

# Assassination Records Review Board

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## N E W S   R E L E A S E

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### JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD GIVES GUIDANCE ON DEFINITION OF "ASSASSINATION RECORD"

Washington, DC—An independent federal panel created to oversee the review and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has proposed guidance on the definition of an "assassination record" for federal agencies.

The Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) published the proposed guidance today in the Federal Register. There is a 30-day comment period and then the guidance will be finalized.

"This guidance is important for the Review Board and for the federal agencies that have records related to the assassination of President Kennedy," said John R. Tunheim, Chair of the ARRB. "The Congress made clear that the definition should be broad and go beyond the records of the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Agencies will have clear guidance on what records they are responsible for producing to ensure that the American public has a complete record of the assassination."

The ARRB's proposed guidance on the definition states that an "assassination record" includes:

- \* all records, public and private, regardless of how labeled or identified, that document, describe, report, analyze, or interpret activities and events that may have led to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; the assassination itself; and investigations or inquiries into the assassination;

- \* all records of the Warren Commission and congressional investigations into the assassination;

-more-

\* in the case of an artifact, the object itself; and

\* other records that the ARRB lists in a Catalog of Assassination Records based on whether they will more likely than not enhance, enrich, and broaden the historical record of the assassination.

The ARRB is a five-member independent panel of private citizens established by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, signed into law by President Bush. The Board members were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the United States Senate, and sworn into office in April 1994.

The law gives the ARRB the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available to the American public all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The ARRB has until October 1, 1996 to fulfill its mandate, plus an additional year at the Board's discretion to complete its responsibilities.