

December 22, 1997

BY HAND DELIVERY

Raymond Limon, Esq.
Office of the General Counsel
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20415

Re: Office of U.S. Civil Service Commission Assassination-Related Records Among the Files of the House Select Committee on Assassinations

Dear Mr. Limon:

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent Federal agency charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all government records related to the assassination of President Kennedy are reviewed and forwarded to the National Archives. See President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 ("JFK Act"). It has come to our attention that the Office of Personnel Management ("OPM") may have equities in certain assassination-related records that previously were maintained by the United States Civil Service Commission ("Commission").

It is my understanding that you recently spoke with Kim Herd, an attorney on the Review Board staff regarding the provisions of the JFK Act and its application to your agency. As you are aware from your conversation with Ms. Herd, the Review Board has identified several OPM-Commission documents that were in the files of the House Select Committee on Assassinations ("HSCA"). These documents relate to personnel data that the Commission maintained on an individual named George de Mohrenschildt, a.k.a. Phillip Harbin. A copy of these records is enclosed.

Under the JFK Act, the OPM is responsible for reviewing these records and either authorizing their release or notifying the Review Board of postponements (*i.e.*, redactions) that it might seek of any of the information contained within the records. The provisions of the JFK Act anticipate that information will be withheld from public release only in "the rarest cases" and only pursuant to one of the provisions of Section 6 of the JFK Act. The formal determinations on postponements ultimately will be made by the five-member Review Board. Therefore, please identify which postponements

Raymond Limon, Esq.
December 22, 1997
Page 2

OPM wishes to make and submit, in writing, your evidence or arguments in support of any postponements no later than February 2, 1998. Should OPM not respond by the above deadline, the Review Board will assume that OPM has no objection to the release in full of its equities in the enclosed HSCA records. After the Review Board makes its formal determinations on the release of the records, the OPM's sole recourse is to appeal the Review Board's decisions to the President.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documents, please call Kim Herd at (202) 724-0088. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

Enclosures