

September 11, 1995

Mr. Bill Adams
P.O. Box 24945
San Jose, CA 95154

Dear Mr. Adams:

This is in response to your letter of August 18, 1995 regarding your recent Freedom of Information Act requests. I would like to take this opportunity to address several of your concerns.

First, the Review Board and staff are completely committed to fulfilling our mandate to ensure that as complete a record as possible of the assassination of President Kennedy is made available to the American public.

Second, the Congress made clear that in seeking to fulfill its mandate the Review Board should take advantage of the vast knowledge that many members of the public have attained through years of hard work and research. Through public hearings, correspondence, mailings, and other means we have attempted to work with those many individuals who have acquired valuable knowledge.

Third, it is erroneous, inappropriate and without basis to even suggest that any individuals have been given improper access to classified information by the Review Board. That has simply not happened and never will happen.

Fourth, the Review Board has received thousands of correspondence regarding potential leads on the existence and location of assassination records. Contrary to your assertion, none of these leads have been ignored. Every piece of information the Review Board receives is being carefully reviewed. With regard to the information you provided to us, Jeremy Gunn, Associate Director for Research and Analysis, and Acting General Counsel, sought to discuss in further detail the information which you provided. However, you did not return his telephone call.

Fifth, you should be aware that the names FOIA requests are generally not protected as "confidential information." United States Department of Justice, Office of Information and Privacy, FOIA Update, 6 (Winter 1985). In fact, the Review Board could only refuse to disclose information about a FOIA request if we could show, under exemption 6 of the FOIA, that information being sought about a FOIA request constituted "personal and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly warranted invasion of privacy." 5 U.S.C. sec.552(b)(6).

Finally, it appears that the problems which you discuss in your letter are primarily with another

individual, not the Review Board and its staff. Resolution of these problems does not involve the Board.

We look forward to working with you and other researchers in a substantive relationship as we seek to achieve a common goal: a complete record of the assassination of President Kennedy for the American public.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director