

March 10, 1997

The Honorable Jim Kolbe
Chairman
Treasury, Postal Service & General Government
Appropriations Subcommittee
House of Representatives
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
1705 Longworth House Office Building
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 02515

Dear Chairman Kolbe and Representative Hoyer:

As you may know, the Assassination Records Review Board has recommended that its mandate be extended for one year. Our recently issued FY 1996 Report sets out the basis for our recommendation, and the Review Board Staff has met with your Committee Staff to answer questions and provide additional information.

In making the recommendation, we are cognizant of the difficulties inherent in extending a temporary commission. We are aware of the danger and the fear that temporary bodies may have a self-perserving and self-perpetuating instinct, and want to assure you in the clearest and most unambiguous manner that the Board's recommendation is motivated strictly by its desire to complete the job. The members of the Board are all private citizens with many competing claims on our time and energy. It is our collective conviction that the additional time is necessary and our sincere commitment that we will complete the task if given the means.

If we can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

JRT

Chair