

March 25, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Mr. Steve W. Milline  
Departmental Offices Records Officer  
Chief, Records Management & Resources Branch  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
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. Milline:

I would like to thank you and David L. Dougherty, an attorney with Treasury's Office of General Counsel, for meeting with me on March 7, 1997, to review the status of the Department of Treasury's efforts to comply with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 ("JFK Act").<sup>1</sup> The following is our understanding of the current status of Treasury's efforts to locate records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy.

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<sup>1</sup> As previously noted, our meeting concerned compliance only with respect to records of Main Treasury. Accordingly, our discussions have addressed records for the Secretary of the Treasury, Assistant Secretaries, the General Counsel, and other offices within Main Treasury. The Assassination Records Review Board ("Review Board") is working separately with certain divisions of Treasury (ATF, IRS, Customs, and Secret Service) to ensure their compliance with the JFK Act.

1. Main Treasury Records Identified To Date as Assassination Records. As noted previously (see Dec. 19, 1996 Letter from R. Haron to I. Wilson), the Review Board last year identified two files that are assassination-related records. The two files, as labeled, 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).<sup>2</sup> Treasury will be processing these records so that they can be transmitted to the JFK Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives and Records Administration ("NARA"). More recently, we designated parts of a third file as an assassination record. That file, file no. K16.003 SSC Report (USSS), was located among accession no. 56-87-52 (box labeled enforcement files 1981-83 (29/30)). This file, like the other two, appears to be from J. Robert McBrien, Special Assistant for Special Legislation & Projects. We have noted the documents within that file that should be deemed assassination records within the meaning of the JFK Act. The file relates to the 1976 Report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence insofar as it pertains to the Secret Service. Treasury may decide, for administrative convenience or to assure the integrity of the file, to designate the entire file (which is not voluminous) as an assassination record.

2. Efforts to Locate Additional Assassination Records of Main Treasury. In an effort to determine whether there are any additional Main Treasury records relating to the assassination, you undertook to review Main Treasury's archive transmittal forms (SF-135's), utilizing as a guide the record groups noted in the Review Board's December 19, 1996 letter to Main Treasury. You have selected a subset of transmittal forms that may contain relevant records and provided those to me at our March 7 meeting. We have reviewed them and further narrowed down, as well as added to, the record groups that Treasury preliminarily determined should be retrieved from storage. At present, we are working with you to select, retrieve, and review those records that may contain materials relating to the assassination. The records at Treasury that we have so far identified for review are as follows:

--Accession No. 56-74-4 Secretary J. Connally Secret Service File.

--Accession No. 56-74-1 (Box 9) 1962-64 Chron Files for the General Counsel, G. d'Andelot Belin (who was Treasury's liaison to the Warren Commission).

--Accession No. 56-79-12 (Box 4) Files of the General Counsel.

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<sup>2</sup> With respect to the file on the House Select Committee on Assassinations ("the HSCA"), we have requested that Treasury copy for the Review Board the sub-file that relates to the Secret Service.

--Accession No. 56-82-14 (Boxes 7 and 8) Files of Assistant General Counsel.

--Accession No. 56-82-9 (Boxes 2, 13, 14) Files of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement & Operations.

--Accession No. 56-82-11 (Boxes 1 to 7) Files of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement & Operations.

--Accession No. 56-87-52 (Box 27) Office of Enforcement & Operations.

At our meeting, you noted that certain Treasury records may have been transferred to NARA in the regular course of recordkeeping practices. Thus, your office may not have the SF-135 forms for those records and they may not have been identified through your review of SF-135's.

3. Records Maintained In Secured Storage. In recognition that certain sensitive Treasury records may not be stored at the Federal Records Center in Suitland, Maryland, and thus may not be captured through the review of SF-135's, we requested that Treasury account for all major record groups maintained in secured storage. In particular, the Review Board must have a level of assurance that someone, who is knowledgeable with respect to the assassination and Treasury's role in the aftermath, has reviewed Treasury's secured holdings to determine whether or not there are any records or files among them that relate to the assassination of President Kennedy. You and Mr. Dougherty said this would be done.

4. Treasury Records at NARA. As to certain records we asked to inspect, your office has determined that those records have been transmitted to NARA and are no longer in the custody of the Treasury Department. It is our understanding that accession nos. 56-69A-3005, 56-66A-187 (boxes 2 to 6), 56-75-101 (boxes 50, 52 to 55), and 56-68A-3837 are at NARA. If this is incorrect, please let us know. By copy of this letter, we are requesting NARA to locate these records so that we may review them for assassination-related materials.

5. Specific Record Groups. In our December 19, 1997 letter to Treasury, we identified certain categories of Treasury records that should be located and inspected for materials relating to the assassination. The major categories of Treasury records that we identified were: (1) records of Treasury Secretary C. Douglas Dillon and Robert Carswell, Special

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Assistant to the Secretary; (2) files of the General Counsel, G. d'Andelot Belin, who was Treasury's liaison with the Warren Commission; (3) files relating to investigative work done by Treasury for the Warren Commission, including specifically any files for Alwyn Cole, who was a Treasury document expert and who testified for the Warren Commission; (4) records regarding President Johnson's Committee on the Warren Report, which was chaired by Secretary Dillon; and (5) records relating to John Connally's request, while he was Secretary of Treasury, to examine Secret Service files on the assassination. See Dec. 19, 1996 Letter from R. Haron to I. Wilson.<sup>3</sup> If possible, the Review Board ultimately would like to account for these major groups of records. Since we are still in the process of retrieving and inspecting Treasury records, however, it is still too early to tell whether all or some of these records have been identified through your review of the SF-135 forms.

6. Final Declaration of Compliance. As you know, Treasury will need to submit a Final Declaration of Compliance that reports on the additional work now being done to comply with the JFK Act. Accordingly, please keep records of this additional work so that the Final Declaration of Compliance can be appropriately amended. Please note that this Final Declaration of Compliance should be executed under oath in the form prescribed by 28 U.S.C. § 1746.

Should you or Mr. Dougherty wish to discuss any of the above matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron  
Senior Attorney

cc: David L. Dougherty, Esq.,

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<sup>3</sup> In addition, I would like to add an additional record category not previously mentioned -- in 1963-64, there apparently was an Assistant Secretary who had responsibility for overseeing the Secret Service. See the attached November 1963 Organizational Chart for the Department of Treasury (obtained from HSCA file no. 13148). Presumably, this official would have overseen the Secret Service at about the time of the assassination and ensuing investigation. Accordingly, please determine who this official was, whether you have any stored files from his office and, if so, whether they contain any records relating to the assassination.

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Office of the General Counsel  
Steven D. Tilley, Chief,  
JFK Assassination Records Collection,  
NARA