

NEWS RELEASE

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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS BOARD ANNOUNCES SPECIAL INITIATIVE TO COLLECT ORIGINAL FILMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS; APPEALS TO PUBLIC

The Assassination Records Review Board, the independent federal agency overseeing the release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, today announced a special initiative to collect original films and photographs of the assassination and to make them part of the official historical record at the National Archives. The Board appealed to members of the public to assist in this initiative.

“The only way to ensure the proper preservation of original films and photographs of the assassination is to have them housed at the National Archives,” said John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Assassination Records Review Board. “The Review Board is calling on anyone who possesses, or knows of the existence of, original films and photographs taken of the President in Dallas on November 22, 1963, before, during or after the assassination, to contact us. History and the law requires that we seek to have as complete a record of the assassination as possible available to the American public.”

Tunheim said that the Review Board is making an effort to contact various

individuals known to have taken films or photographs which recorded relevant events before, during or after the assassination. He also said that there may be people who possess photographs or films who have never identified themselves. "It is possible that important pictures were taken in Dealey Plaza that day which neither the government nor the public has ever seen," said Tunheim. "Now is the time for those individuals to step forward and help the Review Board to complete the record of this tragic chapter in our history."

Executive Director David G. Marwell noted that private parties may also possess other records, in addition to films and photographs, related to the assassination that belong at the National Archives. "We are confident that there is still important material out there and now is an ideal time to collect it," said Marwell. "We have assigned dedicated and skilled analysts and investigators to this effort, and we are optimistic that they will be successful."

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Individuals who possess photographs, films or other records relevant to the assassination are asked to contact the Assassination Records Review Board at (202) 724-0088 or write to: Assassination Records Review Board, 600 E Street, NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530.

The Assassination Records Review Board was established by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President

Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.

The Review Board consists of the following members:

John R. Tunheim, Chair; Minnesota Chief Deputy Attorney General.

Dr. Henry F. Graff; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.

Dr. Kermit L. Hall; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.

Dr. William L. Joyce; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.

Dr. Anna K. Nelson; Adjunct Professor of History at American University.

The Review Board has until October 1, 1996 to fulfill its mandate, plus an additional year at the Board's discretion to complete its responsibilities.

Media Advisory: On Tuesday, November 21st and Wednesday, November 22nd, Assassination Records Review Board members will be available for interviews to discuss the Review Board's special initiative to collect films,

photographs, and other records in private hands, as well as the Board's progress to date releasing previously classified records from federal agencies such as the CIA and the FBI. Please contact Tom Samoluk at (202) 724-0088, ext. 227, to schedule an interview.