

June 5, 1998

BY FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

LCDR R. D. Bastien  
Office of Naval Intelligence  
4251 Suitland Road  
Washington, D.C. 20395-5270

Re: Office of Naval Intelligence Compliance with the JFK Assassination Records  
Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear LCDR Bastien:

Thank you for submitting the Final Declaration of Compliance for the Office of Naval Intelligence ("ONI") (dated May 18, 1998), which sets forth ONI's final statement, under oath, regarding its compliance with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 ("JFK Act").

We have reviewed ONI's Final Declaration of Compliance. In the ONI Declaration, you state that "[t]he search of the Washington National Records Center and Naval Historical Center remain incomplete." You then state that, by December 1998, an additional 25,000 archival boxes will be searched under the declassification requirements of Executive Order 12958.

Since certain ONI records have apparently not been reviewed in any manner under the JFK Act, we request that you state in writing whether any of the unreviewed ONI archive records in the Washington, D.C. area might contain files for the head of ONI from the period 1959 through 1964 (it is our understanding that Rufus Taylor, Jr. was head of ONI for at least part of that period). Please note that we are not asking ONI to conduct a page-by-page review of these remaining records; rather, we want some further accounting to determine whether these records may encompass the files for the head of ONI from 1959 to 1964. As explained previously, we regard the identification and review of files of the top ONI official, to the extent they exist, as particularly essential for ONI's completion of its search responsibilities under the JFK Act. To date, no accounting of the files of the head of ONI has been satisfactorily made.

Accordingly, we request that you submit a separate, supplemental declaration that describes what has been done to locate the files for the head of ONI from 1959 to 1964, including an inventory of any remaining, unreviewed files in the Washington, D.C. area sufficient to identify such records. We request that this additional information be forwarded to us by July 1 (which we understand to be the date of your departure from ONI). If you wish, we are willing to meet with you beforehand.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director