

NEWS RELEASE

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PRESIDENT AGREES WITH JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW
BOARD
ON RELEASE OF SOME FBI DOCUMENTS; OTHERS REMAIN CLOSED

The Assassination Records Review Board announced today that President Clinton has agreed with the Board on the release of some FBI documents, while ruling that others will remain closed.

"We are pleased that the President agreed with us on our decision to open up several of the FBI documents," said John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. "We stand by our decisions on the other FBI documents which the President has ruled will remain closed. The Review Board determinations are based on our application of the law and the required balancing of the public's right to know versus the protection of sensitive government information. We respect the President's decision and the process."

On July 31, 1995, President Clinton was notified that the Board had voted to open in full 10 FBI documents (six of which have duplicates). These documents relate to their investigation of Oswald while he was in the Soviet

Union in 1960 and 1961; the Communist Party, USA reaction to the assassination; and Jack Ruby's shooting of Oswald. The FBI appealed the Board's decision to the President on 9 of the 10 documents. President Clinton ruled that five of the documents will be opened up to the public and four will remain closed. The five documents which the President ruled should be opened up and the tenth documents on which the FBI did not appeal to the President will be made available to the public at the National Archives in the near future.

The Board also notified the President on July 31st that it voted to release in full two CIA documents related to Oswald's trip to Mexico City. The CIA had previously notified the Review Board that it was not appealing to the President on these documents. They will be publicly available in the near future.

The Assassination Records Review Board was established by the JFK Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.

The Review Board consists of the following members:

John R. Tunheim, Chair; Minnesota Chief Deputy Attorney General.

Dr. Henry F. Graff; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.

Dr. Kermit L. Hall; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.

Dr. William L. Joyce; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.

Dr. Anna K. Nelson; Adjunct Professor of History at American University.

The Review Board has until October 1, 1996 to fulfill its mandate, plus an additional year at the Board's discretion to complete its responsibilities.