

September 11, 1995

Mr. Bill Adams
P.O. Box 24945
San Jose, CA 95154

Dear Mr. Adams:

This is in response to your letter of August 18, 1995 regarding your recent Freedom of Information Act requests. I would like to take this opportunity to address several of your concerns.

First, the Review Board and staff are deeply committed to fulfilling our mandate to ensure that as complete a record as possible of the assassination of President Kennedy is made available to the American public.

Second, the Congress made clear that, in seeking to fulfill this mandate, the Review Board should take advantage of the vast knowledge that many members of the public have attained through years of hard work and research. Through public hearings, correspondence, and other means we have attempted to work with those many individuals who have acquired valuable knowledge.

Third, your intimation that the Review Board is providing "confidential and classified" information to private individuals is quite simply wrong.

Fourth, the Review Board has received hundreds of letters regarding potential leads on the existence and location of assassination records. Contrary to your assertion, none of these leads has been ignored; the Review Board carefully reviews every piece of information that it receives.

Fifth, you should be aware that FOIA requests are *not* considered "confidential information."¹ In fact, the Review Board could only refuse to disclose information about a FOIA request if we could show, under exemption 6 of the FOIA, that the information being sought about a FOIA request constituted "personal and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy."²

Finally, it appears that the issue that gave rise to your letter relates to statements made by another

¹United States Department of Justice, Office of Information and Privacy, FOIA Update, 6 (Winter 1985).

² 5 U.S.C. sec.552(b)(6).

individual and not the Review Board and its staff. Perhaps you should direct your concerns to that individual.

I am distressed by the clearly unproductive nature of our current exchange of letters and hope that, in the future, we can limit ourselves to matters that are more clearly related to the important task before us.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director