

-- Welcome to Washington DC. First time here? What have you done so far? How was the drive out here? Have you guys "tried" the Warren Commission? Who was on what side?

-- The ARRB was created in the aftermath of the Oliver Stone movie JFK. How many saw that movie? What'd you think? No matter what people thought of the film and its theories, the one thing everybody could agree on was that the government should release its records on the case. So, in October 1992, Congress passed and President Bush signed the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, which established the Review Board and provided for the release of all documents relating to the case unless there was a demonstrable effect on national security. We've been working now for about 2 to 2½ years. I have included in your packets a chronology of our work. So far, we've directly released, either in full or in part, well over 11,000 documents; there are more that get consent released, so we are responsible for about 3.75 million pages. We work very closely with government security apparatus; CIA is right across the hall from you.

-- This effort is unparalleled in US or world history. Essentially what has happened is that a group of private citizens have been empowered to tell their government what it can or cannot keep secret. We are telling them what they must tell the people. 4,000 years of written history; never before has any citizen had that right. We feel fortunate to be here; adds importance to success of experiment.

-- Extension is necessary for a number of reasons. Authors of Act underestimated amount of work; Board not appointed until late spring '94 due to change in Administrations; staff hiring takes about six months due to security clearances; precedents and procedures had to be established; some agencies had to be talked into cooperating. The result is that currently, we have three months before we are mandated to shut down, but have only completed about two thirds of what we have identified as our work. We are in the President's budget for FY 98, and have lobbied to get Congressional approval to be in their budget as well. Congressman Dan Burton (incidentally your Congressman) has introduced a bill, HR 1553, which reauthorizes the ARRB for one more year. Two weeks ago, the House subcommittee conducted a hearing on this bill; among those who testified was Mr. Hitchcock.

-- We have been responsible for some notable releases of information. Some examples include the Powers and Veazey films; the FBI/Swiss documents; the first large-scale, outside controlled release of NSA documents; and the 1978 HSCA report, "Oswald in Mexico City" (The Lopez Report).

-- Some not so newsworthy but still really cool things have popped up. Log book from Andrews AFB; original ONI file; Prouty newspaper.

-- Examples of Board's work and our effect: Swiss police docs in your folder; Lopez Report and MC Chronology on table.

-- Dr. David G. Marwell is our executive director; welcome.

Military work is not like CIA or FBI work; military played only a supporting role in investigation.

Also, 1971 destroy order got rid of much. Our work is far more investigative in nature. We have to try to track down two things: records on peripheral issues like Operation MONGOOSE and Vietnam; and former military personnel who may have individual recollections that are helpful. We have found all message traffic coming in and out of PTC that day; the transmissions from NEACP; Oswald's original medical and ONI files; six boxes of MONGOOSE material. Interviewed personnel from 112th; Col. Reich; Mr. X.

Explain problem of inadequate searches.

NSA releases.

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