

In January 2023, FBI agents recovered these notebooks, primarily in Mr. Biden's home office and den.³⁸⁵

I. MR. BIDEN'S 2017 MEMOIR: *PROMISE ME, DAD*

After his vice presidency, Mr. Biden wrote and published a memoir in 2017 titled *Promise Me, Dad*. Evidence suggests that, while researching and writing the book, Mr. Biden found marked classified documents in the basement of his rental home in Virginia and told his ghostwriter about it during an audio-recorded conversation. And while the published book is not known to contain classified information, while writing the book in unsecure locations, Mr. Biden used notebooks containing notes he took during his vice presidency about classified meetings and information.

A. *Promise Me, Dad*

Unlike Mr. Biden's earlier idea for a book that would chronicle all eight years of his vice presidency, *Promise Me, Dad* has a narrower focus.³⁸⁶ The book recounts a 14-month period of Mr. Biden's vice presidency from Thanksgiving 2014 to January 2016, during which he dealt with the illness and eventual death of his elder son, Beau, who died in May 2015.³⁸⁷ The book discusses the toll that loss took on Mr. Biden, the foreign policy issues in Ukraine, Central America, and Iraq he addressed during that time, and the role his son's death played in Mr. Biden's decision not to run for

³⁸⁵ Evidence items 1B17 and 1B18.

³⁸⁶ See generally Joe Biden, *PROMISE ME, DAD: A YEAR OF HOPE, HARDSHIP, AND PURPOSE* (Flatiron Books 2017); Notebook entry 1B30-0012.

³⁸⁷ See generally Biden, *PROMISE ME, DAD*.