

May 28, 1998

Mr. Thomas Lavin
Sacred Heart -- Griffin High School
1200 West Washington Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702-4794

Dear Mr. Lavin:

Thank you for your May 6, 1998 letter regarding document number 180-10099-10305.
I am glad that you and your class obtained it.

You raised an interesting question. Unfortunately, I do not have documentation of any requests for postponements, and it is quite possible that there is none. However, I will share with you and your class a brief overview of the history of creating standards for the release of information in documents related to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Assassination Records Review Board was established by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (public law 102-526). This law states that "All government records concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy should carry a presumption of immediate disclosure." The agencies, such as the FBI and CIA, began to release some of these records based on their own standards, and without the guidance of the Review Board.

Two years had passed before the Review Board members were appointed and sworn in. In 1994, the Review Board began implementing the standards for the release of information, weighing privacy and national security against the public's right to know. The Board ruled in favor of the public's right to know in most cases, so "new" standards were now in place.

While it is unlikely that the CIA fought to keep certain information in document number 180-10099-10305 postponed, it is highly probable that this document was first released under the CIA's standards before the Review Board established tougher standards, and the document was then made available in full.

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I hope this information is helpful to you and your students. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eileen A. Sullivan

Press and Public Affairs Officer