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DELIVERY BY HAND

Mr. Eljay B. Bowron
Director
United States Secret Service
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.Co.

Re: Destruction of Secret Service Records Related to the Assassination of President Kennedy

Dear Mr. Bowron:

It has come to our attention that two or more boxes of Secret Service records related to the assassination of President Kennedy were destroyed earlier this year [perhaps under the instructions of Secret Service officials.] Any destruction of such records violates the express provisions of The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107, and it is a matter that we take with the utmost seriousness.

According to Standard Form 135, Records Transmittal and Receipt, six boxes containing the Secret Service's Protective Survey Reports from the Kennedy administration were slated for transfer to the Federal Records Center on August 7, 1974 (Accession No. 87-75-4). Our copy of the form is enclosed for your convenience. According to the 135 form, these records were scheduled to be "retain[ed] permanently for eventual transfer to the National Archives or a Presidential Library."

In January of this year, our Director of Research and Analysis, Dr. Jeremy Gunn, requested that the six boxes in the accession be made available for his review to evaluate the importance of the material

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for the JFK Collection in the National Archives.¹

However, Dr. Gunn was not provided two of the six boxes -- fully *one-third* of the Secret Service's Protective Survey Reports from the Kennedy Administration. On February 7, 1995 -- and several times thereafter -- he was told that the Federal Records Center "could not locate" boxes numbered (1) and (6). According to the 135, these two boxes contained *records related to Andrews Air Force Base* (presumably including the arrival of Air Force One carrying the body of the slain President) and *all of the records from September 24, 1963 through the President's trip to New York City on November 8, 1963*. This material presumably includes the important files related to the cancelling of President Kennedy's trip to Chicago (where death threats against him presumably led to the cancellation of the trip).

Although we were repeatedly told that these records had been misfiled by the Federal Records Center, Ms. Ann Parker of the Secret Service informed Dr. Joan Zimmerman of my staff, on July 20, 1995 -- six months after we had first requested the boxes -- that the records were in fact destroyed in January of this year at approximately the same time that we had requested them. When we asked for a copy of the document on which she based her statement (which she called an "O-1 report"), she refused to provide it and stated that we would need to file a FOIA request to the Federal Records Center in order to see it.

In order for you and us to fulfill our statutory obligations, we seek your cooperation in assisting us in obtaining all of the facts surrounding the possible destruction of these important records and to ensure that no additional Kennedy-related material is destroyed by the Secret Service (or anyone acting on its behalf). Accordingly, we request that you take the following actions immediately:

1. Instruct all appropriate Secret Service officials to provide the Assassination Records Review Board *all* documentation related to boxes (1) and (6) in the above-referenced accession (including, without limitation, the Secret Service's copy of the Form 135; any revisions or amendments made to the 135; any retention schedules or revisions of retention schedules that would relate in any way to the two boxes; any requests to transfer or review the boxes; and any other documentation, memoranda, or e-mail messages that relate to the boxes). We ask that this material be provided to the

¹Although four of the six boxes were made available, some important files were missing from those boxes. For example, the missing files included: file 602.111 "Other Places Folder # 6 - July-Nov. 1963 (the critical months preceding the assassination); 602.111 Key West, Florida, 3-26-61 (the month before the Bay of Pigs) and New York, 4-27-61 (the week following the Bay of Pigs).

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Review Board staff by close of business on Thursday, July 27, 1995.

2. Order all Secret Service officials to cooperate fully, completely, and truthfully with the Assassination Records Review Board in its attempt to ascertain whether any Secret Service records related to President Kennedy have been destroyed.
3. Order all Secret Service officials who have any knowledge of the destruction of any Secret Service records relating to President Kennedy to notify either you or your General Counsel immediately of any relevant information and that you then convey that information promptly to the Review Board.
4. Order that accurate copies of *all* Secret Service inventories of records, 135 forms, "O-1 forms" or any other records that identify Kennedy-era records be forwarded to the Review Board immediately.
5. Order that *no* Secret Service records related to President Kennedy or his assassination be destroyed *unless* the Review Board has received prior notice and an opportunity to inspect the records.

We very much appreciate your prior statements expressing your commitment to ensure that the Secret Service comply fully with the JFK Act. We trust that you will be willing to act promptly to ensure that there be no misunderstandings within the Secret Service of your belief that the Secret Service should be taking all appropriate steps to ensure compliance with Federal law.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

cc: Donald Persinette (by hand)
General Counsel
United States Secret Service

Robert E. Rubin
Secretary of the Treasury