

June 22, 1998

VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Will Johnson  
John F. Kennedy Library  
Columbia Point  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3398

Re: JFK Library Compliance with the JFK Assassination Records  
Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am writing to you in your capacity as the designated official responsible for ensuring that the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library ("JFK Library") has complied with the requirements of the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 ("JFK Act").

In light of the expiration of the Review Board's mandate by September 1998, I am writing to request that the JFK Library complete its work under the JFK Act and submit, by August 3, 1998, its Final Declaration of Compliance under the Act (we have asked the other relevant Presidential libraries to submit their Final Declaration of Compliance by August 3).

1. Completion of the JFK Library's Work Under the JFK Act

We appreciate and acknowledge the substantial contribution of records that the JFK Library has made to the JFK Assassination Records Collection ("JFK Collection") at the National Archives and Records Administration ("NARA") in College Park, Maryland. Based on the JFK Library's initial Statement of Compliance, as well as our ongoing work with the Library, however, we understand that several additional matters are being completed by the JFK Library. They include the processing of additional records from various record collections, as well as the release of additional oral histories.

I understand that Megan Desnoyers of your staff is working closely with my associate, Irene Marr, to complete all outstanding work of the JFK Library.

2. Submission of the Final Declaration of Compliance

We request that the JFK Library submit its Final Declaration of Compliance, under the JFK Act, on or about August 3, 1998. It is our hope that, by early August 1998, the JFK Library will have finished its work under the JFK Act. The Final Declaration should be executed under penalty of perjury in

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the form prescribed by 28 U.S.C. §1746.<sup>1</sup> The request that the Final Declaration be submitted under oath is one that we have made of all relevant Federal agencies under the JFK Act.

As part of the JFK Library's Final Declaration of Compliance, we ask that the Library submit answers to certain additional questions regarding the JFK Library's identification and review of assassination records. We recognize that the JFK Library has been cooperative in answering these questions informally with Review Board staff member Irene Marr. We simply ask that the Library formalize its responses, in writing, as part of its Final Declaration. We suggest that the questions and answers be included as an attachment to the Final Declaration. We ask that these questions be answered by the most knowledgeable official(s) who can testify on behalf of the JFK Library, and that you identify the official(s) in the Final Declaration. We may, after reviewing the Final Declaration, decide to conduct a deposition of the Library regarding these matters. The questions we have are as follows:

a. Records Collections

- According to the JFK Library's initial Compliance Statement, the Library has "338 personal papers collections and bodies of federal records." Compl. Stmt. ¶2a(1).

Did the JFK Library review or inventory all 338 record collections to identify any assassination records within those collections? Were any records collections, or portions of records collections, excluded from review under the JFK Act for any reason? If so, please identify the records collections or the portions of the records collections and why they were considered exempt from review or release. (We also request that a list of the 338 records collections be appended to the Final Declaration of Compliance so that one can see the universe of records collections reviewed by the JFK Library under the JFK Act).

- Besides the 338 records collections, are there any other records collections (or portions of record collections) that may be in the physical possession, or control, of the JFK Library, including any records collections that may be on deposit but not in the legal custody of the JFK Library? Please list any additional record collections that may not have been included in the 338 figure, irrespective of the legal status of the collection.

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<sup>1</sup> Thus, the declarant would state at the end of the Final Declaration that "I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Boston, Massachusetts on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 1998."

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- Were there any records collections (or portions of record collections) that were, at any time, in the physical possession, or control, of the JFK Library, but which were subsequently removed from its custody? If so, please identify those record collections.
- From among the Kennedy administration records placed with the National Archives and/or the General Services Administration (“GSA”) for ultimate transfer to the JFK Library, is the JFK Library aware of any such records that were not forwarded to the Library? If so, please identify those record collections.
- Were there any record collections (or portions of record collections) that, to the JFK Library’s knowledge, were withheld from being donated, loaned, or otherwise transmitted to the JFK Library? If so, please identify those record collections.
- Does the JFK Library know of, or have any information regarding, the existence, identity, or disposition of any records of Robert F. Kennedy that are not at the JFK Library (including Robert Kennedy’s 1963 desk diaries and his 1962-63 telephone messages)? If so, please identify the records and what is known about them.
- Does the JFK Library know of, or have any information regarding, the existence, identity, or disposition of any dictabelt, dictaphone, or other audio recordings of President Kennedy or Kennedy administration officials that are not at the JFK Library (in addition to the recent audio recordings discovered from Robert White)? If so, please identify the recordings and what is known about them.
- Does the JFK Library know of, or have any information regarding, the existence, identity, or disposition of any of President Kennedy’s records maintained by Evelyn Lincoln that are not at the JFK Library (in addition to any records that have been publicly identified as part of Mrs. Lincoln’s estate or that may be in the possession of Robert White)?
- Does the JFK Library know of, or have any information regarding, the existence or disposition of White House usher logs from the Kennedy administration? (Have the papers of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis been searched for these types of White House logs?)
- Does the JFK Library know of, or have any information regarding, the existence, identity, or disposition of any records of Kennedy administration officials that are not at the JFK Library

(and which are not publicly available at another institution)?

- Does the JFK Library know of, or have any information regarding, the existence, identity, or disposition of records relating to President Kennedy's assassination that are not in the JFK Library (and which are not publicly available at another institution)?
- Has the JFK Library made any attempts to secure records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy? If so, please identify the records and what is known about them, including the known custodian of the records.
- Does the JFK Library know of, or have any information regarding, the existence, identity, or disposition of records maintained by John F. Kennedy or Robert F. Kennedy from 1961 through 1965, or otherwise relating to events in that period, that are presently in the possession, custody, or control of a Kennedy family member or Kennedy family representative? If so, please identify the records and what is known about them.
- Has the JFK Library made any attempts to secure any records from a Kennedy family member or Kennedy family representative? If so, please identify the records the Library has sought to obtain and what is known about the records.

b. Oral History Interviews

- In its initial compliance statement, the JFK Library stated that it has 900 "processed and deeded oral history interviews" (Compl. Stmt. ¶ 2a(1)) and 300 unprocessed or not transcribed oral history interviews (Compl. Stmt. ¶ 2c(4)).

Were these all inventoried or reviewed in some manner to identify interviews relating to the assassination of President Kennedy?

- How did the JFK Library determine whether the assassination of President Kennedy was discussed in (a) any of the 900 processed interviews and (b) any of the 300 unprocessed interviews?
- We assume that there are no other oral history interviews in addition to the 1,200. If this is not correct, however, then please advise us and identify the additional interviews.

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- Were any oral history interviews removed from the JFK Library or otherwise turned over to the interviewee (without a copy being left at the Library)? If so, please identify the interviews.

We appreciate the cooperation of the JFK Library in meeting its obligations under the JFK Act, including the Review Board's compliance program. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

cc: Christopher M. Runkel, Acting General Counsel  
NARA

Steven D. Tilley, Chief  
JFK Collection, NARA