

May 16, 1997

Mr. John Machado
Chief, Policy Analysis and
Records Systems Branch
United States Secret Service
1310 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: LBJ Library Records with Secret Service Equities

Dear John:

I am writing in response to your letter of April 29, 1997, with particular reference to your statements regarding "LBJ Library Status." It appears from your letter that there may be a misunderstanding, which I would like to have us rectify promptly.

It is the Review Board's understanding that, in 1993, the LBJ Library designated a set of Secret Service documents as "assassination records" under the JFK Act. The LBJ Library prepared Record Identification Forms (RIFs) for some (or all) of the documents and the documents appear on the LBJ Library's inventory. It is our understanding that the Secret Service was notified of the existence of these documents in 1993 and that the records were made available to you personally when you visited the LBJ Library at least two years ago. It is also our understanding that after you examined the records at the Library in Austin you informed the Library that the records could be opened. Since that time, the LBJ Library has been awaiting written confirmation. During the past year, we have been urging you to send a letter to the LBJ Library informing them that, as you had said orally, the records could be opened.

We are, of course, surprised that you are now suggesting, for the first time, that the Review Board should now designate the documents "assassination records" prior to a Secret Service review. We find that such a step is unnecessary. Because these records were designated assassination records several years ago, there is no need for the Review Board to take the action you propose of further designating the records. As with any other records referred to you by a Federal agency, you should have reviewed them under the JFK Act and forward the results of your review to the LBJ Library.

Because we have now been waiting for at least two years for the Secret Service to act on these records, we believe that it is now timely to submit them directly to the Board. Accordingly, all LBJ

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Library records with Secret Service equities will be reviewed by the Board at its upcoming meeting on July 9-10. If the Secret Service has any evidence that it wishes to supply in support of any postponements, it should make that information available to the Review Board staff by July 2. Otherwise, we anticipate that the Review Board will likely open the records in full.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if my understanding of any of the issues above is incorrect or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Tina Houston, LBJ Library
Ms. Jane Vezeris, USSS
Donald Personette, Esq., USSS