

February 11, 1998

VIA FACSIMILE

Mr. J. Barry Harrelson  
Senior Review Officer  
Historical Review Group  
Center for the Study of Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 02505

Re: CIA Initial Compliance Statement To Be Submitted Under the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Mr. Harrelson:

Thank you for submitting to the Review Board the CIA's December 11, 1997 DRAFT of its initial Statement of Compliance under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act ("JFK Act"). You submitted the draft to obtain the Review Board's initial comments. We have made a preliminary review of the draft and offer the following comments.

The Statement is helpful in providing general background history regarding the measures undertaken by the CIA to assemble files relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Statement also gives a good overview description of those files. At this time, we do not propose that you make any major changes that would delay the formal submission of the initial Compliance Statement to the Review Board.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, please submit the CIA's official initial Statement of Compliance to the

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<sup>1</sup> We note that the initial draft statement generally describes the records identified in response to specific Review Board requests. For the initial Compliance Statement, this will be sufficient. To the extent that additional records are later identified or requests completed, these can be included in the Final Declaration of Compliance. We also note that "[t]he status, results and documentation of specific [Review Board] requests" are more specifically being addressed in separate memoranda being submitted to the Review Board, and this process is ongoing. These responses are extremely helpful in articulating what the CIA has done to search for records on the JFK

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Review Board as soon as possible, but no later than March 16, 1998.

After formal submission of the CIA's initial Statement of Compliance, we would schedule an informal interview with you (and perhaps other members of the Historical Review Group) to ask questions regarding the Compliance Statement and regarding the sufficiency of the CIA's record searches. After addressing any outstanding issues, the CIA would thereafter submit its Final Declaration of Compliance.

I recognize that you are extremely busy processing CIA records for inclusion in the JFK Collection. However, it is essential that the CIA devote sufficient time and attention to its Final Declaration of Compliance because, as we have stated before, the Final Declaration will constitute the CIA's representation to the American public, under oath, that the CIA has diligently searched for records relating to the JFK assassination and that the CIA is not withholding any materials regarding the assassination.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron  
Associate General Counsel

cc: Linda Cipriani, Esq.  
(By facsimile)

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assassination. Therefore, the Review Board will request that these detailed responses ultimately be incorporated by reference into the Final Declaration of Compliance.