

April 5, 2017

VIA FACSIMILE and FIRST-CLASS MAIL

RADM Lowell E. Jacoby, USN  
Commander, Office of Naval Intelligence  
4251 Suitland Road  
Washington, D. C. 20395-5720

Re: Office of Naval Intelligence Compliance with the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act,  
44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Admiral Jacoby,

The JFK Records Collection Act (“JFK Act”), enacted into law on October 26, 1992, provided for the establishment of a Review Board to ensure that both Congress, as well as Executive Branch agencies of the Federal Government, conducted diligent searches for records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, conducted declassification review to standards unique to the JFK Act, and placed those records into the JFK Records Collection in the National Archives. The JFK Act authorized the Review Board, whose members serve part-time, to hire a staff to assist them in their endeavors. It is in this capacity, as staff Executive Director, that I am writing you.

Although the Review Board staff commenced contact with the Department of Defense through its OGC in October of 1995, and a LtCol John E. Sparks, USMC (Military Assistant to the Navy General Counsel) was appointed to coordinate the Navy’s overall JFK Act compliance with the Review Board, it was not until late 1996 that the Review Board began to establish a formal Compliance Program, in which we requested each Agency of the Executive Branch, and each component of the Armed Forces, to formally designate, by name, an Agency Compliance Official for dealings with the Review Board. On December 27, 1997, Navy General Counsel Steven G. Honigman signed out a letter designating LtCol Michael E. Finnie, USMC as the Agency Compliance Official for Navy and Marine Corps records within the terms of the JFK Act, and also indicated the Navy would comply with the compliance procedures outlined in our boilerplate compliance letter of December 6, 1996.

LtCol Finnie (of Navy OGC), through his diligent efforts, has substantially satisfied most of the Review Board’s requests for searches and we have been pleased with his performance. However, in

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hindsight, it appears it may have been wiser for us to establish a separate compliance program with ONI, such as we did with the Defense Intelligence Agency. In a January 29, 1998 meeting with one of my staff members, Supervisory Analyst Douglas Horne, LCDR R. D. Bastien of your staff opined (and Mr. Horne agreed) that it would be better for the Review Board to deal directly with each intelligence agency, rather than through a middle party. We regret any inefficiency or misunderstandings that may have resulted from failure to do so.

Accordingly, I am writing to request that you formally designate an ONI Agency Compliance Official for JFK Act matters. Members of my staff have met with ONI officials on three occasions (March 11, 1997; April 21, 1997; and January 29, 1998), and work on searches and declassification of records is in progress. However, because of the unique nature of intelligence work, its sensitivity, and the records created over the years, I agree with LCDR Bastien that it is preferable that we relieve Navy OGC of responsibility for RG 289 searches, and ask you to appoint your own Agency Compliance Official.

Upon receipt of the name and rank of your designated appointee, my Compliance Officer, Associate General Counsel Ronald Haron, will be in communication with that individual regarding the details of our Compliance Program. Unless or until directed otherwise, Mr. Horne, our Chief Analyst for Military Records, and his assistant, Mr. Goslee, will continue to work technical issues with our present working point of contact, LCDR Bastien.

The Review Board is a temporary, independent agency whose life span expires on September 30, 1998; accordingly, it is important that our unresolved business with ONI be resolved as expeditiously and cooperatively as possible. We thank you and your staff for your cooperation to date.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: LtCol M. E. Finnie, USMC (Navy OGC)  
Stewart F. Aly (DOD Associate Deputy General Counsel)

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