

Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW ▪ Suite 208 ▪ Washington, DC 20530

October 26, 1994

Mr. Burke Marshall
Yale Law School
New Haven, CT

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am the Chair of the Assassination Records Review Board which, as you know, is the new independent federal agency assigned the responsibility of overseeing the review and release of the records relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Review Board was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in February and assumed office in April. Much of the summer has been spent organizing the staff, securing an appropriation from Congress, and beginning discussions with federal agencies that hold assassination records.

As you are aware, the JFK Records Collection Act, which created the Review Board and established the presumption that the records will all eventually be available to the public, specifically exempted the records of the autopsy of President Kennedy. The Review Board respects that decision and understands the sensitivity of these records to the Kennedy family. The fact that some of the photographs have been released in the public domain without the family's permission is extremely unfortunate.

We very much appreciate receiving your permission to review the photographs and x-rays. As Steve Tilley explained to you, it is important for the Review Board and its senior staff members, as an official federal investigative body, to be granted access to the autopsy materials. The Board has received many suggestions with respect to issues relating to the autopsy and I believe that we can better handle our responsibilities if the materials are accessible to us.

Thank you very much for the approval. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you would like an update on the activities of the Review Board.

Sincerely,

John R. Tunheim
Chair

cc: Steve Tilley

