

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 22, 1997

CONTACT: EILEEN SULLIVAN  
(202) 724-0088, EXT. 253

### MILITARY RECORDS RELATED TO U.S. POLICY ON VIETNAM FROM 1963-64 RELEASED BY JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

Approximately 800 pages of previously classified military records from 1963-64 that relate to U.S. policy on Vietnam are being released today by the Assassination Records Review Board, the independent federal agency overseeing the identification, review, and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. This is the second major release of military records on U.S. foreign policy from the 1960's by the Review Board in the last month.

“These military records on U.S. policy toward Vietnam add important depth to the historical record because they are from both before and after the assassination of President Kennedy,” said Dr. Kermit L. Hall, a member of the Review Board. “At the time of President Kennedy’s death, Vietnam was increasingly becoming a matter of foreign policy concern. Any records that add substance to our understanding of the impact that the assassination had on U.S. policy in Vietnam are a welcomed addition to the JFK Collection at the National Archives and Records Administration.”

The mandate of the Review Board is to make the record surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy as complete as possible. The Board has been aggressive in its pursuit of records on U.S. foreign policy that put the assassination into its historical context.

As with the November release of military records on Cuba, the Review Board worked cooperatively with representatives from the Department of Defense (DOD) and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to locate records stored at NARA that met the definition of being “assassination related.” The documents being released today are from the files of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The records have been transferred to NARA for inclusion in the JFK Collection, which is housed at the NARA facility in College Park, Maryland. These documents are now available to researchers.

-more-

Copies of selected documents are available from the Assassination Records Review Board, 600 E

Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20530; telephone number: (202) 724-0088.

*The Assassination Records Review Board was established by the JFK Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.*

The Review Board consists of the following members:

**Honorable John R. Tunheim**, Chair; U.S. District Court Judge, District of Minnesota.

**Dr. Henry F. Graff**; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.

**Dr. Kermit L. Hall**; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.

**Dr. William L. Joyce**; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.

**Dr. Anna K. Nelson**; Distinguished Adjunct Historian in Residence at The American University.