postponements, however, we are not certain to what extent this has been completed. Last year we raised this issue in our on-site visit, and encouraged the Library to forward unredacted copies to the Review Board. Our November 1996 review of the LBJ file boxes at NARA revealed some disparity between the LBJ Library's index of recently open or sanitized assassination records and what was actually residing in the JFK Collection at NARA. There were also discrepancies in the LBJ Library's electronic database which did not accurately reflect the true status of processed and outstanding assassination records. Since then, steps have been taken to ensure that the LBJ Library has a clear understanding of its compliance obligations under the JFK Act, and that all records with partial or full postponements are being coordinated with ARRB and NARA. Tina Houston assured us that her staff was working on updating the Library's data base of assassination records and

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will send us a copy as soon as it is completed.

The LBJ Library has recently forwarded to NARA copies of all remaining security-classified JFK documents submitted in Mandatory Review cases and additional outstanding Declassification Review cases which contain documents that require coordination with originating agencies such as CIA, FBI, DoD, and the Department of State. Steve Tilley has confirmed receipt of these materials at NARA and reassured us that a member of his staff has been assigned to process these documents. Once the NARA staff has had a chance to process these documents, arrangements will be made for ARRB to review the material and ensure that the unredacted copies of those documents containing postponements are made available to the Review Board. Steve Tilley also informed us that the LBJ Library has been sending updated versions of certain deeded documents as a result of changes in the status of the respective deed holders. These are also being processed at NARA.

Visit to LBJ Library Scheduled for March 24-27th to identify additional assassination records.

Plans are underway for Irene Marr, Steve Tilley, and Jeremy Gunn to spend three to four days during the week of March 24th at the LBJ Library for a review and assessment of additional possible assassination-related material. The purpose of this trip is to review National Security Files, oral histories and personal papers in the LBJ Library collection, identify additional assassination records, verify that all unredacted copies of previously identified assassination documents are made available to the Review Board, and follow up on some outstanding issues concerning the proper transfer of records to the National Archives. The project team will be working with Tina Houston, Supervisory Archivist, along with senior archivists Regina Greenwell and Claudia Anderson.

In preparation for the trip we have provided to the Library a list of files and additional materials we would like to review as part of this project. *(attached)* We also explained our interest in looking at material, including tape recordings, on Vietnam during the October 1963 to January 1965 time frame.

This is intended to enable the public to have a more complete historical record of all major Vietnam policy differences and similarities between the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. We have also requested any of Johnson's Vice Presidential papers that discuss his participation in, or opinion of, any plans or policy decisions with regard to Vietnam. This includes documents that contained any accounts of, or references to, the Honolulu conference of November 20, 1963, which discussed OPLAN 34A and is strongly regarded as assassination-relevant. In addition to Vietnam-related records, we are interested in reviewing any material from the period of November 1963 to roughly January 1, 1965 *not previously open to the public* that would provide insight into shifts or continuity in major foreign policy areas, e.g. Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Release of Jacqueline Kennedy Letters and Tapes

The LBJ Library has finished processing the Jacqueline Kennedy-President Johnson correspondence and is close to completing its review of the audio tapes. According to Tina Houston, Mrs. Kennedy's letters are now open but have not yet been sent to NARA. A decision on the audio tapes is expected to be made by February 14th, the next scheduled deadline for release of President Johnson's tapes. Although the Library has not yet decided what it will do, we anticipate that the recordings will be opened.