

## MEMORANDUM

January 8, 1998

To: FBI File 4.16.4 (FBI-36)  
Wrap-Up Memos File 4.50

From: Ronald G. Haron

Cc: T. Jeremy Gunn  
Thomas Samoluk  
Laura Denk

Subject: Assassination Records Among The Files of  
J. Edgar Hoover (FBI-36)

### A. Introduction

This purpose of this memorandum is to describe the Review Board's work in identifying records relating to President Kennedy's assassination that may have been among the files of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. This memorandum: (1) describes the existing Hoover files that were reviewed under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act ("JFK Act") and (2) identifies the records that the Review Board recommended be designated by the FBI as assassination records under the JFK Act.<sup>1</sup>

### B. Hoover Files That Were Reviewed

---

<sup>1</sup> This incorporates and updates my prior memo of May 22, 1997 regarding our review of the Hoover files.

Memorandum re Hoover Files

January 8, 1998

Page 2

We identified the existence of the following categories of Hoover records: (1) 164 Official & Confidential (“O&C”) files, mostly on various individuals, which are maintained in the Special File Room at FBI Headquarters; (2) various subject files of Hoover’s that were transmitted to certain divisions of the FBI after Mr. Hoover’s death; (3) logs of Hoover’s phone calls and office meetings, which are available with redactions in the FBI’s public reading room; and (4) so-called personal files of Hoover that were destroyed by Ms. Gandy, Hoover’s secretary, shortly after his death in 1972.<sup>2</sup> Finally, there is an administrative file for the FBI’s 1975 internal investigation of the disposition of Hoover’s files following his death (*see* FBI File No. 62-HQ-116606). A review of this file was helpful in obtaining an overview of Director Hoover’s files.

I reviewed the following Hoover files:

1. Official & Confidential Files

In 1975, FBI Director Kelley was provided with an alphabetical and numerical index to the 164 O&C files (File No. 62-116006-13x). I did not review all 164 files. Rather, I reviewed these indices and, on the basis of the indices, selected the following O&C files to be inspected for assassination-related materials:

CRIMDEL--CRS (O&C File 6)

“77-51387 serials 309, 310 only” (O&C File 9) (relates to Robert F. Kennedy)

Joseph Patrick Kennedy, Sr. (O&C Files 11 and 14)

“92-2831 serials 582, 583, 584, 585 only” (O&C File 12) (relates to Meyer Lansky)

John F. Kennedy (O&C Files 13 and 96)

Patricia Kennedy Lawford (O&C File 21)

Lyndon Johnson (O&C Files 22 and 92)

---

<sup>2</sup> The destruction of these Hoover files were the subject of a Congressional inquiry. *See Inquiry into the Destruction of Former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover’s Files and FBI Record Keeping: Hearings before a Subcommittee on Government Operations, House of Representatives, 94th Cong., 1st Sess., 1975.*

Memorandum re Hoover Files  
January 8, 1998  
Page 3

FBI-Secret Service Agreement Re Presidential Protection  
(O&C File 25)

Attorney General (O&C File 30)

Robert G. Baker (O&C File 31)

Black Bag Jobs (O&C File 36)

Fred B. Black, Jr. (O&C File 37)  
Confidential Informants (O&C File 51)

Expansion of Foreign Intelligence Coverage (O&C File 64)

FBI Counterintelligence Activities (O&C File 66)

J. Edgar Hoover (O&C Files 85 and 86)

Intelligence Coverage--Foreign & Domestic (O&C File 90)

Robert F. Kennedy (O&C File 97)

Kruschev and Soviet Intelligence Activities in the U.S. (O&C File 99)

Microphone Surveillances (O&C File 114)

Organized Crime (O&C File 122)

Frank Sinatra (O&C File 139)

Specialized Mail Coverage (O&C File 142)

Technical Surveillances (O&C File 145)

S.J. Tracy (O&C File 147)

Memorandum re Hoover Files

January 8, 1998

Page 4

U.S. Foreign Intelligence Activities (O&C File 149)

Washington Field Division (O&C Files 155 and 156)

White House Correspondence (O&C File 158)

Wiretapping (O&C Files 163 and 164)

I determined that the subjects of the other O&C files did not, on their face, appear to be sufficiently related to the events of the assassination, and therefore I did not review them.

