



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

January 9, 1978

James H. Lesar, Esq.
Suite 500
910 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Lesar:

Your letter of November 19, 1977, on behalf of your client, Mr. Harold Weisberg, to the Deputy Attorney General, has been forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for reply. You make request for waiver of fees for Mr. Weisberg for duplication of documents in the FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ) file on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

For your information, more than 80,000 pages of raw FBIHQ files concerning this investigation have been prepared for public release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Moreover, as you are aware, 40,001 pages of our JFK Assassination investigation materials are already in the public domain. A copy of the entire JFK Assassination release, including our first-segment release of December 7, 1977, and a second-segment release scheduled for mid-January, 1978, will be maintained for public review in our Reading Room.

One set of these documents, the duplication of which requires many days of duplication machine time, in addition to the cost of paper, binders and other material, fills numerous file cabinets. Additionally, labor costs in the reproduction, review and assembly are substantial. The entire budgetary expenditure of the FBI, to date, in processing this single FOIA release of JFK Assassination investigation files, has exceeded \$180,000.

James H. Lesar, Esq.

While we fully understand the public interest in these documents, we have taken into consideration the extraordinary volume of JFK Assassination file material, their availability to the public, and the material and manpower required to reproduce them. We have therefore concluded that the public interest would be best served by assertion of the duplication fees set by regulation rather than by waiver of these fees, and that additional copies reproduced at government expense should be made available to the general public, rather than individual requesters for their personal use. We anticipate that additional sets of documents will be produced and placed in other research facilities, such as the Library of Congress, in the near future.

The JFK Assassination investigation file material is being made available to other requesters on the same terms as are now available to Mr. Weisberg. In cases where these requesters for the total JFK Assassination investigation files have sought waiver of duplication fees, we have denied their requests for waiver for the same considerations and as a matter of general policy.

These file materials are available for Mr. Weisberg's review during business hours at our Reading Room located at FBIHQ, 10th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

You may of course, appeal my decision in this matter. Any appeals should be directed to the Deputy Attorney General (Attention: Freedom of Information Appeals Unit), Washington, D. C. 20530, and should be clearly marked "Fee Waiver Appeal."

Sincerely yours,


Clarence M. Kelley
Director