

January 14, 1998

DRAFT

Hon. William S. Cohen  
Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1600

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to seek your assistance on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board in an urgent and highly sensitive matter.

The Review Board is an independent Federal agency that was created pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (JFK Act). The JFK Act was created through a bipartisan initiative and was signed into law by President Bush. The Board members were appointed by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate. The Board's mandate includes creating a complete record of the assassination of President Kennedy. The JFK Act authorizes the Board to "direct a Government office to . . . investigate the facts surrounding additional information . . . which the Review Board has reason to believe is required to fulfill its functions and responsibilities under this Act." 44 U.S.C. § 2107.7(j)(C)(ii).

Pursuant to this statutory authority, the Review Board hereby requests that you promptly task the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) to provide (either directly or through a secure contractor) computer and technical assistance for enhancement of digitized images procured by the Review Board in the course of its work. Although the subject matter of this work is extremely sensitive, it is not national-security classified. The assistance should require a maximum of two days to complete.

We are operating under time constraints that require our completing the work by Friday, January 23, 1998. I would be pleased to explain in detail to your representative the requirements of this project as well as the circumstances mandating urgent action. The Review Board would very much appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director and General Counsel

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cc: RADM Joseph J. Dantone, Jr., USN  
Director  
National Imagery and Mapping Agency

Mr. Leo Hazelwood  
Deputy Director  
National Imagery and Mapping Agency

Mr. Robert M. McNamara  
General Counsel  
Central Intelligence Agency

Mr. Stuart F. Aly  
Associate Deputy General Counsel  
Department of Defense