



United States Department of Justice

OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

007 18 00

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your letter of August 17, 1979, concerning the release of the Dallas Field Office communications index compiled in the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Mitchell has brought to the attention of Bureau personnel the failure to indicate, in certain instances, the basis for the withholding of index entries. He was advised that this failure was due to time constraints imposed in the processing, in the course of which each document corresponding to a specific entry was located and reviewed. Bureau analysts, in their haste to complete the processing of the index cards, simply forget in a few instances to indicate the basis for the excision being made. The Bureau has assured Mr. Mitchell, however, that as soon as the processing of the second, more comprehensive Dallas special index is completed, proper indications will be made for each of the excisions found in the communications index. I am sure that you can understand that the matching of index entries to specific field office documents will be much easier when the cross indexing of Headquarters to field office documents required by the processing of the second Dallas index is completed.

I am not at this time addressing the more substantive issue raised by your letter -- that is, whether or not the withholding of the information excised from the index cards

is justified. All the Bureau has done at this point is process the cards to conform to the excisions made from the underlying records. Anything more than that would necessitate, in effect, a complete reprocessing of those records. Be assured that, to whatever extent the administrative appeal review process results in additional releases of material from the underlying records, the relevant index cards will be reprocessed as well.

Sincerely,

John H. Shenefield
Acting Associate Attorney General

By:


Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals

CC: James H. Lesar, Esquire