

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Room 111, Archives Building
Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

On 21 March 1975, Marion M. Johnson of the Civil Archives Division transmitted to this Agency for review certain Warren Commission documents requested under the Freedom of Information Act by James H. Lesar, on behalf of his clients, Harold Weisberg and Paul Hoch. The documents were the transcript of the executive session of 23 June 1964 and pp. 63-73 of the transcript of the executive session of 21 January 1964. I regret the delay in responding, which was due in part to missing pages. It is my understanding that these documents are currently the subject of an appeal from Mr. Lesar.

Mr. Johnson also asked the Agency to review p. 3 of the transcript of the executive session of 6 December 1963. He was informed by telephone that the CIA had no objection to the release of this page to Mr. Lesar. This letter confirms that position.

With regard to the documents cited in the first paragraph, it is our judgment that both transcripts must be denied under subsection (b)(1) of the Freedom of Information Act in order to protect sources and methods and other information related to our operational equities. The documents, under the criteria of Executive Order 11652, warrant classification at the Confidential level and exemption from the General Declassification Schedule pursuant to Sec. 5(B)(2) and (3) of the Order. It is impossible at this time to determine

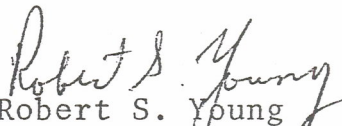


a date or event for automatic declassification. If there is any question concerning the authority of the Warren Commission to classify national security information, the Archivist should mark the documents appropriately, citing this letter as authority.

We have investigated the possibility of releasing segregable portions of the transcripts, but have concluded that the extensive deletions required would result in an incoherent text.

The official who made the decision to deny the two transcripts is Charles A. Briggs, Chief of the Services Staff.

Sincerely,



Robert S. Young
Freedom of Information Coordinator