

NR_key_name: 4283D1633089A11785256422000B1066

SendTo: CN=David Marwell/O=ARRB @ ARRB

CopyTo:

DisplayBlindCopyTo:

BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB

From: CN=Tom Samoluk/O=ARRB

DisplayFromDomain:

DisplayDate: 01/16/1997

DisplayDate_Time: 9:54:31 PM

ComposedDate: 01/16/1997

ComposedDate_Time: 9:06:25 PM

Subject: The Letter

David-Sorry I missed your call today. I have included my suggestions in bold and highlighted font below. I will be in the office on Friday to talk to you about the letter and other matters. Battaglia's reaction sounds like a good start. Talk to you on Friday.

TomTo:Tom Samoluk/ARRBcc:From:David Marwell/ARRB Date:01/16/97 05:09:37 PMSubject:Just in case the WordPerfect document didn't get to you:Dear Senator Specter:As I know you are aware, the Assassination Records Review Board was created by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 and is an independent federal agency charged with overseeing the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Review Board was charged with completing its work by September 30, 1997. Despite a record of efficient and cost-effective performance that includes thousands of records from federal agencies and many other records previously in private hands being made public, several factors beyond the control of the Review Board will prevent the complete and thorough review of assassination records by that deadline. These include:An archival federal records review project of this magnitude was unprecedented. Thus, the three-year timetable provided for in the authorizing legislation failed to accurately account for the complexity of the undertaking or the immense quantity of assassination-related documents. More time than originally estimated is necessary to complete the task.Requirements of the enabling legislation required a long start-up phase. The prohibition against hiring (or detailing) federal employees combined with the requirement that each staff member receive a Top Secret clearance, caused considerable delay in assembling a qualified staff. The Board was, in effect, not given three full years to do its work.The 16 month delay in appointing the members of the Board required that many agencies proceed with the review of their files without the benefit of Board guidance. This unfortunate lack of guidance resulted in the necessity for the agencies to redo a significant amount of work in a manner consistent with the law.Lengthy delays by some of the more than 25 federal agencies that currently have assassination-related files.The Board is therefore seeking a one-year extension of its mandate. The slow start-up in our first year has resulted in a Review Board reserve equivalent to 25 percent of anticipated FY 1998 costs. We estimated that the we would require, in addition to the funds carried over, considerably less than \$2 million to continue operations through the end of FY 1998.Whether or not a one-year extension will be all that is required to complete the record review process is a relevant question. It cannot be completely answered by the Review Board. Much depends on the cooperation and efficiency of the federal agencies that process assassination records. Although it is likely that some unreviewed records will remain if the Board succeeds in getting an extension, the Board is confident that the additional year will permit it to process all of

Record

Body:

recstat:

DeliveryPriority: N

DeliveryReport: B

ReturnReceipt:

Categories: