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January 25, 1978

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL

Mr. Benjamin Civiletti
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

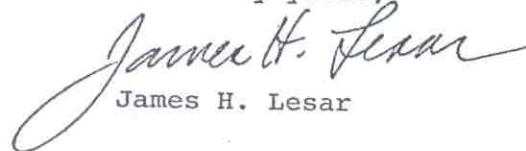
Dear Mr. Civiletti:

I represent Mr. Harold Weisberg. By letter dated January 4, 1978, the FBI's New Orleans Field Office has advised me that it has referred Mr. Weisberg's request for records pertaining to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and others to FBI Headquarters.

Mr. Weisberg's request is for New Orleans Field Office records, not Headquarters records. The FBI customarily, and to my irritation, requires me to address requests for field office records to each individual field office. Under these circumstances I must treat the action of the New Orleans Field Office as a de facto denial of Mr. Weisberg's request. I hereby appeal that denial to you.

As you should be aware, it has been revealed that FBI field office records pertinent to Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination of President were destroyed by an FBI Agent assigned to the Dallas Field Office. In view of this, I trust that you will take all appropriate steps to ensure that no more records pertaining to President Kennedy's assassination are destroyed pending compliance with my client's request. I ask that you immediately take such steps with respect to the records pertaining to this matter which are now in the possession of the New Orleans Field Office.

Sincerely yours,


James H. Lesar



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

701 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113
January 4, 1978

Mr. James H. Lesar
Attorney at Law
910 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Lesar:

Reference is made to your letter dated December 25, 1977, concerning the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of Mr. Harold Weisberg for records pertaining to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and others.

This is to advise you that your letter has been received and has been referred to FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C., for further processing. It is suggested that any further inquiry be directed to our FOIA Section at our headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Very truly yours,

FRANCIS M. MULLEN, JR.
Special Agent in Charge

By: *Joseph P. Mc Mahon*
JOSEPH P. MC MAHON
Supervisory Special Agent