

August 18, 1995

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

Dear Mr. Basham:

I am writing to confirm our understanding of your assurance that no Secret Service records pertaining to presidential protection in the period 1958-1969, or 1977-1978, will be destroyed unless the Review Board has had an opportunity to review them first. We understand that the Review Board will have an opportunity to review Secret Service records to ensure that all assassination records have been identified. We also understand that the Secret Service will begin to send House Select Committee materials that were referred by NARA back to the Archives on September 1, 1995.

We appreciate your concern with current presidential protection. An accurate reading of the John F. Kennedy Assassination Act should allay your concerns since it allows for postponements of information revealing protective techniques that are still used. You will have advance notice of the Review Board's intention to examine and make recommendations on Secret Service documents.

We understand that the Secret Service will be reviewing 110 cubic feet of material from Centre Pointe in light of your current understanding of the JFK Act's requirements. We would also like to confirm our understanding that the Secret Service will be reviewing materials in the Secret Service Archives. These items include, but are not limited to, boxes labeled "John F. Kennedy Assassination." We understand that these boxes do not contain newspaper clippings as John Machado insisted in our August 16, 1995 meeting but rather information pertaining to autopsy reports, President Kennedy's foreign trips, and Secret Service agents' responses to the William Manchester manuscript (among other topics). This list is not exhaustive but illustrative of the type of material that should be in the John F. Kennedy Collection at the National Archives. As you complete your review of materials, please notify me so that I can schedule the review of postponed material for Board meetings. Please forward Identification Aids to me for each of the documents you have reviewed. (Jeremy: do you want to say anything about providing us with disks?)

In response to your question about how to identify materials in your collections that have been examined by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, I would suggest the following:

Locate correspondence between then Secret Service Counsel Robert Goff and House Select Committee Chief Counsel Robert Blakey (1977-1978) in the House Select Committee collection at the

National Archives, College Park. This correspondence includes requests from the House Select Committee to the Secret Service for specific documents. It is open to the public. Secret Service records obtained by the House Select Committee investigators are in the House Select Committee collections at College Park and at the Legislative Archives at 7th and Pennsylvania Ave.

I have enclosed, for example, a memorandum composed by Eileen Dineen, a researcher for the House Select Committee. In it she describes materials from Accession 87-75-0004. Since the House Select Committee requested and examined this material, it is (was) an assassination record and should not have been destroyed.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

David Marwell
Executive Director

(JZ Note: Jeremy took parts of this letter and created two letters. One went to Basham and Personette; the other went to Vezeris, Machado, and Keefe on August 21, 1995)