

Fact Sheet

Assassination Records Review Board

- The Assassination Records Review Board, created by Congress in 1992 and appointed in 1994, is an independent federal agency created to oversee the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Due to delays inherent to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, the Review Board began releasing documents in June 1995. Since then, the Review Board has aggressively and successfully pursued the identification, declassification and public release of thousands of previously classified documents. In fiscal 1996, the Review Board was responsible for the release of nearly 9,000 previously classified assassination-related documents to the American people.
- In the short period since June 1995, the Review Board has identified every federal record related to the Kennedy assassination in every federal agency, including the core assassination files of the FBI and CIA. The Review Board has released, with some redactions, all the documents in the CIA's "201" file on Lee Harvey Oswald and those used to complete the Warren Commission Report. Other agencies identified to have assassination-related files include:

Treasury Department	Justice Department
Internal Revenue Service	Immigration and Naturalization Service
Customs Services	Postal Service
U.S. Secret Service	Defense Department
State Department	JFK, LBJ and Ford Presidential Libraries

- Review Board public initiatives resulted in the donation of several previously unknown films and documents to the National Archives. These included television and amateur motion picture films of events surrounding the assassination, the files of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison and Edward Wegmann used in the 1969 assassination conspiracy trial of Clay Shaw, and notes from interviews with Marina Oswald Porter by author Priscilla McMillan. More than 60 other issues are under active investigation.
- The Review Board has successfully obtained comprehensive assassination-related documents from several foreign governments, including Belarus, Cuba, Great Britain, and Russia.
- The Review Board has tripled the size of the JFK Collection at the National Archives since the August 1993 initial transfer of extensive Justice Department, CIA "201," House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), and Segregated Collections assassination-related files. Currently, the collection holds approximately 3.3 million pages.
- The Review Board is charged with completing its congressional mandate by Oct. 1, 1997, even though hundreds of thousands of documents remain to be reviewed. These include CIA and FBI files used for the HSCA investigation in the Kennedy assassination.
- The Review Board considers a one-year extension critical to the successful completion of its mission to restore the confidence of the American people that all of the documents related to the Kennedy assassination have become public. It is clear that the three-year timetable for Review Board activities was inadequate, based in part on legislative restrictions imposed by Congress. If the Review Board does end its work with thousands of documents remaining classified, the damage to the public trust in federal actions related to the Kennedy assassination may be irreparably and forever damaged.