

December 19, 1997

BY FACSIMILE AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Mr. Jeff Trandahl, Deputy Clerk  
Mr. Ray Strong, Assistant to the Clerk  
Office of the Clerk  
U.S. House of Representatives  
The Capitol, Room H-154  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6601

Re: Public Release of Certain Congressional Committee Records Pursuant to the  
JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Messrs. Trandahl and Strong:

I have received a favorable report on your December 18, 1997 meeting with Michelle Combs and Ronald Haron of my staff regarding House of Representative records that come within the scope of the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (the "Act").

I would like to emphasize that the Review Board is firmly committed to completing its work by our sunset date of September 30, 1998. In order for us to accomplish this goal, we do need the cooperation of the Clerk's Office so that relevant committee records from the House of Representatives can be reviewed and processed under the Act.

We understand that you now will be able to help us break through the impediments that have prevented us from completing our work with House records. As requested in my October 30, 1997 letter to the Clerk of the House, we specifically request that the Clerk undertake the following:

1. Designate an official who will be responsible for working with the Review Board and for ensuring that all assassination-related records of certain Congressional Committees are appropriately processed under the Act.
2. Authorize the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives and Records

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Administration ("NARA") to make available for inspection by the Review Board the records of the following Congressional Committees in order to identify any assassination-related records: (1) the House Committee on Un-American Activities ("HUAC"), including its successor Committee, the House Internal Security Committee; (2) the House Government Operation's Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, chaired by Congresswoman Bella Abzug ("the Abzug Subcommittee"); and (3) the House Judiciary's Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, chaired by Congressman Don Edwards ("the Edwards Subcommittee").

3. Authorize NARA to provide the Review Board with copies of any indices, finding aids, or other documents for HUAC, the Abzug Subcommittee, and the Edwards Subcommittee that would assist the Review Board in carrying out its functions under the Act.
4. Obtain the assistance of the House Judiciary Committee in locating any relevant records of the Edwards Subcommittee, including obtaining for the Review Board copies of any indices or finding aids.
5. To the extent that NARA, with the assistance of the Review Board, identifies any assassination records under the Act among the holdings of the Congressional Committees identified in paragraph 2, authorize NARA to publicly release those records, process them under the Act, and have them placed in the JFK Collection at NARA (provided that NARA obtains the appropriate authorization from any Federal agency to the extent required).

You advised my staff that certain Congressional Committees may need to concur in such authorization. To the extent that this is needed, we request that you seek such concurrence, as soon as possible, from the necessary Committees so that we can begin working with NARA in identifying and processing assassination records under the Act.

Chairman Burton's Government Reform and Oversight Committee, which oversees the Review Board, has asked that we keep it informed regarding the progress of our work. I am, accordingly, taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of this letter to the Chairman's Deputy Staff Director, Mr. Dan Moll.

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Please do not hesitate to contact either Ron Haron or me if we can be of any assistance to you in furthering the important work that needs to be completed.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Dan Moll  
Deputy Staff Director  
House Government Reform & Oversight Committee

Mr. Michael L. Gillette, Director  
Center for Legislative Archives, NARA

Mr. Steven D. Tilley, Chief  
Assassination Records Collection, NARA