

January 12, 1998

BY FACSIMILE & HAND DELIVERY

John G. Kester, Esq.
Williams & Connally
725 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Request for Interview In Connection with the JFK Assassination
Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

Dear Mr. Kester:

I am writing on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board ("Review Board"), an independent federal agency, to seek your cooperation in assisting the Review Board's efforts to identify Government records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board was created by Congress in 1992 with a mandate to secure and release records on the Kennedy assassination. See The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 ("JFK Act"). I am enclosing a copy of our authorizing statute, as well as an information pamphlet on the Review Board. To assist us in identifying relevant records for release, we have interviewed numerous former federal officials, including President Gerald Ford, former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, former CIA Directors Richard Helms and William Colby, and G. Robert Blakey, the Chief Counsel for the House Select Committee on Assassinations ("HSCA").

We ask that you make yourself available for a short, informal interview. As I explained to you by phone, we seek to interview you because you were the Special Assistant to Defense Secretary Harold Brown, and you had been appointed by Secretary Brown as the point of contact for all inquiries that the House Select Committee on Assassinations ("HSCA") might direct to the Department of Defense in connection with the Kennedy investigation. Our review of correspondence between you and the HSCA indicates that you were involved in making available to the HSCA a range of materials, including the camera purportedly used to photograph the Kennedy autopsy, intelligence information relating to Cuba, and records from the Navy, Air Force and Defense Intelligence Agency. I have

enclosed copies of your communications with the HSCA so that you may refresh your memory regarding the matters you handled.

To date, the Office of the Secretary of Defense ("OSD") has not located any of your files relating to the HSCA.

Therefore, we wish to interview you regarding at least two general areas: (1) the contents and disposition of OSD files, including your files, relating to OSD's work with the HSCA, and (2) the contents and disposition of Department of Defense records that may have been made available to the HSCA or were the basis for information provided to the HSCA. For example, you wrote to the HSCA that the Department of Defense had reviewed certain of its "intelligence holdings" and concluded that its "review has revealed no intelligence material suggesting Cuban involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy." See June 19, 1978 J. Kester Letter to G. Robert Blakey (enclosed). We are attempting to identify the "intelligence holdings" that were reviewed on the matter of Cuban complicity.

For purposes of interviewing you, you should know that our staff has appropriate security clearances and we have already been working with all agencies of the Department of Defense to secure records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. In addition, by copy of this letter, I am notifying the General Counsel's office for OSD of our proposed interview should it wish to participate. I will call you this week to arrange for an interview. I would be pleased to meet with you either at your office or here -- whichever you would prefer.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron
Associate General Counsel

cc: Stewart F. Aly, Associate Deputy General Counsel, DOD
(By fax; w/o encs.)

Enclosures (To Be Delivered By Hand)