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June 19, 1998

Ms. Margaret P. Grafeld
Acting Director
Office of Freedom of Information, Privacy & Classification Review
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: Foreign Government Information in United States Government Records
Regarding the Assassination of President Kennedy

Dear Ms. Grafeld:

This letter follows up on our last telephone conversation in which you generously expressed your willingness to assist the Assassination Records Review Board in its efforts to coordinate contacts with foreign governments regarding the release of their equities in records related to the assassination of President Kennedy.

As you know, the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 ("JFK Act"), directs federal agencies to review and release, to the maximum extent possible, information in their records related to the assassination. Section 10(b)(2) of the JFK Act provides that it is the "sense of Congress" that the State Department assist the Review Board in seeking the release of foreign government information related to the assassination.

During the course of the Review Board's work, we have identified several records containing foreign equities, most of which were in FBI files. (I should note that the discussion here does not pertain to foreign equities in CIA records.) The list of agencies with the number of records with foreign government equities is: FBI (224), the Department of Defense (29), the LBJ Library (5), the JFK Library (3), and the State Department (1). I am enclosing for your review a list of governments that have equities in these documents as well as the number of documents at issue for each country. As

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of this week, we now believe that the enclosed list is reasonably complete in its identification of all remaining (non-CIA) documents with foreign government equities. As you will see by examining the enclosure, the overwhelming majority of equities come from only a few countries.

The FBI, through its Legats, has now attempted to contact each of the governments listed regarding the FBI documents that are at issue and has requested that the information be released. The FBI also presented to the governments a letter from the Review Board requesting release of their information.

I am now writing to request that the Department of State assist the Review Board in making an additional approach to these foreign governments—presumably through their embassies in Washington—to obtain their consent to the release of their equities in the records. More specifically, we request that State arrange meetings to include the foreign governments, the Review Board, and representatives of the State Department. In these meetings, the Review Board wishes to work with the State Department to persuade the foreign governments that it would be to our countries' mutual benefit to release as much information as possible.

Please give me a call once you have reviewed the enclosed list. Given that the Review Board's termination date is September 30, 1998, we are eager to schedule the meetings as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation with the work of the Review Board. Please feel free to contact me or Laura Denk, our Chief Analyst for FBI Records.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

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