## 2. O&C Index Cards

The FBI still has the original pink index cards that were apparently created and maintained by Ms. Gandy for certain subjects indexed as being among the O&C files. Most importantly, there was one index card entitled, "Kennedy, President John F. -- Assassination," which disclosed that Hoover maintained certain materials on the assassination. A copy of that index card is attached hereto as Attachment A. We have requested the records described on this index card. See April 22, 1997 Letter from David Marwell to Carol Keeley. Other index cards -- referencing certain individuals --cross-referenced a November 29, 1963 Hoover memorandum on Hoover's conversation with President Johnson about the assassination (this memo is located in Johnson O&C File 92).<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Other Hoover Files

<sup>3</sup> I identified index cards that existed on the following individuals: Lee Harvey Oswald; Jack Ruby; Gerald Ford; Richard B. Russell; John Sherman Cooper; Hale Boggs; Allen Dulles; and John McCloy. Each of these cards cross-referenced the November 29, 1963 memorandum in the O&C file for President Johnson (O&C File 92); these cards did not cross-reference any other assassination-related documents. In addition, there was a card for the Presidential Commission on the Assassination of John F. Kennedy, which simply cross-referenced the same November 29, 1963 memorandum on Hoover's discussion with LBJ. I checked the index cards for some other obvious subjects--Cuba, Castro, Earl Warren, and Jim Garrison--but there were no references to those in the O&C index cards. There was a card for G.B. Banister, which referenced an S.B. Tracy O&C file (File No. 147). When I checked that file, it had only one document from 1938 regarding an "SAC Banister" and his comments regarding the FBI office in New York.

Memorandum re Hoover Files

January 8, 1998

Page 5

In 1972, FBI Agent Cornelius Sullivan inventoried other Hoover materials in addition to the 164 O&C files. An excerpt of his inventory is attached hereto as Attachment B. Among the materials listed in the inventory were various reports and memoranda regarding the assassination.<sup>4</sup> These were transferred to the Domestic Intelligence Division shortly after Hoover's death. We do not know if these assassination records are the same records described by the O&C index card (Attachment A hereto). We have formally asked the FBI to locate these materials, as well as certain other subject files transferred to the Domestic Intelligence Division. See April 22, 1997 Letter from David Marwell to Carol Keeley.

#### 4. Hoover Phone and Office Logs

These logs recorded the time of certain Hoover phone calls and meetings, as well as the participants. Sydney Reddy of our staff verified that the full set of these logs -- from 1941 to the Spring of 1972 -- are available in the FBI Public Reading Room. I reviewed a sample of these logs (File 66-185A-2860) for November and December 1963 in the FBI's Special File Room to determine what was redacted. My sample review of these logs shows that the redactions were minimal and not related to the assassination.

#### C. Assassination Records Among Hoover's Files

On July 2, 1997, we recommended that that the FBI designate certain records from Hoover's files as assassination records. See Memorandum from L. Denk & K. Tiernan to C. Keeley (Attachment C hereto). The records we recommended designating were as follows:

##### 1. Administrative File Re Hoover Files (File No. 62-HQ-116606)

Within this file are FBI communications with the Senate Committee to Study Government Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities (the Church Committee) regarding the O&C files, including a request by the Church Committee for all O&C documents relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. At the time of the request, the Committee had identified from the O&C files a November 29, 1963 memorandum from Hoover regarding his conversation with President Johnson about the assassination. An internal FBI memorandum notes that the O&C indices were then reviewed, and it

---

<sup>4</sup> The materials, such as the preliminary FBI reports for the Warren Commission, may already be in the public domain. Nonetheless, it is important to locate the originals to the extent they may include other material or otherwise have been annotated by Hoover.

Memorandum re Hoover Files

January 8, 1998

Page 6

was concluded that there were no other O&C materials on the assassination responsive to the Church Committee's requests. Thus, by 1975, the FBI apparently concluded that there were no assassination-related materials among the O&C files, except for the November 29, 1963 memorandum.

The materials from this administrative file that we recommended designating as assassination records were:

--Jan. 30, 1976 Memorandum from the FBI Director to the Attorney General (original filed at 62-116395-1440).

--Feb. 13, 1976 Memorandum from Steven K. Blackhurst, Assistant Special Counsel for Intelligence Coordination, to John Mintz, Legal Counsel Division (orig. Filed at 62-116395-1476).

--Feb. 27, 1976 Memorandum indicating that Special Agent Hugh Mallet, Legal Counsel Division, reviewed "indices relating to the O&C files" and concluded there were no assassination-related documents other than the Nov. 29, 1963 memorandum (original in 62-116395).

--Feb. 27, 1976 Memorandum re providing the Nov. 29, 1963 memorandum to the Church Committee. Mr. Wallach of the Church Committee agreed not to identify the memo as coming from the O&C files (original at 62-116395-1476).

--Alphabetical and numerical listing of O&C files forwarded to FBI Director Kelley in February 1975 (Serial 62-116006-13x)

--A 1972 inventory of miscellaneous Hoover materials that was prepared by FBI agent Cornelious Sullivan. See "Memo for Mr. Felt dated 7/7/72 Listing Disposition of Cabinets #7 & #8 (5-Drawer Cabinets) or Material Therein" (Serial 62-116606-1), an excerpt of which is at Attachment B. We recommended designation of this inventory as an assassination-related record because it identifies certain reports and other materials on President Kennedy's assassination that were in Hoover's custody. The inventory also indicates that these materials were transferred to the Domestic Intelligence Division of the FBI in 1972.

