

HAND DELIVERED

John A. Hartingh
Inspector-in-Charge
JFK Task Force
Federal Bureau of Investigation
10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Re: ARRB Requests for Evidence

Dear John:

I believe this is an appropriate time to share with you our assessment of the current status of our review of FBI assassination records and how we anticipate proceeding in the future.

First, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of everyone on the JFK Task Force to facilitate our review of FBI records. As you know, both the FBI and the Review Board have found this a difficult and time-consuming process. We greatly appreciate the personal cooperation of you and your staff.

We are confident that the careful education process in which we have been engaged these past months has laid the groundwork for more efficient decisionmaking in the future. Nonetheless, we are concerned by the slow progress we are making and perceive an urgent need to pick up the pace of our review.

To this end, each of the Review Board members has agreed to make time to review documents individually in advance of Board meetings. Such a procedure should allow the Review Board to reach decisions on many more documents per meeting. However, it will also require the FBI to submit postponement justifications well in advance of scheduled Review Board meetings, so that the staff can make recommendations and otherwise prepare the documents for pre-meeting review by individual Board members. No longer will we be able to accommodate submission of postponement justifications during or immediately before Board meetings.

We expect to implement these new procedures for the March 18-19 Review Board meeting. Enclosed are evidence request forms for a number of postponed FBI records that we plan to present to

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the Review Board at the March 18-19 meeting.¹ As the forms indicate, we are requesting that you provide any document-specific evidence or arguments in support of these postponements by March 7. Although the enclosed forms suggest that you submit such evidence or arguments in writing, we will be happy to discuss with you other means of presentation that may be more convenient or practicable (e.g., formal presentations to, or informal meetings with, ARRB staff members).

Thank you for your continuing cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures

¹The enclosed forms all identify records from the FBI Headquarters file on Lee Harvey Oswald (105-82555). We have not prepared separate forms for duplicate documents in other files; however, the "cross-reference" field on each form identifies duplicate locations noted by "see" references in the duplicate locations' electronic identification aids.