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From: CN=David Marwell/O=ARRB
DisplayFromDomain:
DisplayDate: 01/14/1997
DisplayDate_Time: 3:44:03 PM
ComposedDate: 01/14/1997
ComposedDate_Time: 3:20:10 PM
Subject: Afanasiev

Kermit:As we discussed, I am sending a proposed response to Afanasiev. Please feel free to do with it what you will:PROPOSED DRAFT:Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter of December 26, 1996.We appreciate the information that you have provided concerning the location of records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. Shortly before my meeting with you in November of last year, I visited Belarus with colleagues from the Review Board. The meeting was fruitful to the extent that we established a relationship, and we are hopeful that we will gain some access to the six volumes of records on Oswald that they maintain. Although the records under the control of the Belarusian KGB promise to be of great importance in understanding Lee Harvey Oswald's residence in the former USSR and the reaction of the Soviet authorities to his defection and ultimate return to the United States, they are not, we believe the only important assassination-related records to be found in the former USSR. The Assassination Records Review Board is interested in the broadest range of records. We believe that there are, for example, significant records that relate to the reaction of the Soviet government to the assassination. A careful review of appropriate archival holdings would yield, we believe, records that reflect the reaction of a variety of party and state organs to the event. Soviet foreign ministry records would likewise reveal the reactions of East Bloc nations. Our meetings in November with Igor Lebedev, Director of the Foreign Ministry Archives, and Vladimir Tiuneyev, Acting head of the State Archives Service have given us confidence that there are indeed other avenues worthy of pursuit. Although we will continue to seek the KGB records, we wish to ensure that all other sources of relevant records have been checked. To the extent that you can be helpful to us in this endeavor, we would be anxious to discuss an appropriate arrangement.

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