

December 8, 1997

Mr. David W. Carey  
Executive Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Carey:

As you may be aware, I introduced H.R. 1553 (now P.L. 105-25), which authorized a one-year extension of the life of the Assassination Records Review Board. I also am Chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, which oversees the work of the Review Board.

I would like you to be aware that I have a great personal interest in ensuring that the work of the Board is completed by September 30, 1998, and that all "assassination records" currently held by the Central Intelligence Agency will be processed in a timely manner and transferred to the National Archives as required by the law.

In response to questions from my office, the Review Board has advised that while it perceives that the CIA generally has been cooperative and helpful, the Board nevertheless believes that the CIA is not transferring records to the Board at pace consistent with the need to complete the work on time.

The Board similarly has advised that, unless it receives processed records in a more expeditious manner, it is prepared to use its legal powers to order a transfer of records to the Board which would then vote to open the records without benefit of a pre-review by the CIA. The Board has informed me that it does not wish to take this step, but that it is fully prepared to do so if necessary to complete its work by September 30.

I urge you to take all appropriate steps to ensure that the CIA promptly fulfills its legal obligations under P.L. 105-25 and that it expeditiously transfers the relevant records to the Board and the National Archives.

Sincerely,

Dan Burton  
Chair

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