

December 19, 1996

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Mr. Irving Wilson  
Office of Information Resources Management  
Department of the Treasury  
1425 New York Ave., N.W.  
Room 2110  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Re: Compliance of the Department of Treasury with the JFK  
Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am writing to review with you the current status of the Department of Treasury's compliance with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994) ("JFK Act"), which requires Treasury to locate and release any of its records that relate to the assassination of President Kennedy.<sup>1</sup> To date, we are unaware of any assassination records being transmitted by Main Treasury to the JFK Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives and Records Administration ("NARA"). We wish to raise the following specific matters with you and request that you follow-up on them as expeditiously as possible (since the Review Board must complete its work by the Fall of 1997):

1. Main Treasury Records Identified as Assassination Records. We recently reviewed a number of Main Treasury records that were made available for our inspection and have identified two files that are clearly assassination-related records. The two files are (1) K9.006 Warren Commission and JFK (Accession No. 56-87-52) and (2) House Select Committee on Assassinations (1977-78) (Accession No. 56-87-34). These appear to be the files of J.

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<sup>1</sup> We are writing to you only with respect to records of the main Department of Treasury. The Assassination Records Review Board ("Review Board") has been working separately with certain divisions of Treasury (ATF, IRS, Customs, and Secret Service) and we are not writing you as to the status of assassination records from those divisions.

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Robert McBrien, Special Assistant for Special Legislation & Projects; the first file pertains to 1975-76 communications between Treasury and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (also known as the "Church Committee"), while the second file relates to 1977-78 communications between Treasury and the House Select Committee on Assassinations. These two files are currently in the custody of Mr. Joe Beamer at the Main Treasury Building.

Please contact Steve Tilley (301-713-6620) of NARA to make arrangements to transmit these files to NARA. Record identification forms ("RIFs") will need to be prepared, and Mr Tilley can review the procedures with you. Please confirm to us in writing when such records have been transmitted to NARA.

2. Additional Searches for Assassination Records Within the Custody of Main Treasury. We believe that Main Treasury may have additional files that relate to President Kennedy's assassination and we hereby request that you endeavor to locate any such files. The records or subjects are as follows:

a. Files of High Treasury Officials Who Testified Before the Warren Commission.

Two high-ranking Treasury officials testified before the Warren Commission, namely Secretary of the Treasury C. Douglas Dillon and Robert Carswell, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury. Please locate and review their files to determine whether any of their records relate to their testimony or other work for the Warren Commission. We have seen a great deal of correspondence in the possession of other agencies that reflects Secretary Dillon's activities during the Warren Commission. Because he was involved in many activities surrounding the investigation, all of his files should be reviewed with care. For example, Secretary Dillon informed the Warren Commission that an interagency committee was being established to review Secret Service coordination with other intelligence and enforcement agencies. See Warren Commission Report at 464. Of course, any of Secretary Dillon's files on the Secret Service from this time period may be relevant and thus should be located and reviewed.

b. Files of the General Counsel for Treasury (G. D'Andelot Belin). We request that you locate the files for the Office of General Counsel under Secretary Dillon. In January 1964, Secretary Dillon appointed Treasury's General Counsel, G. D'Andelot Belin, "to serve as the liaison man with the [Warren] Commission." See Letter from Secretary Dillon to the Honorable Earl Warren, dated Jan. 8, 1964 (attached hereto). Therefore, Mr. Belin's files should be reviewed.

c. Investigative Work by Treasury for the Warren Commission. The Warren

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Commssion employed document examiners from the Department of Treasury to analyze a number of critical records and to ascertain whether they were written by Lee Harvey Oswald. Document examiners from Treasury and the FBI testified that the mail-order coupon (and accompanying envelope) for the rifle were written by Oswald. In addition, Treasury and FBI “[e]xperts on handwriting identification” identified Oswald’s handwriting on the application for the Dallas mailbox to which the rifle was delivered. *See* Warren Commission Report at 119-120. Alwyn Cole was the document expert for Treasury who testified before the Warren Commission. *See* Warren Commision Hearings, Vol. 4, at 358 (Testimony of Alwyn Cole on April 30, 1964). We ask Treasury to locate any files relating to the document analyses and any other work that Treasury undertook for the Warren Commmission, including but not limited to any files of Mr. Cole.

d. Treasury’s Work Advising President Johnson Regarding Recommendations of the Warren Commission. Secretary Dillon was the Chairman of President Johnson’s Committee on the Warren Report. Please locate any files with respect to Treasury’s work in this regard, including any files of Secretary Dillon relating to this committee.

e. Records of Secretary John Connally Regarding the Assassination. John Connally’s memoirs report that while he was Secretary of the Treasury he asked for and reviewed the Secret Service files relating to the assassination. Please locate any records of Secretary Connally that relate to the assassination, including but not limited to his inspection of Secret Service records.

f. Any Other Treasury Department Records Relating to the Assassination. Please endeavor to locate any additional Treasury Department files that relate to the assassination of President Kennedy. Our listing of specific matters is not intended to be exhaustive of all possible assassination records residing with Main Treasury. To assist in this task, we request that you make available for inspection copies of relevant indices and SF 135 forms for Treasury records (*see* item number 3 below).

3. Request to Inspect Indices to Main Treasury Records. We hereby request that the Department of Treasury make available for inspection by the staff of the Review Board any finding aids or indices of main Treasury records, including SF 135 forms, to assist in identifying any additional assassination records that may be within the custody or control of the Treasury Department. Specifically, we would like to obtain access to all indices to Secretary Dillon’s and Mr. Carswell’s files, as well as any indices for the 1963-64 records of

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Treasury.

4. Compliance Program. In the near future, we will be sending to the Secretary of the Treasury, with a copy to you, a letter outlining the measures which the Department needs to undertake in order to provide an accounting to the American public that Main Treasury has made a diligent and good-faith effort to locate and release any assassination records within its possession pursuant to the requirements of the JFK Act. Similar letters have been directed to other agencies that have assassination records.

Should you have any questions regarding the above matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron  
Senior Attorney

cc: Constance Drew, Office of Information Resources  
Management  
Steve Milline, Chief, Records Management & Resource  
Branch, Main Treasury Building (B-22)  
Joseph Beamer, Records Management & Resource Branch,  
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