

February 26, 1997

Mr. Taylor Lawrence
Staff Director
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
211Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal agency established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V. 1994) (JFK Act). The Review Board is charged with the responsibility of identifying, collecting, and declassifying records related to the assassination of President Kennedy for inclusion in the JFK Collection at the National Archives (NARA).

During the past year we have spoken several times with Charlie Battaglia regarding the SSCI's custody of Church Committee records related to the assassination . (Church Committee records are among those identified by Section 3(2)(C) of the Act for inclusion in the JFK Collection.) We always received strong statements of support from Charlie as well as his commitment to fulfill the work mandated by the JFK Act. We have also worked with Jim Wolf, Suzanne Spaulding, and Judy Hodgson of the SSCI staff.

There is, however, some important work that needs to be done to complete the processing of Church Committee records. We need to ensure that: (a) all Church Committee records related to the assassination have been identified, and (b) that unredacted copies of the records are sent to the Review Board for its formal determinations on the proposed redactions.

The JFK Collection at NARA now includes forty-one boxes of Church Committee records that have been preliminarily processed under the JFK Act. (Most of these records were processed between October of 1993 and September of 1994.) Since that time, NARA and the Review Board have identified numerous additional unprocessed Church Committee assassination records, including several records cited in the footnotes to Book V of the Church Committee Report ("The Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: Performance of the Intelligence Agencies"). Thus, we have significant reason to believe that additional assassination records have not yet been

Mr. Taylor Lawrence
February 26, 1997
Page 2

identified. And, with a few exceptions (*e.g.*, the deposition testimony of James Jesus Angleton), the unredacted records have not yet been forwarded to the Review Board.

In two meetings regarding Senate Select Committee on Intelligence compliance with the JFK Act, in March and October of 1996, we reiterated our request that the remaining identified records be processed under the JFK Act. In order to facilitate the process, NARA and the Review Board staff offered assistance in locating and processing the outstanding records and proposed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate this process. We are hopeful that the terms of this proposed MOU will assist all parties in assuring compliance with the law.

In order to discuss these issues with you, and to ensure full SSCI compliance with the JFK Act, we would like to schedule a meeting of SSCI, NARA, and Review Board staffs to discuss processing of the outstanding Church Committee assassination records. I will call you in a few days to arrange for a meeting in order for us to complete the project. If you have any questions regarding these issues, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

cc: Steven D. Tilley, NARA