

OCA 1180-92

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kenneth McDonald
 Chief, CIA History Staff

FROM:
 Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs

SUBJECT: Request for Access to HSCA Records

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum dtd 13 April 1992;
 Same Subject (CSI 92-0201)

1. In the reference, you requested approval for all members of CSI to have access to all records that CIA holds relevant to the HSCA investigation into President Kennedy's assassination. Upon receiving this approval, CSI would request affected components to transfer custody of the 64 boxes of material in question to CSI.

2. Today, I called Michael O'Neil, Special Assistant to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Mr. O'Neil serves as the focal point for questions arising with respect to the segregated HSCA collection. I informed Mr. O'Neil of your request, noted that the DCI had promised an expeditious review of these documents, and requested his concurrence to proceed with the transfer of custody. Initially, Mr. O'Neil wondered whether this action would frustrate the purposes of the Joint Resolution currently being considered by the Congress. Specifically, since the documents would be provided to a Review Board pursuant to the resolution, would transfer at this time to the CSI hinder that purpose? I told Mr. O'Neil that if the Joint Resolution passed in its current form, we would instruct the CSI to transfer the holdings to the Board. If the Joint Resolution did not pass, we would have a head start on reviewing the documents.

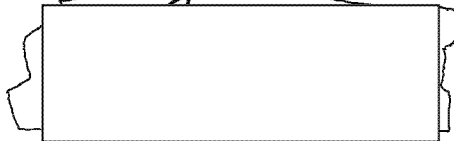
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3. I then informed Mr. O'Neil that the new historical review group would have at least fifteen officers and that this group would likely review the material. Mr. O'Neil then stated that he concurred in the transfer of custody and in the request for access by CSI personnel.

4. Based on this conversation, I have signed the reference indicating my approval of your request. During the course of your review, you should continue to coordinate closely with Litigation Division, OGC, and this Office to ensure that decisions to release are consistent with litigation and other requirements.

4. Please call me on x35467 if I may be of any further assistance.



cc: C/DO/IMS
C/LD/OGC

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