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Subject: NYT Letter to the Editor

David.Lee@ARRB provided me with the version below of the NYT Letter to the Editor. I don't know if this is the current version, but even if it is close to what is going out, I have a couple of points:1. I was startled by the angry, if not downright nasty tone of the letter.2. The letter angrily takes on what they said about Ford's editing, but then does not explain what was wrong about it.3. My understanding is that there was some "new information" about the Castro plots revealed last week and that's what the Times said, not that the existence of the plots was new.4. What does the hostile tone get us? The same basic points be made without sounding so angry.

Tom July 7, 1997 Letter to the Editor The New York Times 229 West 43d Street New York, N.Y. 10036-3959 To the Editor: The claim in your editorial The Amnesty Option (July 6, 1997) that there are no official investigations extant of the Kennedy assassination is patently absurd. You should know that there is an independent federal agency, its creation reported in your newspaper, that is currently working to open all U.S. Government records relating to the Kennedy assassination. This agency -- the Assassination Records Review Board -- was established by Congress in 1992 pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act and is armed with broad powers that have allowed it to open thousands of once-secret records. Although not empowered to re-investigate the assassination of President Kennedy, the Board is charged with locating and releasing all United States Government records relating to the assassination and identifying and obtaining relevant records in private hands. While the Review Board takes no position on any theory of the assassination, or on the question of whether a new investigation into the assassination should be convened, we are dedicated to assuring that the most complete and accurate record is compiled. It was in pursuit of this important goal that the Review Board secured the donation of the papers of J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel of the Warren Commission, from his family and announced their release last week. And it was in connection with this release that the edits of a draft of the Warren Commission Report by Commission member Gerald Ford made news and found mention in your call for greater clarity about the Kennedy assassination. Your startling assertion that former President Ford had disclosed that he had altered the Warren Commission finding (emphasis added) concerning the location of one of President Kennedy's wounds is simply egregiously wrong. It does a disservice to the truth, to the public, and to President Ford. Furthermore, your characterization of the recent disclosures about the CIA, the Mafia, and the assassination plots against Castro as new will surprise many of your readers who will recall their revelation by the Church Committee. While it may be that your proposal of amnesty could play a role in reaching the truth and restoring faith in our government and its institutions, it can be no substitute for the task of the Review Board which is the full disclosure of all relevant Record

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