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**Subject:** Suggested Vietnam Document Talking Points  
in preparation for possible media interest in the Vietnam documents on Monday, December 22, I have prepared the following suggested talking points:1. The mandate of the Assassination Records Review Board is to make the history surrounding the assassination as complete as possible for the American public.2. Our job is not to characterize the records we release, but to enrich the record of the assassination - - for others to interpret and analyze.3. Today, the Board is releasing approximately 800 pages of previously classified military records from 1963-64 that relate to U.S. policy on Vietnam.4. The Board has aggressively sought to uncover records on U.S. foreign policy, as well as other relevant areas, that put the assassination into its historical context.5. Last month, the Review Board released previously classified military records related to U.S. policy toward Cuba in the early 1960's.6. These military records on U.S. policy toward Vietnam add important depth to the historical record because they are from both before and after the assassination of President Kennedy.7. At the time of President Kennedy's death, Vietnam was increasingly becoming a matter of foreign policy concern. Any records that add substance to our understanding of the impact that the assassination had on U.S. foreign policy in Vietnam are a welcomed addition to the JFK Collection at the National Archives.8. Previously, we had some military documents that dealt with U.S. policy on Vietnam from this era. But, these records add much more to the record. For example, before this release, there were only short summaries on the Secretary of Defense's May 1963 Conference on Vietnam in Honolulu that were publicly available. Now, as a result of this release, we have more than 200 pages from that conference. These records will reveal much more detail about what went on at the conference.[Note: To determine whether any of the documents that we are releasing on the May 1963 Conference had previously been made public, we checked the JFK Library, the LBJ Library, the State Department's Foreign Relations, 1961-63, Volume III, Gravel Edition/The Pentagon Papers/Vol. II, and consulted with Dr. William Conrad Gibbons, who wrote The U.S. Government and the Vietnam War, Part II, 1961-64, published in 1984 by Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. We were unable to find any indication that the records from the 1963 Conference (or any of the other records we are releasing on Monday, for that matter) had ever been made public.]9. One reason these records are significant is simply because they are newly released. They will be the subject of fresh analysis and debate, and will supplement what was already known about U.S. policy on Vietnam from this era.10. Without the Board's efforts and the mandate that it make the history surrounding the assassination as complete as possible, there is no telling how long it would have been before these records were made public, if ever.[Note: As you know, these records were stored at NARA II and if it were not for the Record  
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