

December 22, 1997

HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Strobe Talbott
Deputy Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Talbott:

I am writing in response to your December 17, 1997 security-classified letter to Assassination Records Review Board Chairman John R. Tunheim. Inasmuch as the Executive Director is the statutorily designated liaison of the Review Board to Federal agencies, I am taking the liberty of responding to you directly.

Your letter identified State Department interests in several records that are scheduled for an upcoming Review Board meeting. Although the Review Board is well aware of the general interest that you describe in your letter, *the Board has not received evidence (or argument) from the State Department regarding the particular records at issue.* Even if the Board were to agree with the general propositions stated in your letter, it is not clear that the opening of the documents at issue would release any information that is not already effectively in the public domain.

The Review Board strongly urges the Department of State to provide evidence that is specific to the documents at issue. I would be pleased to make arrangements for your designated representative to review the specific records so that he or she might provide evidence that would assist the Review Board in its decisions.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn

Executive Director