

March 31, 1998

The Honorable Louis J. Freeh  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Completing the Review of JFK Assassination Records

Dear Director Freeh:

As you are aware, the Assassination Records Review Board has been mandated by Congress to oversee the declassification and transfer to the National Archives of all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy.

In my October 27, 1997, letter to you (attached), I wrote that we perceived that the FBI's pace of review and declassification of Bureau records would need to be accelerated in order for us to succeed in fulfilling our mandate to complete the review of all assassination records in the possession of the FBI. We will not complete our task unless we review approximately 28,000 pages per month of the subject files that the FBI made available to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. As you can see from the following breakdown, we are

October 24, 1997 through November 26, 1997	37,777 pages
November 26, 1997 through December 29, 1997	14,522 pages
December 29, 1997 through January 23, 1998	19,564 pages
January 23, 1998 through February 20, 1998	28,818 pages
February 20, 1998 through present	_____ pages

In October, I further wrote that if the FBI is unable to review and process its records consistent with completion of this task, the Review Board will vote to release-in-full all relevant FBI records and mandate that custody be transferred to the National Archives in a timely way.

As you know, we are obligated to keep Congress informed, on a monthly basis, of the status of our work and of any difficulties that would interfere with our ability to achieve our objective. We are

required to report each month to Congress.

This month, we are reporting the slowdown.

Carol L. Keeley, Chief of the Historical and Executive Review Unit at the FBI has advised us, under the current system, the FBI will not be able to catch up.

The Review Board members and I would be pleased to discuss these issues with you or others at the Bureau.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

cc: Assassination Records Review Board  
Ms. Carol L. Keeley  
Mr. John Collingwood