

LBJ Library Records Review Update
January 28th, 1997

Visit to LBJ Library Scheduled for March 24-27th

Plans are underway for Jeremy Gunn and Irene Marr of ARRB, and Steve Tilley of NARA, to spend three to four days during the week of March 24th at the LBJ Library for a preliminary review and assessment of 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.

Identification of Additional Assassination Records

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. We also specified 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 the differences and/or similarities in Vietnam policy 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 would include any 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.

Coordination with National Archives

A review in November 1996 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. 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. The LBJ Library has recently forwarded to NARA copies of all remaining security-classified JFK documents submitted in

LBJ Library Update

Page 2

January 28, 1997

Mandatory Review cases and additional outstanding Declassification Review cases which contain documents that require coordination with originating agencies such as CIA, FBI, DoD, and 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.

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.