

February 20, 1998

Mr. Harrison E. Livingstone  
3025 Abell Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Dear Mr. Livingstone:

Thank you for your letter dated February 15, 1998, that was received at the Review Board by fax on February 17, 1998.

In response to your inquiry, please be advised that the Review Board reports to the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. Our staff contact is Mr. Jeffrey Schaffner at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515-6143.

Let me try to respond to what seem to be your two greatest concerns: documentation on the Zapruder film and the medical evidence. With regard to the Zapruder film, we are *not* the agency that sent the documentation to the National Archives and we have taken no position on the accuracy of the documentation. I certainly hope that you do not believe that we are responsible for any inconsistencies that you might have identified in the records that were created and transferred to the Archives 20 years before we even came into existence. Furthermore, I would like to allay what seems to be your greatest fear: that the Review Board will take an “incorrect” position on the status of the records. *I can assure you, in the strongest of terms, that the Review Board will **not** be taking any position—one way or the other—on whether the Zapruder film is or is not the original, or on the accuracy of the documentation.* We believe that such questions should be left to the historians and researchers who examine the records. Our job is to attempt to get records into the Archives—and not to take a position on the substantive issues. Congress did not create us for that purpose and we are not going to exceed our authority. It is for people like you to make value judgments about the evidence—not the Review Board.

With respect to the medical evidence, we are now preparing a staff report that will accompany the release of all the medical evidence. Unlike prior inquiries into the JFK assassination, we will be releasing all of the evidence—without redactions—at the same time that we release our report. You,

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like all other researchers, will have access to all of the material as soon as we have completed that phase of our work.

Please be assured that we appreciate your work and read with interest your various findings and the questions that you have raised. However, as we have stated before, as a matter of policy we are not in a position to share information with you or other researchers on matters related to our work that are ongoing. To do so would compromise the integrity of our work and lead to criticism for involving some interested parties and not others. I reiterate that all of our records will become part of the JFK Collection at the National Archives and be publicly available.

Again, thank you for your letter and continuing interest in the work of the Review Board.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk  
Deputy Director