

Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW ▪ 2nd Floor ▪ Washington, DC 20530

June 20, 1995

Thomas A. Constantine
Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
Washington, D.C. 20537

Re: Status of Drug Enforcement Administration Identification and Review
of JFK Assassination Records under 44 U.S.C. Sect. 2107

Dear Mr. Constantine:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, of which I am the Executive Director. On June 28, 1994, Kevin Janet of your Freedom of Information Section responded to a letter from Dr. William L. Joyce, a member of the Review Board. A copy of this response is enclosed. I appreciate your response to Dr. Joyce's letter and the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration in trying to identify records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy.

As you are probably aware, in 1992 Congress enacted The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act ("the JFK Act") in order to assist federal agencies and ensure that all governmental records related to President Kennedy's assassination are collected and sent to the National Archives and Records Administration.¹ The JFK Act also established the Assassination Records Review Board to assist and ensure that all government entities comply with the law. The five members of the Review Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the United States

¹44 U.S.C. Sect. 2107. The JFK Act was amended by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Extension Act of 1994. For ease of reference, copies of both statutes are enclosed. If you have any questions regarding the JFK Act, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. Since then, the Review Board has assembled its professional and administrative staff and obtained the appropriate security clearances for personnel who review sensitive information. On May 3, 1995, the Assassination Records Review Board adopted a definition of "Assassination Record" as provided under Section 7(n) of the JFK Act.²

In Mr. Janet's response to Dr. Joyce's letter, he indicated that the only records reviewed by your office under the JFK Act were those records referred to the DEA by other federal agencies in which the DEA had an interest. Now that the Review Board has promulgated its definition, I am writing to inquire into the status of the DEA's past and anticipated efforts to locate and review JFK assassination records, and to determine who in the DEA is responsible for review of JFK Assassination records under the JFK Act. Records of DEA predecessor agencies, such as the Bureau of Narcotics, are of particular interest.

I am enclosing a form on which you can provide the names, titles, relevant responsibilities, and telephone and fax numbers of all persons at the Drug Enforcement Administration with whom you would like us to be in contact regarding DEA compliance with the JFK Act. We are particularly interested in your identifying the person responsible for your electronic identification aids.³

Thank you very much for your help. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 724-0088, ext. 232, if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

² I am enclosing a draft copy of the definition to assist you in the identification and review of assassination records. The official version of the definition will appear shortly in the *Federal Register*. We anticipate making only such technical changes as may be required to conform to *Federal Register* specifications.

³The identification aids are called "Record Identification Forms" or "RIFs" by the National Archives.

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Enclosures (JFK Act and Extension, Definition, 1 form)

cc: T.Jeremy Gunn
Kevin G. Tiernan
File no. 4.19.3