

Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW ■ Second Floor ■ Washington, DC 20530

July 6, 1995

The Honorable John H. Dalton
Secretary of the Navy
Department of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in regard to the Department of the Navy's compliance with The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (JFK Act) (copy enclosed). I am writing to request your assistance in ensuring that the appropriate personnel within the Department of the Navy understand their obligation to comply with the JFK Act and to ascertain which officials will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the law.

Under the JFK Act, all Federal Government offices -- including the Navy -- are required to: (a) identify all of their records related to the assassination of President Kennedy; (b) review the records for the purpose of declassifying them under the standards specified in the JFK Act; (c) prepare electronic identification aids; and (d) send the records to the National Archives.¹

¹ On July 8, 1994, CDR. R. J. Kreichelt, JAGC, USN, of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery responded to a preliminary inquiry from Dr. William Joyce, a member of the Review Board, indicating that all assassination records held by that command had been identified and transferred to the National Archives on May 16, 1994. In addition, we are aware that the Naval Criminal Investigative Service has conducted a search of its files and identified various assassination records which were also sent to the Archives. We appreciate the prompt reaction of both these commands and hope that we get a similar response from all the other commands and components within the Department of the Navy.

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The Assassination Records Review Board, a panel appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is responsible for overseeing governmental compliance with the JFK Act. Last week the Review Board promulgated in the *Federal Register* a regulation that defines "assassination record" for the purposes of the JFK Act (a copy of this regulation is enclosed). This regulation should help provide guidance to governmental offices in their search for assassination records.² Members of our professional staff -- who have received all of the appropriate security clearances -- are also available to assist you and your staff in this process.

I am now seeking to learn which officials at the Navy Department are responsible for supervising the process of identifying and reviewing assassination records. For your convenience, I am enclosing our "JFK Records Contacts" form. Please return this form with the names, titles, relevant responsibilities, and telephone and fax numbers of all persons at the Department of the Navy with whom you would like us to be in contact regarding the Navy's compliance with the law. We would appreciate having this form returned to us by July 17, 1995.

We look forward to working with the Navy to further the important objectives of the JFK Act. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures

²A thorough search should encompass any and all documents that fit within the definition of assassination record. The results of this search should include, at a minimum, the complete investigative record concerning the military service and subsequent defection of Lee Harvey Oswald, all correspondence to the Warren Commission and House Select Committee on Assassinations, as well as correspondence to any other government agency dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy.

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cc: William J. Perry, Secretary of Defense
Steven S. Honigman, General Counsel, Department of the Navy
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Enclosures [JFK Act, Definition, 1 form]

cc: William J. Perry, Secretary of Defense
Steven S. Honigman, General Counsel, Department of the Navy

bcc: T. Jeremy Gunn

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