

June 18, 1997

Ms. Faye Blanton  
Secretary of the Senate  
Office of the Secretary of the Senate  
The Capitol, Suite 405  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Madam Secretary:

I would like to thank you for speaking with Mr. David Montague of the Assassination Records Review Board last week about records created by the Johns Committee. As he promised, we are enclosing information about our agency.

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent Federal Agency established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). The Review Board, whose members were appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is charged with the responsibility of collecting records and information related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board members and staff are required by law to possess Top Secret clearances after receiving full background investigations. The Review Board is not seeking to reach any conclusions regarding the assassination, but is primarily concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating, and making available information about the assassination.

The scope of the Review Board's mandate includes identifying and reviewing assassination related records in the custody of federal, state, and local agencies, as well as those in the private sector. The vast majority of our work has involved examining classified CIA and FBI records and making recommendations regarding release of classified material.

We have reviewed the Container List for Johns Committee Files (call number S-1486) and have identified a number of files that appear to be of possible relevance to the assassination of President Kennedy. For example, Box 00012 00059 refers to the Cuban Student Directorate, an organization that Lee Harvey Oswald attempted to join in the summer of 1963. There also are references to other groups whose records we are investigating. It is our understanding that many of the records may have redacted information.

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We would like to request your permission and assistance in obtaining research access to the unredacted copies of some of the Johns Committee Files. If possible, a member of our staff could come to Tallahassee and examine at a time of convenience to you.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions or if I may further describe our work. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn  
General Counsel and  
Associate Director for Research & Analysis

Enclosures