

August 4, 1995

Mr. W. Ralph Basham  
Assistant Director  
Office of Administration  
United States Secret Service  
1800 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: Destruction of Records Related to Protection of President Kennedy

Dear Mr. Basham:

Your letter of July 31, 1995, (with enclosures) raises very serious concerns about the adequacy of Secret Service review procedures under the terms of the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collections Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. Sec. 2107 (JFK Act). Your letter also includes several misstatements that require clarification.

Since members of the Review Board staff have heard inaccurate statements made by Secret Service personnel on more than one occasion, it may be useful for you to consider some examples of lack of cooperation before insisting that the Secret Service has "cooperated fully." For example, on page 2 you state that you have arranged several trips to your off-site facility for Dr. Zimmerman, Senior Analyst. In fact, Dr. Zimmerman has visited Centre Pointe twice--once for two and one-half hours and a second time for six hours. None of the materials Dr. Zimmerman requested be photocopied during these visits has been provided by the Secret Service. Nor have any requested copies of records inventories been provided.

Moreover, your letter states, "We also arranged an interview with the Service's archivist, who provided several documents for [Dr. Zimmerman's] review." Dr. Zimmerman initiated contact with Mike Sampson and briefly glanced at several materials clearly qualifying as assassination records. Again, no copies of this material have been provided, and the Secret Service has offered no evidence that any of the materials in the Archives at 1800 G Street are even under review. No inventory of materials in the Secret Service Archives has been provided to the Review Board. The existence in the Archives of, for example, two boxes marked "John F. Kennedy Assassination"--not to mention

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significant materials at Suitland and Centre Pointe--certainly belies your oft-repeated claim that the Secret Service has finished its search for and review of assassination records. Quite the contrary.