

December 24, 1997

BY FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

Patrick Murray, Esq.  
Chief Counsel  
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
The Capitol -- Room H-405  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Pike Committee Records Under the JFK Assassination Records  
Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Mr. Murray:

Following up on my recent conversation with Michael Sheehy of your staff, I am writing formally to request your Committee's cooperation in ensuring that the identification and processing of Pike Committee records relating to President Kennedy's assassination has been properly completed under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 ("JFK Act").

Based on my conversation with Mr. Sheehy, it is my understanding that the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence ("HPSCI") has undertaken the following measures pursuant to the JFK Act: HPSCI, which has custody of Pike Committee records, reviewed these records and identified various documents it considered relevant to President Kennedy's assassination. Those records, comprising approximately three archive boxes, were placed in the JFK Collection at the National Archives and Records Administration ("NARA") and are now open to the public in redacted form. We appreciate HPSCI's work to ensure that the relevant records were placed in the JFK Collection.

In the course of its work, the HPSCI obtained, as needed, agency authorization to release certain documents. In some cases, agencies requested that portions of documents be redacted and not disclosed to the public. Accordingly, the HPSCI placed redacted versions of some documents into the JFK Collection at NARA. This was done without any determination by the five-member Assassination Records Review Board ("Review Board") as to the appropriateness of these redactions.

The JFK Act requires the Review Board to decide whether any document or portion of a document qualifies for a postponement of disclosure under the standards of the Act. *See* 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (7)(i)(1) & (2). Therefore, the Review Board must consider whether the redactions to the Pike

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Committee records were appropriate under the JFK Act.

In order to fulfill these obligations under the JFK Act, the Review Board must have access to the original, unredacted version of the redacted documents. Accordingly, we ask that you identify and make available to the Review Board the unredacted versions and indicate what portions were redacted.<sup>1</sup> The Review Board can then rule formally on each proposed redaction. Mr. Sheehy has indicated that the Review Board may obtain access to original Pike Committee records by making arrangements with your Committee's Security Officer (Review Board staff have appropriate security clearances).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron  
Associate General Counsel

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<sup>1</sup> I spoke with the former HPSCI staff member who processed the Pike Committee records under the JFK Act, including the preparation of redacted versions of documents. She recalls that the original unredacted versions were either re-filed in the Pike Committee holdings or were kept segregated. In addition, she maintained a work folder that she kept in a vault, and she left the folder with the HPSCI upon her departure. The folder may help you to identify and locate the unredacted originals.

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