UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Brennan CD
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Casper
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Walters
Mr. [illegible]
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO : J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: SEP 4 1970

FROM : William H. Rehnquist
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: Five-Year Review of Warren Commission Files.

The Attorney General has referred to me the letter to him of August 17, 1970 from Herbert E. Angel, Acting Archivist of the United States (a copy of which is attached), notifying the Department that it is time for the documents in the Numbered Document File of the Warren Commission which have previously been withheld from public scrutiny to be reviewed for the purpose of determining whether any of those documents may now be released. Mr. Angel points out that the documents of the Department in question include "about four linear feet of reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation" and "Commission Document 355, a volume (about 2 inches thick) of copies of summaries of FBI interviews with acquaintances of Jack L. Ruby." Mr. Angel states that the Archives will be pleased to make these documents available to those members of the Department selected to review them.

In late 1968, at the request of the Attorney General, this Office made a complete review of all of the documents in the Commission's files and listed those items which appeared to be releasable. We recommended to the Attorney General, however, that no release of documents be made at that time. My predecessor, Mr. Frank Wozencraft, stated in a memorandum to the Attorney General that-

> [I]n view of the lack of substantive value of these materials and the very small proportion which they represent of the total presently withheld, I do not believe that any constructive purpose would be served by their release prior to the review scheduled for 1970, for which this list would furnish an appropriate starting point.

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SEP 22 1970

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let to LLG, Office of Legal Counsel 9/9/70
JDH: Smith
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The Attorney General accepted this recommendation, and no new release of documents was made at that time.

In view of the fact that the Department's documents which are presently being withheld were generated by the Bureau, it is appropriate that the Bureau assist in the present five-year review. The inventory prepared by this Office in 1968 will, we believe, facilitate the task at hand. The attorney in this Office handling this matter is Steven P. Lockman, code 187, extension 2053. If you will designate an individual from the Bureau and direct him to notify Mr. Lockman, we can proceed with the review and the preparation of a recommendation to the Attorney General.

Attachments