

December 16, 1996

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Ms. Jane Vezeris  
Deputy Assistant Director  
Office of Administration  
United States Secret Service  
1800 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20223

Re: United States Secret Service Compliance with the JFK Assassination Records  
Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Ms. Vezeris:

Thank you for your December 13 letter in which the Secret Service has agreed, for the most part, to abide by the compliance program set forth by the Assassination Records Review Board ("Review Board").

Allow me to address the points raised in your letter:

1. Compliance with Timetable: You indicate that the Secret Service will be unable to supply its initial Statement of Compliance by January 6, 1997 but will do so "at an early date." We ask that you endeavor to submit the Statement of Compliance by the end of January. I will assume that we will receive the Secret Service's Statement of Compliance by the end of January unless otherwise advised.
2. Description of Secret Service's Record Searches: You state that we have asked the Secret Service to describe its record searches with an "unnecessary level of specificity." No other agency has taken exception to our request for a reasonably specific description of the agency's record searches. Of course, we simply ask that you endeavor to describe the Secret Service's record searches with sufficient detail, as reasonable under the circumstances, to make clear that it has conducted a diligent and good-faith search for assassination-related records.

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3. Compliance Deposition: You state that a deposition of the Secret Service is “unnecessary” and “confrontational” and will be rendered unnecessary by virtue of the Secret Service’s Final Declaration of Compliance. We do not agree with your characterizations of a possible compliance deposition of the Secret Service. Nor has any other agency taken this position regarding the compliance deposition. Nonetheless, whether a deposition of the Secret Service is taken will be determined after the informal interview with your agency and after reviewing the agency’s Declaration of Compliance. As you know, we are authorized by statute to subpoena agency officials. I do *not* interpret your position as a refusal to make an agency official available for deposition in the event that we decide to depose the Secret Service. If I am mistaken, however, please let me know immediately.

4. Designation of Compliance Official: Although you indicate that you “will continue to serve as the point of contact for all matters” relating to the JFK Act, your letter was somewhat ambiguous as to whether you are the designated Compliance Official. I will assume you are unless otherwise advised.

Finally, I would like to get together with you so that we can review our mutual expectations regarding this compliance program. It is the objective of the Review Board to work with Secret Service in documenting for the American public, as thoroughly as is reasonably possible, that Secret Service has made a diligent and thorough disclosure of assassination records.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell  
Executive Director

cc: John J. Kelleher, Chief Counsel  
Constance Drew, Office of Information Resources  
Management, Department of the Treasury