

August 21, 1995

W. Ralph Basham
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Office of Administration
United States Secret Service
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20223

Donald Personette, Esq.
Deputy Chief Counsel
Office of Chief Counsel
United States Secret Service
1800 G Street, N.W.
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Dear Messrs. Basham and Personette:

I would like to thank you again for coming to our offices on August 16, 1995, and discussing with us the issues related to Secret Service assassination records. We appreciate your forwarding to us documents responsive to our August 7 letter.¹ We found that the meeting ended on a very positive note and we hope to be able to work together until our task is completed. I would like to record our understanding of some of the major points of agreement.

First, the Secret Service will ensure that no records related to presidential protection for the years 1958 through 1969 will be destroyed until after the Review Board has had an opportunity to review

¹We are, however, still awaiting a response to our first question on page two of the August 7, 1995 letter, where we requested a list of names and titles of all those who were involved in the decision to allow the two boxes at issue to be destroyed.

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them to verify that no assassination records are included. In addition, the Secret Service will not destroy any other records that may be related to the Kennedy assassination (including, for example, records related to Secret Service communications with the Warren Commission, the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the Pike Committee, the Church Committee, the Rockefeller Commission, et cetera).

Second, now that the Secret Service has a more complete understanding of what constitutes an "assassination record," it will once again review its records to determine whether any should now be designated for inclusion in the JFK Collection at the National Archives.² We understand that this new review will include, at a minimum, the (approximately) 110 cubic feet of presidential protection records, the Secret Service's "historical accessions" mentioned by John Machado, the Secret Service Archives, and other records from within the Secret Service that would have a bearing on the assassination.

Third, the Secret Service has agreed to allow our Senior Analyst, Dr. Joan Zimmerman, complete access to your records at Centre Point (and elsewhere) in order for her to make an assessment of the possible bearing of such records on the assassination.

Fourth, for the assassination records for which the Secret Service has proposed postponements under the JFK Act, the Secret Service will forward to the Review Board the original records as soon as they have been reviewed.

As we acknowledged in the meeting, we fully understand and accept your interest in ensuring that no documents are released that would compromise presidential protection. As we have mentioned before, our professional staff is in possession of current security clearances and we will take all appropriate measures to safeguard the records and ensure full compliance with the law.

²We note that the Secret Service now has the Review Board's definition of "assassination records" as well as a better understanding that any documents reviewed by the HSCA (as well as other committees) were defined as "assassination records" by the JFK Act. (I am enclosing some copies of documents from the HSCA that describe some of the Secret Service records that were reviewed by HSCA staff members.)

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I am also enclosing a copy of a letter of today's date addressed to Mr. Machado, wherein we request some clarification and follow-up of some other points that were raised at the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

T. Jeremy Gunn

Acting General Counsel and

Associate Director for Research and Analysis

cc: (w/enclosures)

John Machado, Chief of Policy Analysis and Records Systems

Jane W. Vezeris, Deputy Assistant Director

William R. Keefe, Chief of Management and Organization

Enclosures