

February 10, 1998

Dr. David J. Garrow
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Dear David:

It was a pleasure seeing you again in Atlanta. I very much appreciated your comments in the morning discussion and I was sorry that you had to leave early in the afternoon. You really should have taken me up on my offer to teach your afternoon class. Although it is true that I wouldn't have known what I was talking about, it would have served the interest of making you even more popular with your students.

I am writing to confirm our invitation to you to participate in a meeting in Washington, D.C., on April 14, 1998. This meeting, which had its very origin in the conversation that you and I had in the restaurant in Atlanta a few months ago, is to discuss criteria, standards, and methods for declassification and release of Federal Government records. Attendees will include officials from government, academe, and the private sector.

As you know, the Review Board is an independent Federal agency that was created by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (JFK Act). During the past three and one-half years, the Review Board has overseen the declassification of tens of thousands of intelligence and other records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board has interpreted its mandate broadly to include, for example, some previously classified military records relating to U.S. foreign policy toward Cuba and Vietnam in the early 1960s.

In its work, the Review Board and its staff have acquired a sophisticated expertise on declassification issues and have applied the unique standards of the JFK Act to the records of numerous agencies,

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including the CIA, FBI, NSA, Secret Service, and the Departments of Justice, State, and Treasury. The standards for release of records under the JFK Act are much broader than those of either the Freedom of Information Act or Executive Order 12958. As it prepares its Final Report, the Review Board is considering whether it should make recommendations to Congress and the President based upon its experience in dealing with declassification issues.

The Review Board believes that you would be able to make a valuable contribution to a discussion of several inter-related issues, including standards for declassification, procedures for improving and expediting government-wide declassification efforts, and proposals for clarifying and improving records-management procedures. There will be no need for you to prepare a paper or materials for this discussion, although we would be pleased to receive copies of papers on the topic that you would like to share with the Review Board or to have distributed to other participants.

The discussion will be held in Washington, D.C., on April 14, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Review Board will be pleased to cover the cost of your travel to and from Washington, D.C., and will make arrangements for a hotel to the extent necessary.

Based upon our prior discussions, I am assuming that you will be coming. Please call or write if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you in April, unless the wind blows one of us closer to the other in the interim.

Best wishes,

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director