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6 August 1968

**SUBJECT :** Summary of Remarks by [redacted]  
 Concerning the Agency's Role in the LBJ  
 Library Project, on 25 July 1968

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1. The following is a brief summary of stenographic notes taken at a meeting of CS historical officers and writers held in Room 1A07, Headquarters, on 25 July 1968 to hear [redacted] [redacted] who has been designated as the Agency's principal coordinator of its effort to provide appropriate material to submit to the Johnson Library in Austin, Texas. He was introduced by the Executive Secretary of the CS Historical Board, [redacted]

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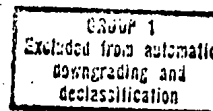
2. [redacted] started his remarks by saying that the authority for having a Presidential Library was contained in the Presidential Library Act of 1955, and that CIA, as well as other U.S. Government agencies, had been instructed to provide the LBJ Library in Austin, Texas, with all documents sent to Mr. Johnson during his tenure as President, and to prepare a history of its activity during his presidency. He noted that there are four presidential libraries (Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower) presently in existence, and two more in process of formation (Kennedy and Johnson). These libraries are a part of the National Archives and they are managed by the General Services Administration. [redacted] said that there is next to nothing from this Agency in the Truman and Eisenhower libraries. As for the Kennedy Library, all papers in the White House at the time of his assassination were sealed and have been kept for that library. Following that time, the Agency made relatively few submissions to the Kennedy Library, and those that it did submit were quite inadequate in describing the Agency's undertakings during that administration; one, for example, dealt with health and sanitation in Cuba. Thus, our side of the Bay of Pigs and other important episodes is not on record in the Kennedy Library to refute certain unfounded allegations made in books written by various persons connected with the Kennedy Administration. [redacted] said that

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Mr. Helms felt that if the Agency does not put its side of the story of its activities on record, it will never get there.

3. It has been said that there will be absolutely no effort made to edit submissions in an effort to make the Johnson Administration look good. As far as the Agency is concerned, our submissions are to be accurate and honest; we will tell of our failures as well as our successes.

What this Agency submits and the manner in which it does it will be different from that of other U.S. Government agencies, and this is recognized by the Administration. Other agencies must prepare in one paper the story of its activities throughout the Johnson Administration, and include budget and personnel figures and charts; CIA will not.

What we will do is to prepare a list of those documents that have been sent to the White House (to determine what classification they should retain and where they should be physically stored), and to prepare a substantive account of what the Agency did in important foreign issues during this administration, but omitting all operational data. Examples of such important issues are: Vietnam, Kashmir, the Soviet ABM, the Arab-Israeli War, the Dominican Republic, and the Congo. Each of these issues is to be treated separately. The Katzenbach Report will be used, and, in this connection, the CIA story of its connections with youth, students, labor, etc., should be prepared for inclusion. Also of importance are the issues raised by Mr. James Garrison of New Orleans. (Accusation that CIA was behind a plot to assassinate President Kennedy.)

[redacted] again pointed out that our emphasis should be on the substantive aspects, and not the operational. He also pointed out that there are varying degrees of sensitivity of papers that could be submitted; some, like much of the FBIS material, could go "as is" right now; also field reactions to the Johnson-Kosygin meeting at Glassboro.

He then mentioned the ONE Estimates, saying that about the only thing classified about them is the fact that this is the opinion of the U.S. Intelligence Community. He mentioned that Studies in Intelligence should be included.

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The question of classification, length of time a document must remain classified, and where various documents should be stored was discussed. [redacted] said that he felt that we should not use an automatic declassification period, as the State Department does (it declassifies after 25 years), but should agree to review documents after certain periods of time to determine whether they are then susceptible to downgrading or declassification. He mentioned that the Agency keeps personnel files classified for 25 years after an individual has retired, [redacted]

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The fact that consideration should be given to the use of certain CI and CA studies was mentioned, and the thought that possibly something on the defector program or defector handling should be written.

[redacted] stated that it should be made clear that the Agency takes history seriously, and that we are not afraid to speak of our failures as well as our successes. In this connection, he mentioned that a brief history of the Agency historical program should be written.

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The deadline for all submissions is 30 November 1968; by this time all material should be microfilmed for shipping to Austin. Any material that becomes available after that date can be sent in hard copy by 20 January 1969.

4. During the question period, several questions were raised such as how we could gain control of the minutes of the 303 Committee, and how secure will the Austin Library be, but there are no immediate answers.

[redacted] said that CS officers concerned with this LBJ Library project should contact him directly in Room 7E62, Headquarters, on [redacted]

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It was mentioned that the Agency has two former Presidential librarians: [redacted] of the Hoover Library, on [redacted] and [redacted] of the Roosevelt Library, on [redacted]

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