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6 July 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson
JFK Project Officer, HRP/OIM

SUBJECT: Meeting With ARRB Staff Director (Oswald 201 File)

1. At the request of Jeremy Gunn, ARRB Executive Director, I met with him and ARRB Staff members, Michelle Combs and Bob Skwirot on Friday 26 June 1998. Also present were [redacted] and Denny Hess of the DDO group assigned to the JFK Project and a HRP contractor.

2. Gunn had requested the meeting because of an impression that the Agency had found a new volume of 201 file on Lee Harvey Oswald, one that neither he nor the Board had been made aware. Following my explanation of the facts and his review of the documents in question, Gunn stated he was satisfied. The "201" file in question is, in fact, Oswald's 201 which continues to exist and new documents are added to it as they arrive. The fact there were additional Oswald documents not now within HRP for review and processing had come to my attention about two weeks earlier. I had directed the DO to determine what they were and to make them available for our review. That was in process while I was away June 22 through 25.

3. There were nine new documents within the file all of which are now available for processing. When we first started the JFK project and secured the Oswald 201 for review, processing and release, newly arriving documents were to be sent to us. In fact, we had added a document to the file which had been sent to us per the arrangement but it was not in the 201. Quite simply, the arrangement broke down, probably because of a change in personnel, and we did not receive follow-on documents.

4. A second area of concern was the fact we have within the collection Marina Oswalds 201 and it has been processed. However, we did not have the original and it was recently discovered by the DO. It is a three volume set and our concern was the ARRB would view the recent discovery of the original as something improper on our part. A thorough review of both the original and the copy already processed determined that, except for third agency documents, they are a mirror image, one to the other. This circumstance too was explained to Gunn who tested our review and was satisfied that no harm was done.

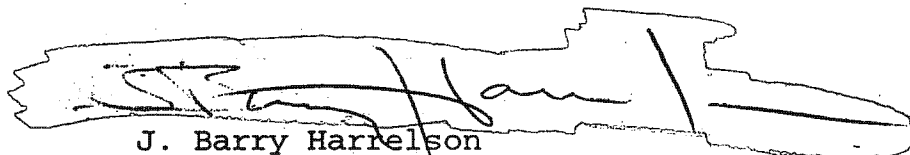
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5. Apparently Gunn had alerted at least one member of the Board prior to our meeting that CIA was discovering new or additional documents. Having accepted that the "discoveries" were explainable as bureaucratic errors and not duplicity on our part, he then asked for two things:

A. He is concerned that there may be other 201 files on the key players in the JFK story with information added to them since 1978, which information we do not have. Thus, he asked that we run searches on the key players (he will provide the names) to see if there is additional, follow-on information in them a la the Oswald file. I agreed to do that.

B. Gunn stated that our "discoveries." not only the recent ones but ones which have dribbled in over the past year, suggest to him and the Board that the Agency may not have engaged in a serious records search pursuant to the Act and John Peiria's 3 October 1993 letter. I assured him that this impression was not true. Nevertheless, he asked that the DCI direct a final search for assassination related records and that the records, if any, be included within the collection and processed and, that our final compliance statement reflect the fact we had conducted such a "final" search. I have prepared a suggested Notice to this effect together with guidance concerning what is relevant.



J. Barry Harrelson