

Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW ■ Second Floor ■ Washington, DC 20530

August 2, 1995

Mr. Harold E. Varmus
Director, National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Mr. Varmus:

By way of introduction, the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) is an independent federal agency created to oversee the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The ARRB was established by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL 102-526) and was signed into law by President George Bush. The law gives the ARRB the mandate and authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. I am enclosing a copy of the act and some explanatory material.

The scope of the Review Board's mandate includes assassination-related records in the custody of federal agencies, local and state government entities, as well as those in the private sector. On occasion the Review Board is required to conduct inquiries to locate individuals who may have information about the existence of assassination-related records. Such an occasion has recently arisen, and it is necessary for the Review Board to locate Jose A. Rivera, who we believe was employed in 1964 as the Executive Secretary, Neurological Science Research Training Committee - Section B National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, National Institutes of Health. The only other information I can provide is that Mr. Rivera may have been around 50 years of age in 1964, and may have been a professor, researcher, or administrator at Loyola University in New Orleans before joining NIH.

I have already spoken to the Federal Records Center in St. Louis on this inquiry. Their records indicate hundreds of former federal employees named Jose A. Rivera, and without further identifying information they are unable to assist me. Their answer required that I contact your office to seek any possible information still in NIH files, or information in the memories of NIH employees from that department and era.

As a first step I would appreciate your naming a point of contact in your organization who could meet with my staff to discuss this issue.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures

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Enclosures

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