

NEWS from

georgetown

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GU RECEIVES RESEARCH DATA ON KENNEDY, KING ASSASSINATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Georgetown University and the Committee to Investigate Assassinations have reached an agreement whereby data assembled by the Committee on the Kennedy and King assassinations will be transferred to Georgetown University.

The research materials, collections of printed matter and manuscripts, will be housed in the Special Collections Division of the university's Lauinger Library.

The purpose of the Committee, which considers the official reports on the assassinations to be inadequate, is "to set the historical record straight and see that all records are made public now," according to Bernard Fensterwald Jr., a Washington lawyer who is executive director of the Committee.

The first portion of the materials, a group of printed books from Mr. Fensterwald's personal collection, is now available to researchers at the Special Collections Division.

According to the terms of the agreement, the university and the Committee will try to assemble at Georgetown all relevant materials on the assassinations of John F. and Robert F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King Jr. This attempt will utilize as much as possible the collections developed by members of the Committee, a nonprofit educational organization, and other interested parties.

Besides a wealth of printed books and articles, the Committee has agreed to transfer to Georgetown much of its noncurrent files, and later such currently active files as that concerning James Earl Ray. Mr. Ray, who was convicted of murder in the King assassination, is petitioning for a new trial.

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Data which has not been released to the public as yet, such as the 6,000 page report on the Robert F. Kennedy assassination prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, will be added to the Georgetown collection as it becomes available. Members of the Committee and others have initiated law suits under the Freedom of Information Act to have such materials released.

Depending on the cooperation of individual researchers, the collection should eventually comprise several hundred books, unpublished manuscripts, motion picture film, slides, tape recordings, and copies of official data such as the files of the Attorney General of Texas on the assassination of President Kennedy.

Restrictions on the use of Committee material transferred to Georgetown will be minimal, Mr. Fensterwald said, in keeping with the Committee's concern for freedom of access. It is hoped to make each group of material received available to researchers as soon as possible, allowing time for the preparation of adequate reference aids by the library staff.

The Committee, a private group headquartered in Washington which receives no financial support from the government, depends upon contributions from the public for its existence.