

June 4, 1998

Margaret P. Grafeld
Acting Director
Office of Freedom of Information, Privacy & Classification Review
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: Foreign Government Information in United States Government Records
Regarding the Assassination of President Kennedy

Dear Ms. Grafeld:

This letter will follow up on our recent telephone conversation in which you expressed your willingness to assist the Assassination Records Review Board in its efforts to obtain maximum disclosure of information in all federal records regarding the assassination of President Kennedy.

As you know, the *Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992*, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (“JFK Act”) directs federal agencies to review and release, to the maximum extent possible, information in federal records concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. During the course of the Review Board’s work, we have come across a number of documents that contain information obtained by the United States from cooperating foreign governments. In each case where such information appears, the federal agencies request that the Review Board postpone release of the information pursuant to Section 6(4) of the JFK Act. Most federal agencies take the position that the information is the property of the foreign government, and as such, the agency cannot release the information without first obtaining the consent of the foreign government that provided the information.

The Review Board has identified a number of documents that contain foreign government information that it believes are worthy of release to the American public. The documents at issue are identified on the enclosed list. The Review Board would like to request that the State Department arrange meetings with representatives from each of the foreign governments listed that would include representatives of the Review Board, representatives from the foreign governments, and to the extent that the State Department would like to be included, representatives from the State Department. In these meetings, the Review Board intends to work with the State Department to persuade the foreign

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governments in question that it is in our countries' mutual interests to release as much information as possible in assassination records. information. The Review Board believes that the section 10(b)(2) of the JFK Act contemplates that the State Department should work with the Review Board to encourage foreign governments to agree to the release of information obtained from foreign governments through liaison channels.

Please give me a call once you have reviewed the enclosed list. Given that the Review Board's termination date is September 30, 1998, we are anxious to schedule the meetings.

Thank you for your cooperation with the work of the Review Board.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director