

June 13, 1996

To: Linda Kozaryn
cc: Tom Samoluk
Tim Wray

From: Christopher Barger
Subj: your article

Linda,

Thank you for the article! We were very pleased with your efforts, and are appreciative of your role in helping us complete our task.

We do have a few suggestions for the article; however, we understand and respect the integrity of your work, and should you choose to run the article "as is", we will understand. In some cases, these involve direct quotes that we have either re-thought or would like to have re-worded; I have included explanations with each case. With that in mind, here are our suggestions:

1. **Page 1, paragraph 1.** "Federal agents" to "An independent federal agency." *We thought "federal agents" might sound intimidating to some people.*
2. **Page 1, paragraph 3.** "...Barger, a review board analyst heading the board's quest for military records." *I am not heading the full military effort. I **am** the contact person in our attempts to contact former military personnel and records in private hands, but **Tim Wray**, as Chief Analyst for Military Records, is heading our overall military effort, and I will be submitting reports to him on the developments in this project. It would be more accurate either to say that I am spearheading our efforts to locate military personnel, or that I am involved in the Board's quest for military records.*
3. **Page 2, paragraph 2.** Samoluk quote, "We're not doing... to the assassination." to, "We're not doing a re-investigation into who killed President Kennedy. We're trying to find records, and where we can, through these records, clear up questions related to the assassination." *We re-thought this statement afterwards; while it is true that we are not writing an investigative report, we will be writing a report on the Board's activities and progress, and records it releases. We have no wish to be misleading, so we would like to strike the line about not writing a report. In addition, we wanted to be a little more clear that our intent is that records we release help answer questions about the assassination, not that our mandate is to ask those questions ourselves. We believe that the new statement above does a better job in explaining that.*

4. **Page 2, paragraph 8.** Strike Wray quote at end of paragraph, “Nobody cares about 30-year-old military secrets.” *We realized upon reading this that his comment could be construed as nonchalance regarding military records. We don’t wish to convey that, so that is why we would like to strike that line.*

5. **Page 3, paragraph 4.** Change first sentence to, “Some people who believe there was a conspiracy...” *The term “buffs” is considered derogatory and offensive by the research community. In order to avoid creating ill will with the research community, we would like to change this sentence.*

6. **Page 4, paragraph 1.** First sentence on page; change to, “because assassination researchers don’t know what its role was.” *Again, the term “conspiracy theorists” is considered derogatory and belittling by those within the research community. We should not have used it in this interview, and in order to avoid a controversy with one of our main constituencies, we would like to change the sentence.*

7. **Page 4, last paragraph.** “...contact Christopher Barger of the Board staff at...” Also, we would request that my extension number (259) be listed with the telephone information. *We felt that it would be helpful for persons wishing to contact us to have a name or point of contact. Since I am leading this particular project, that point of contact should be me. This suggestion also applies to the listing of our information in the sidebar stories.*

Again, I want to emphasize that we respect your journalistic integrity, and do not wish to “manage” this story. Rather, we offer these suggestions in the hope of cooperating with you in putting out the best possible story for your readers while getting the word out for us. Thank you once again for your considerable time and effort. We are extremely pleased with the results, and we will contact you if and when items of interest turn up as a result of this story. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Christopher Barger
Analyst
Assassination Records Review Board