

**To:** Toni Bowie  
**Fax #:** (703) 325-1770  
**Re:** June 2-4  
**Date:** May 25, 1997  
**Pages:** 10, including this cover sheet.

# FACSIMILE

Ms. Bowie,

Good afternoon. I wanted to get you as much information as I could regarding our session next week. First of all, regarding your question about where to pass the clearance, you should send it here, to our security officer. We have temporarily acquired custody of the Califano papers that you and I reviewed at NARA, and next week, we will be working in ARRB offices, not at NARA. Accordingly, our security officer needs your clearance. Again, her name is Tracy Shycoff, and our fax number is (202) 724-0457.

There is no free visitor parking in the Bicentennial Building where we are located. Parking is available near our offices for a fee. We are located at the corner of 6th and E Streets, NW; directly across E Street from our building is the AARP headquarters. There is a parking garage underneath the AARP building which our staff recommends; you get to keep your keys. The cost for this ramp is \$7.00 per day if you arrive before 8:30 a.m., and \$10.00 a day if you arrive after 8:30 a.m.. There is also a parking garage below our building; however, it is not as highly recommended by our staff, as it tends to fill up earlier, and you must leave your keys with the attendant.

I thought that we could start between 8:00 and 8:30 each day, depending on your convenience. Please let me know your preferred working times.

We have spoken about the nature of these records, and the potential difficulty of our task next week. I want to reiterate to you what I hope we can accomplish next week in our review. The decision has been made to have you (as the Army's designated declassifier) conduct declassification review of those records that have only Army equities in them. For those records containing other agency equities, it will be our task to identify and "flag" on each document those agencies who will need to view and declassify them. I understand that the overwhelming majority of the documents will be of that nature, but I hope we can make satisfactory progress.

I believe I have provided you a copy of our statute in the past. I am sending you a copy again to specifically draw your attention to several

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sections (which I have bracketed for your convenience) that will be relevant to our task next week. I refer you first to Section 2(a)(2), which provides that all records deemed “assassination related” carry the presumption of full and immediate disclosure.

This presumption lies at the heart of the ARRB’s efforts for the last two years and will be paramount in our task next week. Section 2(a), subsections (5) and (6) address the fact that the standards of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Executive Order 12356 have been insufficient in declassifying records relating to President Kennedy’s assassination. Section 2(a)(7) is an acknowledgment by the Congress of the United States that there is rarely a need to continue to protect information that is over thirty years old. These subsections are all important to demonstrate the intent of the Congress that these records should in fact be released at the earliest possible time.

Section 11(a) establishes that the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (ARCA) legally supersedes all other laws and standards regarding records release, including FOIA and all Executive Orders. This demonstrates that neither FOIA nor Executive Order standards apply to assassination records. The usual practices and declassification schedules are overruled by ARCA.

Finally, Section 6 addresses the standards by which documents can be postponed under the ARCA. If the Army or any agency wishes to request a postponement of any information, the request *must be justified using one of the subsections contained in Section 6*. For any requests for postponement the Army may make, the Army will be asked to provide evidence or explanation to the Review Board which meets the standards required in the ARCA.

I hope these elaborations help to clarify for you both what we need to accomplish next week, and the declassification standards which must be used when reviewing these records. If you have any questions whatsoever about any aspect of our task, please call me at (202) 724-0088, x 259. Thank you, and I look forward to working with you next week.

