

December 8, 1997

Mr. David K. Bosworth  
Directives and Records Branch  
Washington Headquarters Services  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
The Pentagon-- Room 5C315  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Re: Office of the Secretary of Defense Equities in the Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Subject To *The John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992*, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Mr. Bosworth:

The staff of the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board has identified a number of FBI documents that we intend to present to the Review Board for review of postponements at the Review Board meeting on February 17, 1998. Among the documents we identified are documents in the "**Joseph Merola**" file in which your agency has equities.

Since you are the individual that the Office of the Secretary of Defense designated as the person responsible for compliance with the JFK Act, we are identifying these documents to you now so that you can decide whether you wish to postpone release of the information in question. Please keep in mind the provisions of the JFK Act which anticipate that information will be withheld from public release only in "the rarest cases" and only pursuant to one of the provisions of Section 6 of the Act. The FBI is sending the documents at issue directly to the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, who has routinely handled Department of Defense equities in the FBI's assassination records.

So that we may adequately prepare our presentation to the Review Board with the benefit of any submission you may wish to make, you must submit evidence or arguments in support of any postponements you choose to assert in writing **no later than February 1, 1998**. **If you do not respond to this letter by the above deadline, we will assume that your agency intends to release in full its equities in the FBI record at issue, and we will recommend that the Review Board vote to**

**release in full your agency's equities in the record.**

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In many of the FBI documents with third agency equities, we believe that the third agencies could, consistent with their current guidelines for JFK assassination-related information, consent to full release of the information at issue.

If you have any questions regarding the documents identified on the enclosed forms, please call Carol Keeley or Debbie Beatty of the JFK Task Force at the FBI at (202) 324-0571 or Laura Denk or Kevin Tiernan of the Review Board staff at (202) 724-0088. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

cc: Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense  
Directorate for Freedom of Information and Security Review  
Department of Defense  
Suite 2C757, 1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington D.C. 20301-1400