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Subject: Atterholt Letter

LETTER OUR CONVERSATION, I AM ENTRAINING THE LETTER TO ATTENTION. PLEASE REVIEW, INITIALIZE, SIGN MY NAME AND RETURN.
Also, as I mentioned, please enclose the two page description of the Board and a brochure; both are referenced in the letter.Thanks.TP.S. The letter should fit on two pages: I hope!March 24, 1997Mr. James AtterholtDistrict Office ManagerThe Honorable Dan Burton8900 Key Stone Crossing, Suite 1050Indianapolis, Indiana 46240Dear Mr. Atterholt:Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today regarding the future of the Assassination Records Review Board. I appreciate your assistance in trying to arrange a meeting for us with Congressman Burton. Following our telephone conversation, I spoke with Bruce Hitchcock. Since Bruce and his group of students will be in Washington during the week of April 7th, I am hopeful that the Congressman will be able to see all of us.The purpose of this letter is to provide some additional background on the Review Board. As I know you are aware, the Board is an independent federal agency responsible for the review and public release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Review Board has accomplished much in its first two years, but still has a great deal of important work to do. The Board, which is scheduled to cease operations at the end of fiscal year 1997, is recommending that it be extended for one additional year to complete its work. The members of the Board hope that Chairman Burton will be supportive of this recommendation. A copy of our FY 1996 Annual Report sets out the basis for the recommendation and was recently sent to the Chairman. For your information, I have enclosed a two page summary of the Boards work to date and what it would accomplish with an additional year, as well as a brochure that provides some basic facts about the Board and the original authorizing legislation.The Review Board has been engaged in the review and release of records related to the assassination of President Kennedy since June 1995. To date, the Board has acted to transfer nearly 10,000 documents to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in the JFK Collection. At the end of 1996, the collection totaled approximately 3.3. million pages and was used extensively by researchers from all over the United States.By the end of this year, the Board anticipates the completion of the review and processing of nearly all of the assassination records that have been identified by federal agencies, with the important exception of the remaining records of the FBI and the CIA. The overwhelming majority of previously redacted information has been made public.Unfortunately, it is impossible for the Board to complete its work within the original three-year timetable set by Congress. Although well-intentioned, the time frame was unrealistic for an unprecedented project of this magnitude. First, there was an 18-month delay in the appointment of Board, a delay that caused agencies to fall far behind the pace envisioned by the law. Second, there was a protracted Record

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