

Assassination Records Review Board

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

July 6, 1995

The Honorable William J. Perry
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Re: Status of the Department of Defense'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 Defense'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 military community understand their obligation to comply with the JFK Act and to ascertain which officials in the Pentagon will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the law.

Under the JFK Act, all Federal Government offices -- including DOD -- 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.

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. 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 Department of Defense are responsible for supervising the process of identifying and reviewing assassination records. For your convenience, I

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an 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 DOD with whom you would like us to be in contact regarding your department's compliance with the law. We would appreciate having this form returned to us by July 17, 1995.

I am also enclosing copies of letters that are being sent to the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. We are already in contact with the National Security Agency and the Department of the Army.

We look forward to working with the Department of Defense 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

cc: Judith A. Miller, General Counsel, Department of Defense

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Re: Status of the Immigration and Naturalization Service's Compliance with the JFK
Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

Enclosures [JFK Act, Definition, 1 form; letters to Navy, Marines, Air Force]

cc: Judith A. Miller, General Counsel, Department of Defense

bcc: T. Jeremy Gunn

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