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Subject: Annual Report

Attached is the latest draft of the annual report. There are some notes remaining. I've left an annotated hard copy in your basket with several areas highlighted and flagged. Thank you for your help.

Thom

Assassination Records Review Board

FY 1996 Report

I. Introduction to the Assassination Records Review Board

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent federal agency that was created to oversee the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Review Board was established by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL 102-526, the "Act"), which received broad bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U. S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The act gives the Assassination Records Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to President Kennedy's assassination. The Board has until October 1, 1997 to fulfill its mandate.

Background for the Act

On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated while traveling in a motorcade in Dallas, Texas. His tragic death and the subsequent murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, the President's alleged assassin, led to the creation of the Warren Commission seven days after the assassination. Continuing public suspicion and speculation that all of the facts surrounding the assassination had not come to light led the House of Representatives to establish the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) in 1976 to reopen the investigation. In addition to these two major federal investigations of the assassination of President Kennedy, four other federal investigatory bodies have dealt with the assassination to some degree. President Ford created The Rockefeller Commission in 1975 to investigate Central Intelligence Agency activities within the United States. Part of the Commission's efforts related to the Kennedy assassination. Also in 1975, Congress created the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (the Church Committee) and the House Select Committee on Intelligence (the Pike Committee). Some of the work of these committees was related to the assassination. These official investigations, however, did not satisfactorily answer the questions raised by the public about the assassination of President Kennedy. In response to continued, heated speculation, Congress passed the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, which mandated the creation of the Assassination Records Review Board. The provisions of the Act were designed as an alternative to insufficient previous efforts to clarify widely held troubling questions about the assassination of President Kennedy and the actions of U. S. Government institutions and personnel, and to address inadequate existing mechanisms for the public release of records. The Act states that "the Freedom of Information Act, as

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