

September 25, 1998

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

Dear Tina:

I would like to thank you, as well as Regina Greenwell and Claudia Anderson, for participating in our conference call on Friday, November 15th. The discussion was extremely useful in terms of bringing us, along with Steve Tilley, up to date on a number of unresolved matters, as well as identifying some of the areas that still need to be addressed. This is to summarize the main points of our discussion and the action items to which we agreed:

1. An updated copy of the LBJ Library's electronic data bases on JFK assassination records will be forwarded to the ARRB and/or Steve Tilley at the National Archives Records Administration (NARA).
2. The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act gives authority to the Assassination Records Review Board *"to consider and render decisions on a determination by a Government office to seek to postpone the disclosure of assassination records."* In order to facilitate the statutory-imposed responsibility of the Review Board, the LBJ Library will forward copies of the unredacted versions of all postponed and sanitized documents, along with copies of the proposed postponements, to the ARRB for Board review. Upon receiving the unredacted copies of the documents, the ARRB will request the originating agency's evidence supporting the proposed postponements.
3. There appears to be some discrepancy between the LBJ Library's listing of recently opened and sanitized assassination records and what has been made available to the JFK Collection at NARA. The contents of the LBJ file boxes residing at NARA do not reflect all documents that apparently have been released by the LBJ Library under the Act. In response to this concern, the LBJ Library has agreed to ensure that copies of all declassified documents are transferred to Steve Tilley. Those which contain postponements will be handled as described in item 2.

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4. The ARRB requested a review of the Presidential Daily Briefs, particularly those which date from the time immediately surrounding the assassination, to determine whether they should be classified as assassination records. The LBJ Library will check on the status of these records and verify whether copies have been forwarded to the Historical Review Group (HRG) at the CIA, and any other appropriate JFK offices, for initial declassification. These records will then be forwarded to the ARRB to complete the review process.
5. The LBJ Library will follow up on the FBI name list inquiries to determine which, if any, are relevant to the assassination and will therefore need to be reviewed by the ARRB.
6. The LBJ Library will verify the status of the Jacqueline Kennedy-LBJ phone conversations and provide an update to the ARRB within the next month.
7. Assassination records that require referral to originating agencies shall be forwarded directly to the designated JFK contact person and not to the FOIA office. To facilitate this process, ARRB has already provided a list of the principal contact names and courier addresses to the LBJ Library.
8. A visit by ARRB staff to the LBJ Library for the purpose of reviewing National Security Files for additional assassination records has been proposed for early to mid-January 1997. Plans for this visit will be finalized over the next several weeks. In preparation for this project, ARRB has requested access to the following country files: Cuba, Mexico, USSR, and Vietnam for the 1963-64 time period.
9. In response to the LBJ's Library request, Steve Tilley offered to check on whether the LBJ audio tapes and transcripts at NARA were being made available together for more convenient use by the public, and not separated as some researchers have suggested.

Following our conversation, Irene Marr faxed you a copy of the contact names and courier addresses. Please let us know if this was not received or if you require any additional information pursuant to our discussion.

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We greatly appreciate your cooperation in assisting us with our requests and for clarifying some of the outstanding issues. We look forward to continuing our work with you and your staff in the future.

Sincerely yours,

T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel and
Associate Director for Research and Analysis

cc: Steve Tilley

Descriptive Name: LTR Tina Houston LBJ Library

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Subject: Follow-up to 15 November Conference Call

Attachments: None

Blind Copy: Gunn

Carbon Copy: Steve Tilley, NARA

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