

January 6, 1998

VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Mr. Edmund McBride  
Chief  
Information Management Division  
Joint Staff  
The Pentagon -- Room 2B917  
Washington, D.C. 20318-0400

Re: Joint Staff Compliance with the JFK Assassination Records  
Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Mr. McBride:

Thank you for submitting the Final Declaration of Compliance for the Joint Staff (dated Nov. 13, 1997), which sets forth the Joint Staff's final statement under oath regarding its compliance with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 ("JFK Act").

We have reviewed the Joint Staff's Final Declaration and have concluded that the Joint Staff's work under the JFK Act is, for the most part, complete. We do not anticipate conducting a compliance deposition. However, as the Final Declaration noted, processing of assassination records continues and, indeed, certain additional documents have been identified that may qualify as assassination records.<sup>1</sup> As to these additional documents, the ARRB staff will notify you in writing whether the Review Board considers any of them to be assassination records requiring Joint Staff review in accordance with the JFK Act.

In addition, you presently hold, awaiting Joint Staff review, a considerable body of "Operation

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<sup>1</sup> You have identified a report regarding the meeting between the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the West German Chief of Staff on the day of the assassination. See Final Decl. ¶ 3. You have also identified five volumes of Joint Chiefs of Staff histories under the Kennedy and Johnson administrations relating to Cuba and Vietnam. See Final Decl. ¶ 4.

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Mongoose" and FOIA material previously identified by the ARRB as assassination-related documents. The preparation of record identification forms ("RIFs"), completion of Joint Staff declassification review (in accordance with the JFK Act), and transmission of copies of these reviewed documents to the ARRB, with desired postponements identified, should be accomplished no later than mid-April 1998. Submission of these documents to the ARRB no later than April 15, 1998, is essential to providing other agencies (such as CIA, State, and NSC) adequate time to review their own equities in these records prior to the termination of the ARRB's charter in September 1998.

Accordingly, we anticipate that the Joint Staff will place the balance of all its assassination records into the JFK Assassination Records Collection ("JFK Collection") at the National Archives and Records Administration ("NARA") no later than June 15, 1998. We request written confirmation when this is done.

The Review Board might request that the Joint Staff conduct further record searches if we acquire information suggesting that you might have additional records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. Should the Joint Staff locate any additional records relating to the assassination, please transmit those records to the Chief of the JFK Collection.

Finally, the Joint Staff should continue to review, under the JFK Act, its equities in any assassination records that may be referred to you by other agencies. The most efficient means for conducting this review has been the joint declassification sessions organized by the ARRB.

Please contact me or Doug Horne if you have any further questions, and thank you again for the exemplary cooperation you have demonstrated in meeting the requirements of the Review Board's compliance program under the JFK Act.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

cc: Steven D. Tilley, Chief, JFK Assassination Records Collection,  
NARA

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