

MEMORANDUM

To: Ms. Nerissa Cook
Ms. Margaret P. Grafeld

From: T. Jeremy Gunn

Subject: Talking Points on Russian Records Related to the Assassination of President Kennedy for the Vice-President's July Meeting with Prime Minister Kiryenko

The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107, created an independent federal agency, the Assassination Records Review Board ("Review Board"), to collect U.S. and foreign records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board will complete its four-year mandate on September 30, 1998. The Review Board is seeking to obtain Russian and Soviet records related to the assassination.

The request for Russian and Soviet records was previously raised in the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission discussions in March 1998 (GCC-10). Requests also have been made directly to the GOR by State and the Review Board. Although the GOR provided 24-pages of records, the Review Board believes many additional records remain in Russian archives. (As a result of GCC-10, USEMBASSY Moscow reported on June 2, 1998, that the Review Board's request may require the personal intervention of President Clinton with President Yeltsin.)

Essential points to be made to Prime Minister Kiryenko:

- the assassination of President Kennedy is an issue of enduring concern to the American people;
- Congress enacted the JFK Act to ensure that important federal and foreign records related to the assassination are collected and deposited in the U.S. National Archives;
- the USG seeks the full cooperation of the GOR and its officials (including archivists) to locate and make available copies of Russian and Soviet records;
- the Review Board is available to meet with appropriate GOR officials to further this work;
- this work must be completed before September 30, 1998.