

## **Cable to AMEMBASSY BONN**

1. The Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (the "Act") was signed into law on October 26, 1992. The Act established a process for identifying and securing all records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy and collecting them in the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. The Act also established the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) to coordinate and oversee the process. The Department has been working closely with the ARRB to ensure full compliance with these requirements and over a year ago produced its collection for public access at the National Archives.
2. There remains, however, one provision of the Act for which the Secretary must rely on your offices for implementation. The Act envisioned an approach to foreign governments for any records they might maintain. Specifically, Section 10 (b)(2) of the Act states that it is the "sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should contact .... [any] foreign government that may hold information relevant to the assassination and seek disclosure of such information."
3. In its Congressionally mandated search for assassination records, the ARRB wishes to determine whether the German government or local government agencies in Germany maintain records that are related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The ARRB notes that the assassination of President Kennedy attracted the attention of the world, and that the response of the German government to the event would be of interest.
4. The ARRB has already contacted the Gauck Commission about the possible existence of assassination-related records that may have been maintained by the former Staatsministerium für Staatssicherheit (STASI). The ARRB requests that additional inquiries be made with other relevant archives and institutions.
5. Specifically, the ARRB requests that the following agencies be contacted:

- Federal Archives (Bundesarchiv)

The ARRB believes that there are relevant records in the various collections of the Bundesarchiv. For instance, the records of the SED which are now maintained in Berlin-Lichterfelde may contain records revealing the reaction of DDR officials to the assassination. In addition, the records of the then West German government that relate to the assassination should be maintained by the Bundesarchiv.

- Ministry of Defense

Among the records of interest to the ARRB are those that originated with DDR Military Attaches in Cuba that would reveal the reaction of the Cuban officials to the assassination.

- Archives of the German Foreign Office in Bonn

The ARRB's interest include the records of the German Foreign Office relating to the assassination including reporting from German posts abroad on reaction to and speculation about the assassination.

The ARRB would welcome additional ideas about the location of relevant records.

6. The ARRB is willing to provide additional information to assist in the search for records and would be happy to deal directly with the various agencies.