

August 4, 1995

Mr. W. Ralph Basham
Assistant Director
Office of Administration
United States Secret Service
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: Destruction of Records Related to Protection of President Kennedy

Dear Mr. Basham:

Your letter of July 31, 1995, (with enclosures) raises very serious concerns about the adequacy of Secret Service review procedures under the terms of the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collections Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. Sec. 2107 (JFK Act). Your letter also includes several misstatements that require clarification.

I.

Unfortunately, your claim that the Secret Service has "cooperated fully" is not well founded. We do not agree that you have arranged "several trips" to your off-site facility for Dr. Zimmerman, Senior Analyst at the Review Board. In fact, Dr. Zimmerman has visited Centre Pointe twice--once for two and one-half hours and a second time for six hours. None of the materials Dr. Zimmerman requested be photocopied during these visits has been provided by the Secret Service. Nor have any requested copies of *records inventories* been provided.

Dr. Zimmerman initiated contact with Mike Sampson and briefly glanced at several materials clearly qualifying as assassination records. Again, no copies of this material have been provided to the Review Board, and the Secret Service has offered no evidence that any of the materials in the Archives at 1800 G Street are even under review. Nor has any inventory of materials in the Secret Service Archives been provided. The existence in the Archives of, for example, two boxes marked "John F. Kennedy Assassination"--not to mention significant materials at Suitland and Centre

Pointe--does not support your claim that the Secret Service has finished its search for and review of assassination records.

We disagree with your characterization of the discussion of the FOIA request. Once again, we request that you instruct all Secret Service officials to cooperate fully, completely, and truthfully with the Assassination Records Review Board. We also request that you review the JFK Act with all Secret Service officials responsible for locating and reviewing Secret Service records. Such a review should clarify your obligations under the statute--obligations that are as yet not fulfilled.

II.

In order to document the extent to which the Secret Service established appropriate guidelines for reviewing material in Accession 87-75-0004 (especially Box 1 and Box 6) after passage of the JFK Act of 1992, I am requesting the following information:

1. The names and titles of *all* Secret Service personnel (and others outside the Secret Service) who examined Boxes 1 and 6 of Accession number 87-75-0004 and concurred with the decision to destroy these records.

2. *All* notes, memoranda, reports and/or written documentation created by individuals who participated in the decision to destroy materials in Accession 87-75-0004. This should include all materials related to the revision of records schedule N1-87-89-1. (There is no need to duplicate materials enclosed with your July 31, 1995, letter.)

I am also formally requesting the following Files from Accession number 87-75-0004:

602.111 Other Places Folder #6-July-Nov. 1963
602.111 Key West, Fla. 3-26-61
602.111 New York 4-27-61

You should provide either the originals or clear, legible photocopies of all materials in these Files.

I am requesting that this material be provided to the Review Board staff no later than noon on Monday, August 14, 1995.

I appreciate your stated assurance that the United States Secret Service takes seriously the requirements of the JFK Act. To that end, we specifically request that you assure us that *no* Secret Service records related to President Kennedy or to his assassination be destroyed *until* the Review Board has received prior written notice and has had an opportunity to inspect the records.

I trust that you are willing to act promptly to remedy the issues identified in this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-724-0088.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Eljay B. Bowron
Director
United States Secret Service

Mr. John Kelleher
Chief Counsel
United States Secret Service