

February 20, 1998

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Stewart F. Aly  
Associate Deputy General Counsel  
Office of General Counsel  
Department of Defense  
1600 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1600

Re: OSD Equities in Vietnam Records from the LBJ Library

Dear Mr. Aly:

I would like to thank you again for the help you provided us last month. The work was very successful.

I am now writing about the pressing need for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to review its equities in approximately 68 documents from the LBJ Library that pertain to Vietnam. On January 30, 1998, Mr. Doug Horne of our staff faxed a memorandum to you requesting that you arrange for a representative of OSD to attend our declassification session being held on February 4-6 to review these documents. Since no OSD reviewer came to the session on February 4, Mr. Horne called you during the afternoon to inquire whether OSD would be sending a representative on February 5 or 6 to review the documents. I understand that you told him that you had not received the January 30, 1998 fax. He thereupon faxed that memo to you. (Copy enclosed). OSD was the only relevant agency that did not send a reviewer able to evaluate the Vietnam documents. To date no one from OSD has contacted the ARRB staff, as requested, in connection with making arrangements for review of these documents.

We are now completing the review and processing of the LBJ Library records, which are now on the Review Board's agenda for its March 10, 1998 meeting. To the extent that OSD wishes to review

these records for potential equities (and postponements), we need to have that work completed by COB on Thursday, March 5, 1998.

We would be happy to make arrangements for anyone designated by OSD to conduct declassification review of these 68 records under the terms of the JFK Act, at our offices, at a time of OSD's convenience. If you have any questions, you should contact either Doug Horne or Irene Marr at (202) 724-0088. If no one from OSD reviews the records prior to March 5, 1998, and provides evidence related to postponements, the Review Board will presume that OSD has no interest in the records and will, accordingly, vote to release them.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

Enclosure