

SIRICA REVIEW OF JFK ASSASSINATION FILE?

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Federal Judge John Sirica has said he will consider making a private review of documents the CIA has kept secret for the last 14 years concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Committee to Investigate Assassinations yesterday asked Sirica to review a sampling of the 396 documents to decide whether they could be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Attorney Bernard Fensterwald, executive director of the group, said it is determined "to break the ring of silence surrounding the events in Dallas."

Michael Ryan, a counsel for the CIA, argued that 93 percent of the material was denied under legitimate exemptions which CIA affidavits attested would compromise national security or sources and methods.

Fensterwald told the court he felt bound "to raise the question of good faith — whether the CIA affidavits automatically be given credibility."

He reminded the court former CIA Director Richard Helms pleaded no contest in another court last week to two charges of misleading congressional committees about CIA activities in Chile.

Sirica said he would consider the committee's request to inspect a sampling of the withheld documents and also the possibility of appointing an independent master to read the material.

Ryan opposed the request as "not pertinent" because the CIA felt the assassinations committee's freedom of information request had been reasonably satisfied.