

May 30, 1996

Mr. Joseph Backes
9 Kaine Terrace
Albany, New York 12208-1215

Dear Mr. Backes:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your May 29, 1996 letter that you faxed to the Review Board and was received on May 30, 1996. I will respond to your questions and points for which a response is appropriate.

First, there has not been a news release on the film the Review Board acquired because it has not been made a part of the JFK Collection yet. The Deed of Gift from the donor is still being processed.

Second, CBS and the Dallas Morning News were aware of the film before the Review Board and CBS personnel and a Dallas Morning News reporter had it in hand before Review Board staff. CBS and The Dallas Morning News cooperation with the Board did not interfere with our efforts to acquire the film for the JFK Collection. The film is being donated to the Collection and will be housed at the National Archives. Copies of the film should be available to the public from the National Archives within several weeks. CBS is not making any claims relative to the film and the donor has put no restrictions on the donation of the film.

Third, Richard Trask is not an employee of the Review Board. His status was incorrectly reported in an Associated Press story.

Fourth, the Board is engaged in an ongoing effort to acquire additional films and photographs which are relevant to the assassination of President Kennedy. The recent acquisition of the 16 mm film resulted directly from the donor reading a Dallas Morning News article earlier this month in which Chairman Tunheim emphasized that we were interested in assassination records, including films and photographs, that were in private hands. We are aware of the various potential sources of other films and photographs.

Fifth, there has been no release of records from the JFK Presidential Library by the Review Board. As is the case with the release of all records by the Review Board, when any records from the JFK Library are released there will be public notification.

Sixth, you should have received notification of a short open meeting on June 4, 1996 at 2:00 p.m. Be advised that this will not be a lengthy session. Certain technical matters will be dealt with that must be conducted in public to stay in compliance with the law.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk, Esq.
Associate Director for Communications