

September 21, 1998

Vladimir Putin
Director of Federal Security Service
1-3 Lubyanka Square
Moscow, Russia
10100

Re: Records of the KGB relating to Lee Harvey Oswald

Dear Director Putin:

The Assassination Records Review Board, which is an independent agency of the United States government, is honored to present to your government a request on behalf of the people of the United States of America.

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy was one of the great tragedies for the American people in this century. Since the time of his assassination, a majority of the American people have believed that all relevant information has not become publicly known. In order to respond to this concern, the United States Congress passed legislation, signed into law by President Bush, that created the Assassination Records Review Board. This law is known as the *President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992*, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). The five members of the Assassination Records Review Board are citizens of high standing who were appointed by President Clinton and confirmed by the United States Senate.

The principal mission of the Review Board is to transfer records in government files to the United States National Archives so that they can be examined by historians, scholars, and researchers. As a part of its mission, the Review Board has been working with U.S. government agencies during the past three years -- including the FBI -- to declassify records to the greatest extent possible.

We understand that the KGB Archive was dismantled in 1991, and that the Federal Security Bureau assumed responsibility for the records of the KGB from 1963. The Review Board believes records on Lee Harvey Oswald (including personal records, records relating to his visa applications and KGB surveillance records) may be among these records. The Review Board is particularly interested in any records on Oswald that were delivered to KGB Chief Vladimir Semichastny, and any records on Oswald that were of interest to the Central Government. The Review Board is also interested in

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any reports created by the KGB after the assassination of President Kennedy in an effort to learn more about Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Review Board respectfully requests that your government take all reasonable steps to help make the information in these records available to the United States National Archives.

Thank you for your time and attention to these records. If you would find it helpful, Review Board Chairman John R. Tunheim expects to be in Moscow on other business in October, and would be pleased to meet with a representative of your agency to discuss these issues further. Chairman Tunheim can be reached by telephone in Minnesota at (612) 664-5080 or by fax at (612) 664-5087.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Denk
Executive Director