

June 30, 1998

The Honorable Dan Burton
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is the Assassination Records Review Board's eleventh monthly progress report, as required by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight report on H.R. 1553 (now P.L. 105-25), which extended the authorization of the Review Board until September 30, 1998. With three limited exceptions—which I will discuss below—we believe that our work is on track for completion by September 30, 1998. This month we sent Congress and the President our official 90-day notification that we will cease operations on September 30, 1998.

The Review Board met on June 4 and June 17, 1998, and processed, through formal determinations and consent releases, more than 5,200 documents. In the month of June, the Review Board acted on more than 2,300 FBI records, 1,800 CIA records, and approximately 1,100 records from other agencies.

This month our FBI team has negotiated the public release of 21,154 pages of records from the FBI's HSCA subject files. This number is consistent with the figures we now expect to see each month. These records include FBI files relating to the Church Committee, as well as files on individuals such as Jack Ruby, the Minutemen, Vladimir Sloboda, and the Tolstoy Foundation.

At our June meetings, the Review Board processed approximately 1,805 CIA records. The review of CIA records is proceeding at an increased pace. We have been informed that the CIA has almost completed its review of the microfilm from the Segregated Collection. There are fewer than 600 pages from the microfilm that need to be reviewed by CIA, which is a strong indicator that the CIA will complete its review of assassination records within the required deadline.

Our military records team held its sixth and final joint declassification session on June 23-25, 1998. Representatives of NSC, OSD, and CIA reviewed approximately 3,000 pages of assassination records from the files of the Joint Staff, OSD, ONI, and the JFK Library. Today, members of our

The Honorable Dan Burton
June 30, 1998
Page 2

staff are transferring to the JFK Collection more than 330 documents from the JCS, the DIA, and Army documents from the papers of Joseph A. Califano, Jr.

We continue to proceed with our Compliance Program. We have received a Final Statement of Compliance from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. We held compliance meetings with representatives from the CIA and the NSA to review the completion of their work under the JFK Act.

We have also placed additional records of the Church Committee into the JFK Collection. Twelve transcripts were transferred early this month, including the testimony of William Colby, McGeorge Bundy, and James Angleton.

In the first paragraph, I stated that there are three issues of concern for successful completion of our work. *First*, we have yet to receive permission to examine pertinent sub-committee papers from the House Judiciary Committee and papers of the House Committee on Un-American Activities (*see* enclosed letter to Robin H. Carle); *second*, we believe that it is important that we have a more thorough examination of selected Church Committee files (*see* enclosed letter to Taylor Lawrence); and *finally*, we learned, only late last week, that CIA has some additional assassination records from Lee Harvey Oswald's 201 file and presumably other files that had not previously been identified to us.

As of this point, we do not have sufficient information to be able to determine what additional work may be necessary to process these papers. Although our information is still sketchy, we believe the volume is minimal and can be processed by September 30. We will keep you advised of the situation and would be pleased to discuss this matter further should you so desire.

We hosted our final group of interns from Noblesville High School this month. As always, they worked diligently, and this time processed for transfer to the National Archives 88 archival boxes containing FBI records.

As always, thank you for your continuing support and interest in the work of the Review Board.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

Enclosures