

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

September 5, 1968

IN REPLY REFER TO: NND

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Senate Subcommittee
on Administrative Practice
Room 3216, New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Fensterwald:

This is in response to the telephone request of Mr. Willging of your staff for information concerning the records of the Warren Commission.

The numbered Commission documents listed on the "List of Basic Source Materials" of the Commission, of which you have a copy, consist largely of investigative reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service. In addition to these numbered documents, the records of the Commission consist of the following:

- (1) correspondence with Federal and State agencies and with the general public, (2) internal memoranda, (3) press releases, (4) agenda of executive sessions of the Commission, (5) transcripts and minutes of executive sessions, (6) transcripts of testimony, (7) exhibits and evidence, (8) copy for the Report and Hearings of the Commission, (9) radio tape recordings of broadcasts at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy, (10) press clippings, (11) motion pictures, (12) photographs, (13) personnel records, and (14) fiscal records.

As requested we are enclosing a copy of our General Restriction Statement No. 5 dated June 29, 1961, under which investigative records are withheld from research for 75 years unless released by the originating agency. This restriction was in effect at the time we received the records of the Commission. Also enclosed is a copy of a revision of this restriction statement dated July 24, 1967.

We shall be pleased to be of any further assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark G. Eckhoff
MARK G. ECKHOFF, Acting Director
Diplomatic, Legal, and Fiscal
Records Division

Enclosures

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GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF RECORDS IN
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The restrictions stated below apply to the kinds or classes of accessioned records designated regardless of the record groups to which such records belong. Additional restrictions applicable to particular record groups are separately issued.

- I. Records: Records less than 75 years old of the investigation of persons or groups of persons by investigative authorities of the executive branch.
Restrictions: Information in these records will be made available only as authorized by an appropriate official of the originating agency or its successor agency.
Imposed by: The Archivist of the United States.
- II. Records: Records less than 50 years old of the following kinds that originated in the military services of the Department of Defense: inspector general reports of investigation or of inquiry, aircraft accident reports, and records of boards of investigation, courts-martial, courts of inquiry, military commissions, and provost courts.
Restrictions: Information in these records will be made available only as authorized by an appropriate official of the originating agency or its successor agency.
Imposed by: The Archivist of the United States in conformity with the guide lines set forth in Department of Defense Directive 5200.6.
- III. Records: All documents less than 75 years old among the records of any agency of the Government that are identifiable as having originated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation or its predecessor, the Bureau of Investigation (established July 26, 1908).
Restrictions: Information in these records will be made available only as authorized by an appropriate official of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Imposed by: The Archivist of the United States in agreement with the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Rev. 1, June 29, 1961.

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF RECORDS IN
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The restrictions stated below apply to the kinds or classes of accessioned records designated regardless of the record groups to which such records belong. Additional restrictions applicable to particular record groups are separately issued.

- I. Records: Records less than 75 years old of the investigation of persons or groups of persons by investigative authorities of the executive branch.

Restrictions: Information in these records will be made available only as authorized by an appropriate official of the originating agency or its successor agency.

Imposed by: The Archivist of the United States.

- II. Records: Records less than 50 years old of the following kinds that originated in any of the components of the Department of Defense: inspector general reports of investigation or of inquiry, aircraft accident reports, and records of boards of investigation, courts-martial, courts of inquiry, military commissions, and provost courts.

Restrictions: Information in these records will be made available only as authorized by an appropriate official of the originating agency or its successor agency.

Imposed by: The Archivist of the United States in conformity with the guide lines set forth in Department of Defense Directive 5400.7, June 23, 1967.

- III. Records: All documents less than 75 years old among the records of any agency of the Government that are identifiable as having originated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation or its predecessor, the Bureau of Investigation (established July 26, 1908), that include quotations from or paraphrase statements in such documents, that identify by name personnel of the Bureau, or that reveal the Bureau's sources of information.

Restrictions: Information in these records will be made available only as authorized by an appropriate official of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Specified by: The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ECKHOFF, Mr. Mark G.

(Buds)

September 9, 1968

Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff
Acting Director
Diplomatic, Legal, and Fiscal
Records Division
National Archives
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Mr. Eckhoff:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 5th.

Could you tell me whether the material other than the CD's is catalogued in any manner and, if so, is the "catalogue" available to the public, and, if so, where. Additionally, is this material physically divided (as is the CD material) into one lot which is available upon request and another lot which is unavailable?

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
Chief Counsel

BF:sjr

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Washington, D.C. 20405

September 24, 1968



Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
Chief Counsel
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Fensterwald:

This is in reply to your letter of September 9, concerning the records of the Warren Commission.

The individual documents of the Commission as a whole are not catalogued. The cataloguing, listing, or indexing of individual documents is too time-consuming for our staff to undertake for the many groups of records of the Federal Government in our custody. We are preparing an inventory of the records of the Commission which will describe the records by series of documents but not by individual documents. It is hoped that this inventory will be completed and made available to the public in processed form in about six months.

Enclosed are copies of the file classification manual of the Commission and an explanatory memorandum which show the arrangement of the records of the Commission in nine subject-numeric categories and by file titles under those categories. The manual and the memorandum are available to the public in our research rooms, and copies are available at our usual prices. Also available to researchers in the records of the Commission are the following indexes or lists: (1) a "relative index" to the file classification scheme which lists the file subjects alphabetically, (2) an inventory of the contents of the radio tape recordings among the records of the Commission, (3) indexes at the beginning or end of most of the larger Commission documents, and (4) two card indexes to the Secret Service reports in the Commission documents. There is also an "incoming mail log" which has not been made available for research because its potential value to researchers appears to be small in relation to the amount of work which would be necessary to declassify it.

We make available the Report and Hearings of the Commission, supplemented by a Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings & Exhibits (New York: The Scarecrow Press, 1966) to researchers who wish to use these publications. The tables of contents of the Hearings volumes maybe considered a catalogue of the transcripts of testimony and the exhibits on which the Commission based its conclusions. A list of other evidence accumulated for the Commission's investigation is published in 31 Federal Register 13968-13974. All of these publications are believed to be available in larger public libraries in the United States.

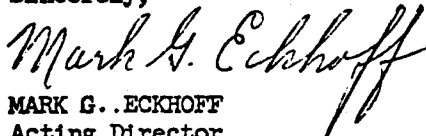
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The material filed under the subject categories in the File Classification Manual has been physically divided into one lot which is available upon request and another lot which is unavailable, except the material filed under "Key Persons" and "Other Individuals and Organizations Involved or Interviewed." The material filed in the name files under these two categories is voluminous and consists of material which is duplicated in the other seven categories. We are "Screening" the material under these two categories and making it available as we receive requests for the individual name files. This is in accordance with our usual procedure with records which include classified or restricted material.

The material in the "Coding Correspondence Cross Reference File" mentioned in the explanatory memorandum has also been physically divided into one lot which is available upon request and another lot which is unavailable. The "Reading File" duplicates the material in the "Coding Correspondence Cross Reference File" and has not been "screened."

We shall be pleased to be of any further assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely,



MARK G. ECKHOFF
Acting Director
Diplomatic, Legal, and
Fiscal Records Division

Enclosures