United States Department of Justice

OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE AFTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

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MEMORANDUM

TO:

FOIA Coordinators, All DOJ Components

FROM:

Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director Office of Privacy and Information Appeals

SUBJECT:

Requests Received from or on behalf of Mr. Harold Weisberg

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This Office is attempting to ascertain the status of all requests received by departmental components from or on behalf of Mr. Weisberg pertaining to: (1) the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; (2) the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; or (3) himself. A request on behalf of Mr. Weisberg is most likely to have been filed by attorney James H. Lesar. Many of these requests have been, are, or may become the subjects of litigation against the Department and it is highly desirable that we identify every request received by your component and be able to establish either that it has been processed and answered, that it is being processed, or that it will be processed. For purposes of this memorandum, I consider each referral of records you may have received from any other component of the Department to be a separate request. On the other hand, purely interim correspondence need not be listed (unless you ended up treating it, in effect, as an additional, separate request).

Please furnish me your response as quickly as you can, in no event later than the close of business on Friday, November 30, 1979. Please list each separate request by date, the source (received directly from Mr. Weisberg; sent to you

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by the Office of the Deputy Attorney General or the Office of the Administrative Counsel; referred to you by some other component; etc.), the specific subject of the request, and the date on which your final response was made (or the status of the request, including your best estimate as to when processing will be completed, or begun, as appropriate).

Attached is a copy of what we are treating as the original "Privacy Act" request from Mr. Weisberg seeking access to records about himself, which was supposedly referred for response to every component of the Department. If this request was never received by your component, or you can find no record of its having been answered, please process the request (with priority as if it had been referred to you at the time it was first made). To assist those of you who have not processed the request and will now be doing so, I have also attached a "biographical" statement furnished to this Office by Mr. Weisberg.

For the Civil and Criminal Divisions, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, the Office of Legislative Affairs and the F.B.I., I am attaching a copy of the request by Mrs. Harold Weisberg for records pertaining to herself. As with the request of Mr. Weisberg, I ask that you either verify that it was processed, or process it now.

At this time I am not asking — as to any of the matters covered by this memorandum — for actual copies of correspondence sent and received, or of records released or denied, etc., but it would be a good idea if you ensure that all such materials are reasonably available.

If complying with this memorandum would be unduly burdensome, or if you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 633-4082.

Attachments