

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Sullivan

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF WARREN COMMISSION FILES

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Frazier
- 1 - Mr. Goble
- 1 - Mr. Hines
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Brennan

DATE: September 16, 1970

Brennan	_____
Callahan	_____
Casper	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
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Holmes	_____
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**PURPOSE:** To advise the Department requested the Bureau assist in the present five-year review of Warren Commission files contained in the National Archives to determine what material relating to the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy can now be released. Action has been taken to handle this request.

**BACKGROUND:** The Attorney General (AG) was advised by letter dated 8/10/65 we completed the project of reviewing past records of the Warren Commission on file in the Archives. This review was conducted in accordance with guidelines approved by the Honorable McGeorge Bundy, Special Assistant to the President on 4/19/65. The guidelines also indicated these records had to be reviewed every five years to determine what other material could be released.

On 9/14/70, Special Agent (SA) Kenneth M. Raupach, General Investigative Division, consulted with Mr. Stephen P. Lockman, who is handling the matter in the Department, concerning the current review. Mr. Lockman advised that he was not too familiar with the material in the Archives or how it was handled in the past. In this respect, Mr. Lockman was referred to the information we previously furnished to the Department regarding our original review.

Accompanying our letter to the AG 8/10/65, was a list of material reviewed setting forth information as to what could be released according to the guidelines and those items which were not to be released. This list was broken down into List A, (items to be released); List B (reports and other data) which could be released, however certain pages from these reports were excised due to their contents falling within the guidelines; List C, Bureau documents which were given Commission Document numbers and were not released; Lists D and E missing documents or transmittal letters that could not be evaluated in light of the guidelines. A supplemental list was furnished to the AG by letter dated 8/25/65 setting forth other material released. These two lists will now be our working guide in connection with the current review.

Mr. Lockman advised that in 1968, at the request of the AG, the Department made a review of all the Warren Commission documents withheld from the public retained in the Archives; however, no release of the

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of the documents was made. He furnished a copy listing 41 documents originally prepared by the FBI which in the opinion of the Department could probably be released. These will be reviewed also to determine whether there is any objection to their release.

On 9/15/70, Mr. Lockman, Mr. Marion M. Johnson of the Archives and SA Kenneth M. Raupach met to arrange for working space in the Archives and to determine what material had to be reviewed. There are 12 boxes in Archives containing material furnished by the Bureau to the Warren Commission which has not been released. A spot check of this material revealed it dealt primarily with the investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack L. Ruby, investigation requested by the Commission regarding Mark Lane subject of a pending Bureau security case, and related material. It is specifically noted that in reviewing those pages which were deleted from reports released to the public (List B) it may be necessary to review a portion of the original report to assist in determining whether those pages can now be released. In this respect a numerical count made determined that there are 1,482 pages involved which were deleted from 108 Bureau reports or letterhead memoranda furnished to the Commission which were given Commission Document numbers. In addition, there are 154 reports in various lengths which were never released to the public (List C) and must now be reviewed to determine whether any of the information can be made public.

It is anticipated that the review will be started on 9/18/70 and will be completed as rapidly as possible consistent with the number of files that have to be reviewed. Since a majority of the material in the Archives deals with the investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald, which was handled by the Domestic Intelligence Division, it was estimated that three supervisors from the Domestic Intelligence Division as well as SAs J. W. Hines and K. M. Raupach of the General Investigative Division would be needed. The General Investigative Division is preparing necessary material for use in connection with this project. Space has been designated in the Archives in Room 6E.

**ACTION:** If approved, the Domestic Intelligence Division should designate three supervisors for this project and furnish their names to SA Raupach who will coordinate the project beginning the review on 9/18/70. No request for manpower is being made from the Laboratory at this time until the review is made. If it is determined Laboratory assistance is needed, a request will be made.

SEE DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION ADDENDUM, PAGE 3

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ADDENDUM DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION 9-17-70 WAB:lag

In view of the pressure of work presently existing in the Domestic Intelligence Division caused by the rebellious activities of the New Left and the general unrest of the racial situation, together with the potentially explosive situation when the numerous heads of states will arrive for the commemorative session of the United Nations, the Domestic Intelligence Division recommends that only two men from this Division be used for this review.

*over* *Wes* *PI?*  
*John* *think this*  
*whole project is ill-advised*  
*K*