

August 24, 1995

Mr. Steven Jones
117 Park View Drive
Landisville, PA 17538

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your letter of August 10, 1995 to Mr. John Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. Mr. Tunheim has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

During the course of the Board's existence, its members have heard from many individuals with different views on how the review and release of records should be conducted. The Congress envisioned input from members of the public and through public hearings, correspondence, consultation with individual researchers, and the experts meeting, the Board has received a lot of different advice. However, in the end the Board's decision-making process is governed by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (JFK Act). The Act contemplates that government records "should carry a presumption of immediate disclosure, and all records should be eventually disclosed." The Board is strongly committed to fulfilling its statutory burden to make its assessments independently. In most instances thus far, the Review Board had decided in favor of release of the previously redacted information. We are aware of no comparable effort in American history to disclose so much information that goes to the heart of the intelligence community's records.

Please be assured that the Review Board intends to follow the mandate provided in the JFK Act and work to achieve the proper balance between the statutory presumption favoring disclosure and protection of sensitive sources and methods. Again, thank you for writing and for your interest in the work of the Review Board.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk, Esq.
Associate Director for Communications