

September 21, 1998

Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy  
Hickory Hill  
1147 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Mrs. Kennedy:

As you may be aware, the Assassination Records Review Board is an independent federal agency established by Congress to oversee the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In compliance with The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107, the Review Board has been working with a number of federal agencies, including presidential libraries, to identify and declassify additional records. Because of their historical significance, many records and papers of individuals who served within President Kennedy's administration have been reviewed and, to varying degrees, have been made available to the public. Of particular interest are the official papers of your late husband, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, which, on deposit agreement at the JFK Library in Boston, have been reviewed for assassination-related material and are in the earliest stages of being declassified by the CIA. Because the Review Board's mandate shall expire on September 30, 1998 we are respectfully requesting your assistance to facilitate the JFK Library's processing of the Robert Kennedy papers.

Since its inception in 1994, the Review Board has been working closely with the JFK Library to ensure that all relevant records are reviewed, declassified and opened to the public at both the Library and at the JFK Collection at the National Archives. In the summer of 1996, a team of Review Board staff visited the JFK Library in Boston to search for additional assassination records (AR's) among the Library's holdings. In addition to identifying AR's the Review Board also determined certain documents to be of historical significance in that they enhanced the historical understanding of the events surrounding the assassination. Accordingly, these records were designated as EHU's. The Review Board and the JFK Library agreed that EHU's would be opened before the Review Board expired but that these were not subject to the same processing requirements applicable to assassination records.

.

We are concerned about this turn of events because of public perception and because of the Review Board's obligation to uphold the legal requirements of the JFK Act. The failure to secure the release

of these Robert F. Kennedy records before September 30 would most likely draw even greater attention to these files as well as foster doubt, fuel conspiracy theories, and perpetuate mistrust of government. In light of the Review Board's limited time constraints, with less than ten days left on the clock, we believe that your intercession in the dealings between the Steering Committee and the JFK Library to expedite the release of these records would be most propitious. We welcome any assistance that you are willing to provide.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or require further clarification, I would be happy to discuss this matter with you. Please feel free to call me at (202)724-0088.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Hon. John R. Tunheim  
Chairman