



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 9, 1997

CONTACT: EILEEN SULLIVAN
(202) 724-0088, EXT. 253

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS LAW EXTENDING JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR

President Clinton has signed a bill extending the Assassination Records Review Board for one additional year. The Review Board is the independent federal agency overseeing the identification, review, and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The bill, H.R. 1553, was signed into law by the President on July 3, 1997. It amends the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 to extend the authorization of the Assassination Records Review Board until September 30, 1998, and authorizes \$1.6 million for the Board to complete its work. The bill was introduced by House Government Reform and Oversight Committee Chairman Dan Burton (R-IN) and cosponsored by Congressmen Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Louis Stokes (D-OH). Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) had introduced a companion bill, S. 844, in the Senate.

"The members of the Review Board are pleased to have this additional time to complete our work. We will be able to complete the review and release of thousands of critical FBI and CIA records, submit a comprehensive final report to the Congress and the President, and make available to the American public as much information as possible on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy," said Judge John R. Tunheim, chair of the Review Board. "We appreciate that the Congress and the President moved quickly and decisively on our extension."

The Assassination Records Review Board was established by the JFK Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.