

November 10, 1995

BY FAX

Ms. Jane E. Vezeris
Deputy Assistant Director
Office of Administration
United States Secret Service
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Re: Secret Service Postponements of Presidential Protection Records

Dear Jane:

In our review of Secret Service records pertaining to presidential protection (*i.e.*, postponement no. 6(5)), we have noted that there are four documents bearing the HSCA file number 006256 that you seek to postpone in full. These documents will be reviewed by the Board at its upcoming meeting on November 14.

Certainly the most important of these four documents bears the record number 180-10090-10123. The document, which is misidentified on the RIF cover sheet as the "Dillon Report," consists of a two-page August 31, 1964 letter from Secretary Dillon to Kermit Gordon and a 26-page "Planning Document," dated August 27, 1964. These two documents spell out in some detail proposed measures to improve presidential security following the assassination. The three remaining documents are much briefer and less detailed. It is our understanding that the Secret Service was planning to make a presentation on November 14, 1995, to the Review Board in support of the argument that these documents should be postponed in full.

I am writing to advise you that the principal documents, the "Planning Document" and the letter to Kermit Gordon, were published in their entirety as exhibits to the Warren Report more than thirty years ago. See *Hearings Before the President's Commission*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 898-928. In addition, during his testimony before the Warren Commission, Secretary Dillon said that he saw "no reason . . . why this report should not go into the record, and I think it is perfectly all right." *Hearings Before the President's Commission*, Volume V, p. 576. At that point, Chief Justice Warren received it in evidence as Commission Exhibit 1053-A. Secretary Dillon's published

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testimony before the Warren Commission elaborated on many of the items raised in the documents that you are seeking to postpone. See *ibid.*, 573-88. (We will be happy to send you photocopies of the exhibits and testimony if it would be of assistance.)

We are troubled by the fact that the Secret Service is now asking the Review Board to postpone, in their entirety, documents that have been in the public domain for over thirty years. Additionally, based upon our review of the published "Planning Document" and the public testimony of Secretary Dillon, we have identified nothing of significance in the remaining documents that is not already a matter of public record.

Although the Secret Service is welcome to present its briefing on presidential protection as previously scheduled (in addition to a briefing on privacy matters), we are now inclined to believe that it may not be a productive use of time and resources of the Secret Service and the Board. We urge you, therefore, to reconsider the value and scope of your November 14 briefing on Section 6(5) postponements. Please let us know by mid-afternoon on Monday whether you would like to withdraw your request to make a presentation to the Board on presidential security records that currently are on the schedule.

You also may wish to note that some other documents (not related to presidential protection) that you seek to postpone in part were published by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. (See esp. HSCA Vol. III, pp. 361-89).

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell

cc: Donald Personette