
Final Report
Chapter 3E(1)(b):
“Third Agency Equity Problems and Solutions”
Subsection:
“ARRB-Sponsored Joint Declassification Sessions”
Draft # 1
July 9, 1998

T:\Final\Chap3\301DPH.wpd

In early 1997, following the location and identification at the National Archives of the Califano Papers (Army records on Cuba policy from 1963) and selected documents (from 1961-1964) culled from the papers of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Central Files of the Joint Staff (on Cuba and Vietnam policy), it became clear that there was insufficient time remaining in the Review Board’s lifetime to utilize the normal referral process (*i.e.*, sending multiple equity documents such as these to one agency at a time for declassification review) to complete processing of these documents and place them in the JFK Collection prior to ARRB shut-down.

Consequently, the Review Board’s Military Records Team sponsored a series of Joint Declassification Sessions--six in all--commencing in June of 1997, and terminating in July of 1998, in order to expedite declassification review of documents with multiple agency equities. Participating agencies included representatives of the CIA, NSC, Joint Staff Secretariat, OSD, Army Declassification Activity, and State Department. Without the benefit of this approach, processing of the Califano Papers, selected JCS documents, and selected Presidential Library papers would likely not have been completed by the end of the Review Board’s tenure. The synergistic effect of placing representatives of different agencies in the same room while they reviewed identical documents undoubtedly speeded up the release of assassination records, since one agency that was unsure of another’s position was much more likely to agree to open a record when others had already done so.
