

II. Suggested Talking Points

The following are suggested talking points:

1. The mandate of the Assassination Records Review Board is to make the history surrounding the assassination as complete as possible for the American public.
2. Our job is not to characterize the records we release, but to enrich the record of the assassination -- for others to interpret and analyze.
3. Today the Board is releasing approximately 600 pages of previously classified military records from 1962-63 that relate to U.S. policy toward Cuba.
4. The Board has aggressively sought to uncover records on U.S. foreign policy, as well as other relevant areas, that put the assassination into its historical context.
5. We have previously released military records on Cuba, as well as Vietnam.
6. These records being released today further demonstrate how high on the U.S. government's radar screen getting rid of the Castro government was in the early 60's.
7. However, the records also show a sobering dose of reality through discussion of what would be minimally acceptable for the U.S. to live with Castro.
8. Nearly 35 years later, the Review Board is seeking to ensure that the historical record surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy is fully available to the American public.
9. We now have a fuller view, through this new window being opened by the Board, into the policy options toward Cuba that were being considered and debated at the highest levels of the military services.
10. Previously, a lot of records from the State Department and the CIA had been released on Cuba from the 1960's. Now, with the Board's efforts, we are seeing the military records that will be critical to get the complete picture on the U.S. policy toward Cuba.
11. One reason these records are significant is simply because they are new.
12. Without the Board's efforts and the mandate that it has to make the history surrounding the assassination as complete as possible, there is no telling how long it would have been before these records were made public.

III. Response to: Why is the Board Releasing These Records?

One question that could be asked is, why is the Review Board releasing these records or what do these records have to with the assassination?

I suggest that the response is the following:

The context of the assassination is important to the historical record. There has been so much obvious controversy regarding the assassination, the Board believed that if it defined the scope of assassination records, and its mandate, too narrowly, many questions would be left unanswered about the events surrounding the assassination which are thought to be relevant. Thus, the Board defined records such as the ones being released today as being relevant to the assassination. The result is a fuller record of the assassination.