

MEMORANDUM

June 20, 2017

To: Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

cc: Tom Samoluk
Deputy Director

From:: Manuel E. Legaspi
Analyst

Subject: Status of National Security Agency Documents For 14 October 1997 Meeting

This memorandum is intended to inform the Assassination Records Review Board of the current status of documents from the National Security Agency (NSA) scheduled to be voted on by the Board at its 14 October 1997 meeting in Washington, DC.

1. The NSA has delivered, to date, 225 assassination-related records from their files to the ARRB staff. Of those 225 documents, 84 have been voted on by the Board and released to the National Archives and Records Administration in August.
2. The remaining 141 documents can be broken down as follows, according to the order in which they were received by ARRB:

On 16 December 1996, the NSA delivered to the ARRB 28 Third Agency-originated assassination records that were discovered in NSA Archives. Of these 28 documents, it was determined (through the Third-Agency referral process) that 26 could be released in full as consent releases. ARRB is currently in negotiation with the Department of State over the status of the two remaining documents from this group.

On 13 March 1997, the NSA delivered 49 unclassified assassination records to the ARRB. Of these 49 documents, 32 were found to be unclassified, and 17 were found to be "For Official Use Only" due to the presence of employee names in the documents. The NSA has requested that the ARRB continue to protect these names in these 17 documents. The Review Board had voted to protect names in 13 of these documents at the March 1997

meeting, however, since Record Identification Forms data did not exist for four of the 17 documents, ARRB staff withheld releasing these documents to NARA until the remaining four documents were formally voted on by the Board. ARRB is now in possession of the relevant RIF information and the remaining four documents are now ready for review.

On 06 August 1997, the NSA delivered to the ARRB 61 assassination records, many classified "Top Secret/SCI." Of these documents, the NSA identified 12 as fully releasable and six to be referred to third agencies for an evaluation of equities. The remaining 43 documents contain a myriad of review issues, some which have been dealt with by the Board, and some which have not.

Three documents were separated from previous document shipments due to administrative errors. These three documents present review issues that have not yet been addressed by the Board.

3. The ARRB staff has evaluated these remaining 141 records and has made the following recommendations/observations:

That the 46 records that do not represent "green" issues be dealt with at a future date, since many of them will likely require individual scrutiny by Board members;

That the eight documents that require third-agency input be referred as soon as possible, with the goal of having them ready for Board review at the 17-18 November 1997 meeting;

That the 13 documents already voted on by the Board in March 1997 be processed for delivery to NARA.

That the Board formally vote on the remaining four "green" issue records. The seventy consent releases will be listed in the Federal Register. It should be noted that some of these consent releases are unclassified documents which have never been released to the public.