

February 13, 1998

Dr. James H. Billington
The Librarian of Congress
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20540-1000

Dear Dr. Billington:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 30, 1998, which forwarded important information to our office about Library of Congress holdings of assassination records.

Last month I was contacted by your new General Counsel, Elizabeth Pugh, whom I had known from her work at NARA and the Justice Department. She appears to have taken immediate responsibility and to have done a superb job of coordinating the collection of information and forwarding it to us. Although some time passed before our original inquiries were answered, we now have every reason to believe that the work is now being handled smoothly, expeditiously, and professionally.

On an entirely separate issue, I understand that we are both interested in the 1997 Russian Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations. I was told by Karen Lord of the CSCE that during your recent trip to Russia your briefing materials included an excerpted version of my 1998 law review article wherein I argued that the 1997 law violates not only the international conventions on the subject, but the standards issued by the UN Human Rights Committee and the European Court of Human Rights. We can hope that either the Russian Constitutional Court or the European Court of Human Rights will deal with this issue, although I have little optimism that either forum will do its duty.

Again, I would like to thank both you and Elizabeth for the prompt and effective action that you have recently taken.

Sincerely,

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn

Executive Director and General Counsel

Dr. James H. Billington

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cc: Hon. Dan Burton
Chairman
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

Elizabeth A. Pugh, Esq.
General Counsel
Library of Congress