

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To: Jack Tunheim**

**From: Tom Samoluk**

**CC: David Marwell**

**Date: June 26, 1995**

**Re: Theme for Press Comments and Suggested Talking Points For Opening Statement**

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### **I. Introduction**

I have provided some suggested themes for comments to the press and some points that you could make in your opening statement. You will see the same themes repeated so we can have a consistent message.

### **II. Theme for Press Comments**

#### **1. Board Mandate**

- a. Our job is to identify and secure records of the assassination of President Kennedy and make them available to the American public at the National Archives.
- b. We hope to have a complete a record of the assassination as possible to allow the American public to make their own judgments about what happened on November 22, 1963.
- c. We are not conducting a re-investigation. Our mandate is to find the records and make them available.
- d. Our goal is to lift the veil of secrecy that has surrounded the assassination.
- e. Hopefully, when we have completed our work, this citizen board will have helped to renew public confidence in government.
- f. There will probably always be debate about the assassination, but this Board will ensure that people will of be able to say that the government is holding back records from the American public.

#### **2. Importance of City of New Orleans**

- a. The City of New Orleans holds an important place in the history surrounding ,the assassination because of the Garrison investigation, Lee Harvey Oswald lived here, and there were strong sentiments about Fidel Castro.

b. In addition to reviewing records held by federal agencies such as the CIA and the FBI, the Review Board is mandated to seek assassination records held by state or local agencies and in private hands.

### **3. Search for Records--Request for Help from the Public**

We are appealing to the public in New Orleans to help us if they know of the existence and location of records related to the assassination.

Records in public or private hands in the New Orleans area could be a critical part of the history of the assassination.

## **II. Opening Statement**

### **1. History of Board**

### **2. Board Vote on CIA Release**

### **3. Final Definition in Register Today, June 28th**

### **4. Purpose of Public Hearings**

- a. Congressional intent
- b. Public Sees Us Working
- c. Gathering information

### **5. Help from Public**

- a. Beyond these witness today, we want to hear from the public if they know of the existence and/or location of assassination records

### **6. Future**

- a. We will continue to review federal records and search for other records
- b. It is a big task but an important one to help restore confidence in Government

### **7. Garrison files**

Donated by the Garrison family; appreciate their making these available as part of the collection