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Director: 

The purpose of this note is to inform you of developments with respect to two confidential source-related matters being addressed with the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB).

Discussions with the ARRB regarding the Bureau's postponements of confidential source-related information have intensified during the past month. Our position, of course, is that, in general, the identities of confidential sources, whether they are living or dead, must be postponed to prevent harm to the sources and their families and to the FBI's ability to develop sources absolutely vital to our public safety and national security responsibilities. While the Act could arguably be interpreted to require a particularized showing of harm with respect to each postponement (a position being contemplated by the Board), we believe that the Board has the discretion to interpret the legislation in a way that supports the Bureau's postponements of source-identifying information.

In various discussions with Board representatives, we have conveyed the FBI's absolute willingness to accommodate the public interest in source-identifying information that is of historical interest. This would be done by disclosing such information when (as was the case with the SOLO source information) disclosure will not result in harm to individuals or to our source development capabilities. At the same time, we have emphasized our commitment to protecting the identities of confidential sources who could furnish no information pertinent to the assassination or where, while sources provided "positive" information, their identities add nothing to the historical record.

Our position on informant/confidentiality postponements provides protection for almost all source identifying information in the first 590,000 pages transferred. This is because there appear to be few instances in which source identities are important to the historical record. We have stressed to the

- 1 - Mr. R. Bucknam, Room 7176
- 1 - Mr. J. Bucknam, Room 7176
- 1 - Miss Gawley, Room 7176
- 1 - Ms. Siford/Mrs. Leeper, Room 7176
- 1 - Mr. Shapiro, Room 7427
- 1 - Mr. Bryant, Room 7110

- 1 - Mr. Esposito, Room 7116
- 1 - Mr. O'Connor, Room 6712
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240
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TTO:lag