

August 19, 1998

BY FACSIMILE & FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Taylor W. Lawrence
Staff Director
Senate Select Committee
on Intelligence
211 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6475

Re: Public Release of Church Committee Records Pursuant to the
JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

The Review Board wishes to thank the the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence ("SSCI") for making available for the Review Board's inspection, earlier this month, the original Church Committee records held in storage at the National Archives. We appreciate the excellent cooperation provided by Jim Wolfe and his staff in facilitating our review and in ensuring that selected documents were copied. As a result of this inspection, the Review Board did identify additional materials that we recommend be processed as assassination records under the JFK Act.

In order to secure the public release of these materials, we recommend the following procedures:

1. Copies of the selected documents should be forwarded to the custody of the Review Board so that it may formally consider and designate these as assassination records under the JFK Act. In transferring these Church Committee records to the Board, we ask that the SSCI confirm that it has no objection to their release.
2. The documents would then be forwarded to the Center for Legislative Archives (National Archives) so that they can prepare the requisite record identification forms under the JFK Act.
3. Once the record identification forms are prepared, the records would be transmitted to the Review Board or the Chief of the JFK Collection, Mr. Steven D. Tilley, to secure the appropriate agency authorization to release these documents to the public.

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We would like to have the SSCI's agreement to proceed in this fashion.

On a separate matter, our inspection earlier this month has confirmed that a large body of the underlying testimony cited in the Church Committee's report on the Kennedy assassination is not among the original Church Committee materials we reviewed. While the SSCI has diligently located microfilm copies of these transcripts, we remain concerned that no accounting has been done with respect to the *original* transcripts (and perhaps other accompanying materials) relating to the Church Committee's investigation of the Kennedy assassination. We ask that the SSCI do all that it can to determine why certain core, original material relating to the Church Committee's report on the Kennedy assassination is not among the Church Committee archives. We had suggested to Jim Wolfe that SSCI's other secured vaults be checked for any possibility that they contain Church Committee materials.

Thank you again for the SSCI's cooperation. We appreciate the SSCI's efforts to resolve all of the matters that we have raised regarding assassination-related records of the Church Committee.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron
General Counsel

cc: Kristen Wilhelm, Center for Legislative Archives,
National Archives

Steven D. Tilley, Chief, JFK Assassination
Records Collection, National Archives