

February 10, 1998

Ms. Sheryl L. Walter  
Deputy Special Counsel  
Special Investigations Unit on Persian Gulf War Illnesses  
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  
SDB40-2  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sheryl:

I am writing to invite you to participate in a meeting in Washington, D.C., on April 14, 1998. The purpose of the meeting 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. Because you are well aware of the type of work that the Board is doing, I will forego the description of the Board's work that is being sent to the other invitees.

The principal issue for consideration at the upcoming meeting is whether there are recommendations that would be appropriate for the Board to make in its Final Report regarding standards for release of information. The standards for release of records under the JFK Act are, of course, 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. We very much look forward to hearing your response to our invitation at your earliest convenience.

Ms. Sheryl Walter  
February 10, 1998  
Page 2

Sincerely,

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director