

August 8, 1997

Via Facsimile

Mr. Fred Reeves  
P.O. BOX 505  
Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067

Dear Mr. Reeves:

Thank you for your fax requesting information about the ARRB. In response, I am happy to hereby forward you a photocopy of an informational pamphlet about the Assassination Records Review Board.

The names and affiliations of the five members of the Review Board are revealed therein.

The President John F. Kennedy Records Collection Act ("JFK Act"), passed on October 26, 1992, created a permanent collection (called the JFK Records Collection) of assassination-related records at the National Archives; the JFK Act also created our Review Board, which was created to ensure that Federal Agencies complied with the Act and conducted responsive searches for records. The Review Board is an independent Federal Agency within the Executive Branch of government. Originally given only a three year life span, we have just received a one-time, one-year extension allowing us to operate for a fourth year; as a consequence, we will not shut down operations until September 30, 1998.

A small staff of less than 30 full-time Federal employees serves the five Board Members, who only serve part-time. The Board Members make the key policy decisions and provide guidance to the staff on how to proceed with the business of identifying, locating and transferring assassination-related records to the Archives. In addition, the Review Board evaluates any recommended postponements to records which originating agencies believe should still be withheld (i.e., remain classified); the Board has the authority to make final decisions on which portions of assassination records should be declassified, or postponed.

Over half of our staff members are analysts, but in response to your question, no, there is not a Naval intelligence analyst on our staff. We are not empowered to reinvestigate the assassination, or to draw conclusions, and instead are primarily concerned with locating records, ensuring they are

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declassified to the maximum extent allowed under the JFK Act, and ensuring they are transferred to the JFK Collection in the National Archives--where concerned citizens, authors, researchers, and scholars may have access to them. In some cases we have found it useful to conduct interviews or depositions in an effort to (1) locate additional records, and (2) more satisfactorily complete the historical record of events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy.

Our analysts are divided into separate teams which focus on CIA, FBI/Treasury, and Military Records. I am the Team Leader for the Military Records Team, and Michelle Combs is a member of the CIA Records Team.

I trust this fax will provide you with answers to your immediate questions. Later today, I will send you via First Class Mail a complete copy of our enabling legislation.

Should you have any additional questions, please call me or Michelle Combs at (202) 724-0088. We look forward to hearing from you; upon receipt of your fax, we will contact you by telephone and schedule an in-depth interview.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Horne  
Chief Analyst for Military Records

Enclosure