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**Subject:** Re: Assassination Records Review Board Press Release  
THANKS, EILEEN. GOOD JOB. I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO GET THE BU'S WRITTEN MEMOS/DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING THEIR  
position for our files. That would be helpful. Congrats, Brian. \_\_\_\_\_ Reply  
Separator \_\_\_\_\_ Subject: Assassination Records Review Board Press  
ReleaseAuthor: Eileen Sullivan <Eileen\_Sullivan@jfk-arrrb.gov> at internetDate: 12/16/96 5:16 PMNEWS  
RELEASEFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DECEMBER 16, 1996CONTACT: THOM WILBORN (202) 724-0088, EXT.  
251FBI WITHDRAWS PRESIDENTIAL APPEAL OF DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS  
REVIEW BOARD The Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal agency, announced today  
that the FBI has withdrawn appeals to the President opposing Review Board decisions to release previously  
classified information in 21 documents pertaining to the investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald and the  
assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Review Board previously had voted to release the FBI  
documents and the FBI had appealed the Board's decision to President Clinton. \_The FBI's decision to  
withdraw the appeals is particularly gratifying since it had so vigorously opposed the release of this  
information,\_ said John R. Tunheim, Board Chairman and U.S. District Court Judge for the District of  
Minnesota. \_Although the FBI decision to withdraw its appeals applies only to two sets of documents, I am  
hopeful that subsequent FBI appeals will also be reconsidered.\_ The FBI has just notified the White House that  
it was withdrawing appeals opposing the release of information in ten different records that had previously  
been classified as \_Secret.\_ The documents include a May 1960 report discussing the investigation of Lee  
Harvey Oswald and his family while Oswald was residing in Russia, foreign government reactions to the  
Kennedy assassination, coverage of the assassination by foreign correspondents, critics of the Warren  
Commission and former Orleans Parish District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of Clay Shaw. (Shaw was  
later acquitted of conspiracy charges by an Orleans Parish jury.) The records have been the subject of  
intensive written briefings to the President by the Review Board and the FBI. \_Although the Bureau initially  
had vigorously opposed release of the information, the Review Board clearly demonstrated that the  
information should be released to the public,\_ Tunheim said. The FBI had previously argued that releasing the  
information would prejudice current foreign counterintelligence operations and harm foreign relations. The  
Assassination Records Review Board found that public interest in the information outweighed the evidence  
that the FBI offered to prevent release of the information. In a letter to Presidential Counsel Jack Quinn, FBI  
General Counsel Howard Shapiro said the appeals were withdrawn \_after carefully considering the matters  
raised by the Assassination Records Review Board.\_ In addition, Shapiro said, the FBI \_will also review our

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