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MEETING REPORT



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Meeting Logistics

Date: 01/29/96
 Agency Name: Department of Defense
 Attendees: Dr. Alfred Goldberg, Tim Wray
 Topic: ARRB; Warren Commission

Summary of the Meeting

Met with Dr. Alfred Goldberg in his office for approximately one hour. Dr. Goldberg is currently the Historian for the Office of the Secretary of Defense; in 1963-4 he was on the staff of the Warren Commission. (He acknowledged that he wrote some of the Commission report and played a major role in editing the rest.) He was already familiar with the Review Board and the JFK Act, and mentioned at the outset that he knew Anna Nelson. He seems a strong supporter of the Review Board and its goals.

Major points made by Dr. Goldberg:

DOD was extremely helpful to the Warren Commission, providing much of its support staff and technical assistance with special requirements. When the Commission requested radio and TV tapes from media sources in Dallas, more than 1700 pounds of materials were assembled. These were brought to Washington, DC aboard a USAF aircraft and played for the Commission staff by Army Signal Corps technicians. Dr. Goldberg personally reviewed more than nine hours of these tapes, which were very helpful in corroborating testimony. (He said Jack Ruby's presence at Dallas DA's press conference was confirmed by reviewing TV tapes.)

Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara had little contact with the Warren Commission. McNamara assigned NIEDERLANDER from General Counsel's office to be DOD liaison.

McNamara
Niederlander

NSA contributed a great deal of background information to the Commission and was a very important source of information. ("They had a lot of intercepts. Telephone calls by Castro, Russians, Barry Goldwater, et cetera. They know a helluva lot.") Goldberg said that Earl Warren's February 1964 statement suggesting that some of the Commission's findings would not immediately be made public [". . . it might not be in your lifetime"] referred "precisely" to NSA intercepts.

The FBI "didn't let us in thanks to 'J. Edgar.'" At one time we considered demanding direct access to FBI files rather than just requesting information from the Bureau. We -- the staff and the General Counsel -- discussed this, but we decided that if the FBI didn't want us to see something they would just remove it from the files. There was bad feeling on Hoover's part toward Warren." Consequently, the Commission "didn't get everything." The FBI seemed "very defensive." The Secret Service was also very defensive, though they "fell over backward" to