

January 14, 1998

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, *inter alia*, 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 and other statutory authority, the Review Board requested technical assistance from the National Reconnaissance Office to enhance digitized images procured by the Review Board in the course of its work. The NRO has determined that appropriate computer assistance to complete this task is available at an outside facility. The contract with this facility is currently handled by NIMA. The Board now requests that you task NIMA to arrange for the required assistance. 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
Hon. William S. Cohen
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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