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DDA 78-0848/5

OLC #78-1064/4

12 JUN 1978 Dest. of files

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: HSCA Request to Defer Destruction of Agency Records Until 31 December 1978

1. Action Requested: None; for information only.

2. Background:

a. On 12 March 1978 you signed a letter to Chairman Stokes of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, requesting their review of Agency records schedules and expressing our desire to begin disposing of records which were clearly of no significance to the HSCA. On 13 April Chairman Stokes acknowledged your letter and expressed some concern that "even normal document destruction could be...misconstrued...." On 17 May 1978 Chairman Stokes sent a letter to Dr. James Rhoads, Archivist of the United States, requesting suspension of our records schedules and deferral of normal disposition under those schedules until 31 December 1978.

b. In a subsequent letter to you, dated 5 June 1978, Dr. Rhoads agrees to this suspension, authorizing the CIA "to retain all disposable records and documents in its custody through December 31, 1978," citing "the potential value of CIA records to the Select Committee's investigation...." He goes on to say that there is no objection to the application of approved disposition schedules after that date.

c. The further delay in disposal of unneeded records is regrettable, but we believe we have made our case as carefully and as persuasively as possible, and at this juncture we do not recommend renewing the effort. We will take the necessary steps to store the growing mass of disposable records, and grit our

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teeth over the continuing need to search through many of these records in response to FOIA and Privacy Act requests. We will publish a notice in the fall announcing the resumption of routine records destruction in accordance with approved records schedules on 2 January 1979.

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake

Distribution:
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LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
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