

March 30, 2017

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Stewart F. Aly
Associate Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Department of Defense
1600 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1600

Re: OSD Equities in Vietnam Records from the LBJ Library

Dear Mr. Aly:

I am writing to request your assistance in arranging for Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) declassification review of approximately 68 documents on Vietnam from the LBJ Library, prior to their placement in the JFK Records Collection in the National Archives.

On January 30, 1998, Mr. Horne of my staff faxed you a memorandum requesting that you arrange for a representative of OSD to attend our declassification session being held February 4-6, inclusive, to review approximately 68 Vietnam policy documents obtained from the LBJ Library. On the afternoon of February 4, 1998, since there was no OSD reviewer present at our session, Mr. Horne called you to inquire whether OSD was going to be able to send a representative on February 5 or 6 to review said documents. You indicated unawareness of his January 30, 1998 fax and he faxed that memo request again following your telephone conversation on February 4. [Subject memo is provided here as attachment one.]

To date no one from OSD has contacted the ARRB staff, as requested, in connection with making arrangements for review of these LBJ Library documents. Perhaps you were not afforded enough time to coordinate arrangements on our behalf with OSD; if not, we apologize.

However, we are in the process of wrapping up our efforts with the LBJ Library, and one way or another, this group of records will be placed before the Review Board for consideration at our March 10, 1998 Board Meeting. We would be happy to make arrangements for anyone designated by OSD to conduct declassification review of these 68 records under the terms of the JFK Act, at our offices, at a time of OSD's convenience. Points of contact at the ARRB who can be contacted by OSD

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regarding review of these records are either Doug Horne, or Irene Marr, at (202) 724-0088.

If no one from OSD reviews the records prior to our March 10, 1998 Board Meeting, the Review Board will infer that OSD has no interest in protecting any of its equities which may be present in those records, and will act accordingly by releasing OSD equities in the 68 Vietnam records. [For your information, we have asked the Joint Secretariat whether they could conduct review of these records in lieu of OSD, and the ruling obtained from them was that only OSD, and not the Joint Staff, could pass judgment on these documents.]

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

Enclosure