

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF WARREN COMMISSION RECORDS**

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Trotter
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Hines
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Stokes

DATE: 7/13/65

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Trotter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Preparatory to reviewing the Warren Commission records in the National Archives pursuant to the request of the Attorney General, Special Agents J. W. Hines and K. M. Raupach of the Investigative Division and Special Agent J. C. Stokes of the Domestic Intelligence Division on 7/12/65 contacted Dr. James B. Rhoads, Assistant Archivist for Civil Archives.

Dr. Rhoads explained that the records of the Warren Commission in the possession of the National Archives are contained in 26 different sets of files. The principal file and the one to be reviewed at this time is known as the Numbered Commission Document File and it consists of approximately 32 cubic feet of records. This is the file into which the Warren Commission placed the basic raw materials from which they prepared their report and the supporting volumes.

The remaining files which have not to date been processed by the Archives are arbitrary breakdowns by the Commission of various facets of the investigation of the assassination and related matters. These other files contain copies of much of the material which is in the file presently being reviewed and, when processed by the Archives, a search of these files which contain Bureau documents will also have to be made by the Bureau to determine what material therein can be placed in the public domain. Not all of the remaining 25 Commission files will have to be reviewed as some of them contain only material relating directly to the work of the Commission, such as the Commission's personnel records, its vouchers, and the testimony taken by the Commission.

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Dr. Rhoads explained that the placing of our records on the assassination of President Kennedy and related cases in the public domain simply means that anyone can walk into the Archives from the street and ask to view such records and, if such person so desires, may copy the records or request the Archives to produce copies of them. The Archives, according to Dr. Rhoads, has the facilities to reproduce documents in the public domain.

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Dr. Rhoads escorted the Bureau representatives through the security room of the Archives where the records to be reviewed were observed to be contained in 33 cardboard boxes. The working area in the security room was highly undesirable as space is very limited. Dr. Rhoads stated that he would endeavor to locate other space where the review could be conducted under security conditions.

He said that the working hours at the Archives are from 8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. and, as the Warren Commission records must be maintained in the security room, the door to which is protected by a combination lock, the records would have to be returned to that room by 5:15 p.m. nightly as the guard force on duty after that time does not have the combination to the lock or access to the room.

On 7/13/65 Dr. Rhoads telephonically advised Special Agent J. C. Stokes that he had successfully located working space for the Bureau's representatives to review the Warren files and that this space could accommodate up to six Agents. He was told that Bureau representatives would be at his office on the morning of July 14, 1965, to commence the review. Dr. Rhoads, on 7/13/65, requested that we not commence the review on 7/13/65 due to the parade on Pennsylvania Avenue that date and as Mr. Skinner, the Custodian of the security room, was to be on leave that date. We have commenced to review that portion of the Warren files which we can identify from the list supplied by the Archives. While we have copies of all documents we furnished to the Commission, it will be necessary to examine many of the documents listed, for in the case of memoranda it is not possible to definitely identify the document on the basis of the information in the Archives listing.

ACTION:

For information.

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