

MEMORANDUM

October 15, 1997

To: File

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: FBI-HSCA Priority List of Files

In August 1996, David Marwell asked me to create a priority list of the FBI-HSCA files that would rate names and topics as highest, high, medium, and low interest. Last August, it was not clear whether ARRB would continue past September 1997, and the FBI had quite a bit a work ahead in completing its processing of these files. David's thought was that at least we would push to get the highest priority files open at NARA before we finished. I spent several weeks looking up information on 250-300 individuals and determining interest among researchers in seeing their files. My work was the basis for the FBI's HSCA Collection database.

On October 8, 1997, Jeremy Gunn and Tom Samoluk called a meeting to discuss referrals. In the course of our discussions regarding various agencies, Laura Denk, who is in charge of FBI issues, said that those names in the "highest" category on the priority list were only "see" packages. (This observation struck me as anecdotal, but it was accepted without question.) Denk also suggested that the FBI had institutional concerns in processing HSCA files. Jeremy stated that he thought the HSCA staff notes should have highest priority.

And so ended one of my more time-consuming projects. This is an example of how decisions are made at ARRB.

