

Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW ▪ 2nd Floor ▪ Washington, DC 20530

June 15, 1995

*Mr. Joseph Backes
9 Kaine Terrace
Albany, New York 12208-1215*

Dear Mr. Backes:

This is in response to your letter dated June 21, 1995, which was received at our office on June 22, 1995, regarding several matters.

First, per your request, I have enclosed the redacted versions of the 16 CIA documents which the Board voted to open in full, along with Record Identification Forms.

Second, the notification to President Clinton, the Board news release, and the Federal Register notice were sent to you in an earlier mailing, which you should have already received.

Third, the witness list for New Orleans is set. You will not have the opportunity to speak at the hearing. We are not seeking individuals to make judgments or offer opinions about Jim Garrison or anyone else. The Review Board is seeking assassination records or information which will lead to assassination records. Many of the witnesses have information

regarding the Garrison records. I should also note that the Board's focus on records in New Orleans will continue even after the public hearing.

Fourth, you may be surprised that no former members of the Garrison staff are speaking, but the fact is that several of them were interviewed, and, although cooperative, had nothing significant to offer the Board with regard to the search for records.

Fifth, the Review Board is in full compliance with all requirements regarding notification publication in the Federal Register. The Board has determined that it will go beyond those minimum requirements and directly mail to interested parties substantive information regarding the Board activities. The Board is under no

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obligation to send out every notification that appears in the Federal Register. Notification of open meetings, Board records determinations and other substantive actions and decisions will continue to be mailed to interested parties. The reaction among most researchers has been very positive about the Board's conscious efforts to keep people informed of its activities.

Sixth, as we did with the draft definition guidance on "assassination records," the final definition guidance will be mailed to everyone on our mailing list.

Seventh, there has not yet been a decision made on a site or a date for

another public hearing outside of Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the Review Board.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk, Esq.

Associate Director for Communications

enclosures