U.S. Department of Justice

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Washington, D.C. 20530

Telephone:
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September 25, 1980

James H. Lesar, Esq.
2101 L Street, N.W.
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Re: Weisberg v. Webster, et al., Civil No. 78-322, and Weisberg v. FBI, et al., Civil No. 78-420, USDC, DDC (consolidated)

Dear Jim:

This is in response to your letter of September 19, 1980, concerning the administrative processing of records -- specifically, Dallas Field Office index cards -- in the above-entitled consolidated civil actions. As I told you I would do in our telephone discussion of this matter earlier this week, I have forwarded your letter to the appropriate personnel at the Bureau and have discussed your concerns with them in some detail.

There can be no question but that the processing of the Dallas index cards has taken far more time than expected. Moreover, the release of these cards to your client has not proven possible on the schedule contemplated by the Bureau (and, in turn, by myself) at the time of my last letter to you (June 26, 1980) on this subject. This is entirely due to unanticipated severe delays in the reproduction phase of the index card release process.

I am advised by the Bureau that the processing of all of the approximately 52,000 index cards has in fact been completed. The difficulty in effectuating their prompt release to your client has arisen from the fact that each of these cards must be reproduced by hand (as opposed to through use of a mechanical feeder), which has created a severe document reproduction backlog for this and other matters at the Bureau in recent weeks.

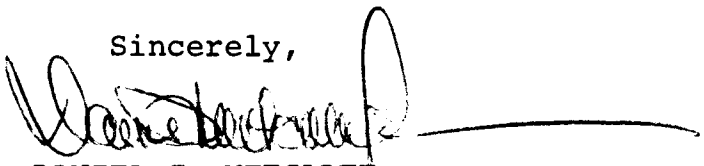
I am advised, however, that at least one (and possibly two) additional groups of cards should be available for mailing to your client by the end of this week and that all remaining index card reproduction is scheduled for completion by next week. This

means that the Bureau should be in a position to forward the remainder of the index cards substantially in advance of the October 14 status call date and should be able to do so on some staggered basis, as you have requested. Though this certainly will not be as expeditious as we all had expected, it does represent the Bureau's good faith efforts to process these materials for staggered release as quickly as reasonably possible.

Finally, though your letter does not mention the subject, I can advise you that the Bureau has in recent weeks also prepared a cross-reference index for the New Orleans Field Office documents, and has processed for release additional New Orleans documents accordingly. With the possible exception of one document requiring further classification review, these cross-reference sheets and related documents should be available for release to your client very soon.

Once again, I appreciate your continued patience in these matters and regret that they could not have been resolved sooner. Please do not hesitate to call me at any time during the coming days as this difficult administrative process is completed.

Sincerely,



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