

Secret

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11 January 1996

Memorandum for the Record

Subject: ARRB Meeting 5 January 1996

Reference: Meeting with David Marwell, Jeremy Gunn and Mary McAuliffe, 3:00 p.m., 5 January 1996.

1. The Board acted on 35 plus documents (Mary did not have final count). They released the six additional stations that we had requested be protected:

Rome

Madrid

Brussels

[redacted] and the Hague were released again. [redacted] was tabled pending addition information. London, Ottawa and Paris were also released in this set of documents. In addition there are references to (liaison contact) and traces released in several of the documents. The Agency's recommendations on digraph and file numbers were upheld. Mary said, beyond these issues, there were no serious problems in this set of documents.

2. I ask how the Board would react to a "window" approach" to the issue of releasing stations. Gunn said there appears to be support for such an approach. However, the window would have to be wider than Nov./Dec. 1963. He suggested expanding the window to cover the Warren Commission period in 1964. If a document mentions Oswald, he expects the Board would lean toward releasing it regardless of the timeframe.

3. Gunn expressed concerned that our position was being eroded by the lack of a clear understanding of where the line is (i.e. the Agency's failure to appeal) and the failure to provide evidence/best information prior to the meeting of the Board. He felt that we may see some erosion in areas where the Board had accepted the Agency's postponements (digraphs, file numbers, liaison). Several times, Marwell and Gunn returned to the issue of providing best information/defense upfront. If the staff is unable to answer questions about why the Agency is protecting or does not know what a particular item is, the Board takes this as a lack of evidence and leans toward release.

CC: C/HRG, Ellie

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