

Preface

The succeeding volumes, XVI-XXVI, contain reproductions of exhibits received into evidence by the Commission. The exhibits received in connection with testimony before the Commission are printed first, arranged in numerical order from 1 to 1053. Next are printed exhibits received in connection with depositions or affidavits, arranged alphabetically by name of witness, and then numerically—e.g., Adams Exhibits Nos. 1-7, Baker Exhibits Nos. 1-22. Finally are printed other materials relied upon by the Commission, consisting principally of investigative reports by law enforcement agencies, arranged in numerical order beginning with 1054. Each volume begins with a table of contents—a descriptive listing of the exhibits in the volume and the page or pages on which each exhibit is printed. The numbering of the exhibits received in testimony before the Commission is not completely consecutive; the unused numbers are noted in the table of contents. Also, various systems of designation were used in connection with deposition and affidavit exhibits, so that the designation of some of these exhibits begins either with a letter or a number higher than 1—e.g., Jones Exhibits A-C, Smith Exhibits Nos. 5000-5006.

Almost all of the reproductions contained in the exhibit volumes consist of photographs of the exhibits. The legibility of many documentary exhibits is poor, because some exhibits were copies rather than originals and many others were discolored when tested for fingerprints. In some cases where legibility was particularly bad, the contents of the document have been typed out, and reproduced together with a miniature photograph of the exhibit. A few exhibits of negligible relevance were not reproduced because of their length or for reasons of taste. The omissions are described in the tables of contents. In a very small number of cases, names, dates, or numbers have been deleted from exhibits for security reasons or for the protection of named individuals.

The majority of the reproductions are based upon photographs of the exhibits taken for the Commission by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and most of the translations of foreign language exhibits were also prepared by the FBI. This assistance was invaluable in the preparation of the exhibit volumes and is gratefully acknowledged.

Documents bearing the classification TOP SECRET, SECRET, CONFIDENTIAL, OFFICIAL USE ONLY, and LIMITED OFFICIAL USE appear in these volumes. The originals of these documents in the files of the Commission have been declassified in accordance with Executive Order 10501, and the stamped classifications on them are therefore canceled.