2. O&C Files 13 and 96 on President John F. Kennedy

The FBI is processing these files in their entirety as assassination records.

3. O&C File 92 on President Lyndon Johnson

We recommended designating the following documents in this file as assassination records:

--Nov. 29, 1963 Hoover memorandum regarding discussion of assassination with President Johnson.<sup>5</sup>

--Dec. 1, 1963 Memorandum from D.J. Brennan to W.C. Sullivan re Protection of the President. This memorandum contains suggestions for improving the security of the President and discusses the events in Dallas. Kenneth O'Donnell, President Kennedy's aide, is quoted as saying to the Secret Service, "You are not at fault. You can't mix security and politics. We chose politics." (The original is filed at 62-27799-424).

--Dec. 2, 1963 Memorandum entitled, "Protection of the President." (The original is filed at 62-27799-424).

--Jan. 21, Jan. 31, Feb. 20, Feb. 24, and Feb. 26, 1964 Memoranda re a potential Cuban "kamikaze" attack on President Johnson's plane during his visit to Florida in February 1964.

4. O&C File 14 on Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr

We recommended designating the following documents in this file as assassination records:

--April 12, 1957 Letter from Joseph P. Kennedy to J. Edgar Hoover (serial 94-3708-25).

July 28, 1965 Memorandum from R. I. Shroder to Mr. Rosen (serial 94-37808-not recorded) (original filed at 62-109334-34).

--Letter filed June 27, 1968 from Everett Hitch to J. Edgar Hoover (serial 94-37808-not recorded) (original filed at 62-587-611).

---

<sup>5</sup> This memorandum notes additional cross-references to: (1) Assassination of President John F. Kennedy; (2) Presidential Commission on Assassination of President John F. Kennedy; (3) Security -- Presidential; (4) Presidential Conferences; and (5) Presidential Travel Security. Individual index cards were made for these subjects and included among the pink index cards for the O&C files.

Memorandum re Hoover Files

January 8, 1998

Page 8

5. O&C File 9 Entitled, "77-51387 Serials 309, 310 Only"

We recommended designating this entire file as an assassination record. It consists of three documents, two concerning reported allegations by Meyer Lansky in 1962 that Robert F. Kennedy had an affair with a woman in El Paso, Texas. The third document is a UPI teletype reporting that Hoover had advised Robert F. Kennedy of the assassination of his brother; this UPI piece was circulated among Hoover's aides (Tolson, Sullivan, Belmont, DeLoach, Mohr) and it bears file reference no. 77-51387-A.

6. O&C File 12 Entitled "92-2831 Serials 582, 583, 584, 585 Only"

We recommended designating this entire file as an assassination record.

7. O&C File 25 Re Agreement Between the FBI and the Secret Service Concerning Presidential Protection

---

We recommended that this entire file be designated as an assassination record.

8. O&C File 37 on Fred B. Black, Jr.

This file does not relate to the assassination, but rather it pertains to a Washington, D.C. lobbyist who was the subject of FBI electronic surveillance. It contains papers relating to a dispute between the FBI and Robert F. Kennedy as to whether Kennedy, while he was Attorney General, had authorized the FBI to engage in microphone surveillance, particularly involving FBI agents committing trespass to install microphone surveillance. At one point there is discussion about the possibility of President Johnson appointing an arbitrator on the issue of electronic surveillance. On a memorandum from DeLoach to Tolson (dated June 14, 1966) in Part 1 of the Black File, Hoover comments on the arbitrator concept in a handwritten note: "It can be another 'Warren Commission' and end in a fiasco." Given Hoover's comment, we recommended that this be designated as an assassination record.

9. O&C File 6 Entitled CRIMDEL--CRS

We recommended designating, as an assassination record, the following document in his file:

--April 1, 1960 Memorandum from Los Angeles SAC to FBI Director (serial 63-4296-26).

10. Other O&C Files



The other O&C files reviewed (and identified in Section B.1 of this memorandum) did not contain records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy.

11. O&C Index Cards

We proposed that certain of the pink O&C index cards, apparently maintained by Hoover's secretary, be designated as assassination records so that the public can see what assassination-related subjects were indexed in Hoover's O&C filing system. We should propose that *copies* of these individual cards be made for the JFK Collection so as to maintain the integrity of the entire set of originals, which are contained in three wooden boxes in the 62-HQ-116606 file (FBI Special File Room). The specific index cards that we recommended designating as assassination records are identified at footnote 3 of this memorandum.

12. Hoover Office & Phone Logs

Since the Hoover logs for 1941-72 are available in the FBI's Public Reading Room, we determined there was no need to separately designate these as assassination records. (While certain redactions were made on the publicly available copies, they appeared minimal and unrelated to the events surrounding the assassination).