

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Handwritten initials/signature

Vertical handwritten note on left margin: "See a separate report of President Kennedy"

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: WARREN COMMISSION MATTERS

DATE: August 17, 1966

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Frazier

In response to a written request of Assistant Attorney General Frank M. Wozencraft, Office of Legal Counsel, Messrs. Malley of the General Investigative Division and Frazier of the Laboratory attended a conference in his office today at 2 p. m. Present at this conference were Mr. Wozencraft, Harold F. Reis, Executive Assistant, Office of the Attorney General, representatives from the Criminal Division and Civil Division, as well as a number of representatives from Archives.

The discussion centered on disclosing as much information as possible at the earliest date consistent with good judgment. The Justice Department obviously was attempting to transfer full responsibility for disclosure of anything to Archives and Archives in turn was passing the responsibility immediately back to Justice. Tentative arrangements were made that any specific problems that arose relative to disclosure would be settled by Archives and the Justice Department.

Comment was made concerning the classified material and a specific comment was made by Attorney Dave Slawson, now in the Office of Legal Counsel and one of the attorneys who worked with the Warren Commission, to the effect that the Bureau had considerable classified material which had not been made available for disclosure. It was immediately pointed out to those present that 80% of the Bureau's reports and other material had been made available for disclosure and that of the classified material, the Bureau had, in many instances, received the material from other Government agencies and these agencies had refused to have this material declassified. Dr. Robert Bahmer, Archivist, was outspoken in his comments concerning the fact that the FBI had made a real effort to make available for disclosure as much information in our possession as was possible. He also commented that all classified material and any other material that had not been made available for public disclosure would necessarily have to be reviewed in 1970. It is noted that the Attorney General in July, 1965, requested a complete review of all material relating to the Kennedy assassination and set forth guidelines.

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Section 102

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RE: WARREN COMMISSION MATTERS

to be followed in making the review. The stated purpose for this review was the public disclosure to the fullest extent possible of all material consistent with the national security, sound public administration, and the rights of individual privacy. The Attorney General commented that the White House was determined that disclosure be made consistent with the above guidelines.

Concerning the exhibits now being held temporarily by the FBI, there was no objection on the part of those present for the exhibits to be turned over to Archives. Following the general meeting, arrangements were worked out with Charles F. Simms, Office of Legal Counsel, whereby a letter would be directed from the Attorney General's Office authorizing the FBI to transfer all the exhibits in possession of the FBI to Archives.

Mr. Simms indicated he would try to get this letter to the Bureau in the near future, following which any arrangements the Bureau desired to make with Archives for the physical transfer would be satisfactory with the Department.

ACTION:

1. Upon receipt of the letter from the Attorney General authorizing the transfer of the exhibits, immediate action will be taken to effect the physical transfer of such exhibits.

2. If the aforementioned letter is not received by September 1, 1966, this matter will be followed with the Office of Legal Counsel.

R. [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] V. [unclear]