

*Barry*

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3 March 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: (Directorate Focal Points for JFK Board)

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson  
DCI/CSI/HRG/JFK Project Officer

SUBJECT: ARRB Request for Access to Selected Agency Histories

REFERENCE: ARRB Request for Additional Information and Records No. CIA-7, dtd 8 Nov 1995

I. Background

In August 1996 with the concurrence of the Directorate Focal Points for the JFK Board, Jeremy Gunn, ARRB General Counsel, was given access to an inventory of Agency histories (item # 6 of reference) held by the CSI History Staff. He made a list of 61 histories which might possibly contain information of interest to the Board in its search for additional records relevant to the JFK assassination.

II. Request

The ARRB's request is for access to the selected histories to determine their relevancy or non-relevancy to the JFK assassination story. It is not a request to review the material for release. Access by the Board's staff will be limited to one or two members with appropriate clearances. Access to particularly sensitive material will be limited to Mr. Gunn and/or Mr. David Marwell, Executive Director of ARRB. The Board, Mr. Marwell, Mr. Gunn and their staff "CIA team" have TS/SCI clearances.

III. Procedures

1. An HRG reviewer will screen the 61 selected histories to determine if they have some substantive relationship or connection to the JFK assassination story (locations, time-frames, events, individuals, etc.).

a. If so, HRG will contact the Directorate Focal Point for the JFK Board\* and request that a responsible component official review the selected history to determine the level of access that may be given the ARRB: (1) access to the table of contents; (2) access to selected pages/chapters, or, (3) access to the full history. If the history is viewed as too sensitive to

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be reviewed by the ARRB staff, the issue will be discussed with the Executive Director of the Board and/or the Chairman.

b. If HRG concludes that the history is not related to the assassination story, Mr. Gunn will be asked to refine his request or drop that particular history from his list. A certification by the Agency that the history contains no JFK assassination-related information may be required.

2. After review by the appropriate Agency component, the Directorate Focal Point will advise HRG of the approved level of access.

3. HRG will then advise Mr. Gunn of the level of access and make arrangements for him or a member of his staff to review the history in designated Agency offices as appropriate.

4. Notes taken by any ARRB member are subject to review by the responsible Agency component. If the ARRB member identifies a history or any part of it as having relevancy to the JFK assassination story, HRG will again review it to confirm the relevancy. The identification of relevant information in a history does not automatically make the history an assassination record under the JFK Act. Further discussion with the ARRB staff would be required to determine how that information will be dealt with and its possible release.

5. If you have any questions regarding this request, please call me on extension 31825 or Gary Breneman, extension 31839.

/s/

J. Barry Harrelson

Attachment:

ARRB Request No. CIA-7

\* If the history or a part of any history involves DO equities, HRG will advise the DO Focal Point and refer the history directly to the DO JFK team working with CSI/HRG.

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