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April 21, 2017

addressee

Re: United States Federal Bureau of Investigation Records Relating to the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

Dear *addressee*:

I am writing to you about a matter that I believe to be of significant importance to the Bureau and to the American people.

The *President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act*, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994) (“JFK Act”) (attached hereto) was enacted by the United States Congress and signed into law by President George Bush on October 26, 1992. The law states that, “[a]ll government records concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy should carry a presumption of immediate disclosure,” and the law requires all United States government agencies, including the Bureau, to review and release to the public, to the maximum extent possible, all records relating to the assassination. The Bureau has been working diligently since 1993 to fulfill our responsibilities under the JFK Act.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to inform you that the FBI’s assassination records contain information that originated with your agency, and (2) to request that you review and, if at all possible, consent to release this historically significant information.

In an effort to achieve maximum disclosure of records relating to the assassination, the JFK Act established the JFK Assassination Records Review Board (“Review Board”), an independent Federal agency charged with overseeing the identification and release of records related to the assassination. The FBI is dedicated to cooperating with the Review Board to achieve the objectives of this Federal law, and in that spirit, the FBI respectfully requests that your agency review the enclosed assassination records to determine whether your agency will consent to release the information.

If your agency has no objection to release of its information in the enclosed records, please notify the FBI so that it may take steps to release the records. If, however, your agency determines that it must

request that its information not be released, the JFK Act provides that the FBI must present to the Review Board “clear and convincing evidence” of a harm that would outweigh the need for public disclosure. For each claimed redaction, please provide SOG with clear and convincing evidence of harm that outweighs the need for public disclosure. Once we receive a statement from your agency requesting that information be withheld from public disclosure, the FBI will present your evidence to the Review Board and request that they sustain our request to withhold disclosure of the information.

Your agency should be aware, however, that the JFK Act requires that *all* information in JFK assassination records be released to the public in the year 2017, *including information that the Review Board agrees to protect*. The JFK Act provides that the only way to extend the term of protection for withheld information is for the President of the United States to certify that the information is not yet certifies for continued postponement. The Bureau will make judgments about the advisability of such releases at the appropriate time.

As you know, the United States Government normally protects information from your agency pursuant to applicable Executive Orders and Freedom of Information and Privacy Act exemptions. The JFK Act is a unique Federal law that applies only to JFK assassination records. You should note that it is our strong opinion that *release of information in JFK assassination records should not affect the FBI's standard policy of protecting future handling of your agency's information in other investigations or in other contexts*.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation. Please direct any questions to our Legat Office representative or to Carol L. Keeley, Acting Unit Chief of the Historical and Executive Review Unit of the FBI, 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20535, (202) 324-0671.

Sincerely,

Louis J. Freeh
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Enclosures

cc: Assassination Records Review Board

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