

September 19, 1997

Mrs. Mabel C. Rowley
15101 Interlachen Drive
Leisure World
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Dear Mrs. Rowley:

I am writing 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, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 1992 (Supp. V 1994). I am contacting you in the hope that we might arrange for a meeting to discuss your knowledge of the disposition of records that may have been in the possession of Secret Service Chief James J. Rowley after he retired.

The Review Board, whose members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is charged with collecting records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board is not seeking to reach any conclusions regarding the assassination, but is primarily concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating, and making available assassination records. I am enclosing some explanatory material about the Review Board and its mandate.

We understand that Mr. Rowley may have had copies of some Secret Service materials in his possession after he retired from the Secret Service. In his testimony before the Senate Select Committee to Study Government Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities ("the Church Committee") in 1976, Chief Rowley commented that a file containing his personal official correspondence might exist. When asked about the location of a document that might be in such a file, Mr. Rowley said, "I don't know, unless I took it with me." We would like to follow up Mr. Rowley's suggestion that he might have had materials with him after he left the Secret Service.

I will attempt to call you before the end of September in order to arrange a time to meet with you. If you have any questions in response to this letter, please feel free to call me or Jeremy Gunn, General

Mrs. Mabel C. Rowley
September 19, 1997
Page 2

Counsel of the Assassination Records Review Board, at 202-724-0088.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Zimmerman
Senior Analyst

Enclosures