

November 30, 1997

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

Dear Mr Chairman:

This letter is the Assassination Records Review Board's fourth monthly progress report, as required by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight report on H.R. 1553 (now P.L. 105-25) that extended the authorization of the Review Board until September 30, 1998.

At the November 17 closed meeting, the Board processed approximately 4,000 FBI records and more than 500 CIA records for public release. The total of approximately 4,500 records processed by the Board is more than any prior meeting. As you may be aware, the Review Board recently released approximately 1,500 pages of military records regarding U.S. policy toward Cuba from 1962-64. Additional military records that enrich the historical record surrounding the assassination will be released in the coming months.

Since our October report, the Board's FBI team has reviewed an additional 38,000 pages of records from the FBI's House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) files. Included in these files are the names of many individuals who have a prominent role in the history surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy. Our perception at this time is that the FBI is providing the Board with records at an adequate pace.

The Review Board's CIA team continues to make progress in the review of the CIA's Sequestered Collection. However, as previously reported to the Committee, we remain concerned about the pace at which the CIA is providing records to the Board for review.

We were pleased to have recently received from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence the unredacted Church Committee records that had previously been

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forwarded to the National Archives and Records Administration in redacted form. Receipt of these records is the result of a long-standing request from the Board and will require intense staff work to process them for Board review and public release.

As part of the Review Board's federal agencies compliance program, we have evaluated the Final Compliance Statements of the following agencies and have written to them confirming that they have discharged their obligations under the JFK Act: the Army's Central Security Facility, the Army's Criminal Investigative Command, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology; the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms; the Customs Service; and the Postal Service. Unless additional information comes to the attention of the Review Board regarding assassination records that these agencies should possess, they have completed their required searches for assassination records.

I regret to report that the Review Board has not received the cooperation from the Internal Revenue Service that we had hoped and expected under the JFK Act, despite our repeated efforts. I will be happy to provide more detailed information to your staff regarding this matter.

In November, the Review Board also released the previously unavailable handwritten notes of Dallas Police Captain J. W. Fritz on the interrogation of Lee Harvey Oswald after his arrest on November 22, 1963. These records were acquired by the Review Board as part of our effort to supplement the existing historical record of the assassination through contact with private individuals. These records are only the second set of original notes on the Oswald interrogation taken by a law enforcement official involved in the questioning of the alleged assassin. Earlier this year, the Review Board acquired the original handwritten interrogation notes of former FBI Special Agent James Hosty.

As always, the Review Board appreciates this opportunity to advise you of our recent efforts to fulfill our mandate. I would also like to thank you for the continuing support of your staff. Dan Moll and Jeff Schaffner have been extremely attentive to the Board and I look forward to meeting with them on Wednesday, December 3, 1997, to provide additional details regarding the Board's progress.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn

Executive Director