

July 15, 1996

Ms. Penny Circle
Office of President Gerald R. Ford
P.O. Box 7090
Avon, Colorado 81620

Dear Ms. Circle:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with Thomas Samoluk of the Review Board staff today regarding the possibility of President Ford testifying at a public hearing scheduled for Los Angeles on Tuesday, September 17, 1996.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with additional information about the Assassination Records Review Board. It is an independent federal agency created by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL 102-526) to oversee the review and release of records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. President Bush signed the Act into law and President Clinton appointed the five members of the Board in April 1994. I have enclosed a fact sheet on the Review Board for your information. A complete information packet is being sent to you by mail.

In an effort to fulfill the clear intent of the Congress, the Review Board has reached out to knowledgeable parties and heard testimony at public hearings conducted in Washington, Dallas, Boston and New Orleans. President Ford's presence at the hearing in Los Angeles would be an invaluable opportunity for the Review Board and the public to hear from a member of the Warren Commission. The Board is particularly interested in hearing about President Ford's service with the Warren Commission and learning about the possible existence of additional records that should be available to the American public at the National Archives.

As I am sure you are aware, in 1992 President Ford strongly urged the release of all records concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. His public support for the release of the records was an important reason for the passage of the legislation that created both the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection and the Assassination Records Review Board.

Again, thank you for your time and cooperation. The members of the Review Board appreciate your consideration and hope that President Ford will be able to appear at the hearing on September 17th. Please call me at (202) 724-0088, ext. 232, and advise me if additional steps are required and whether or not a formal invitation to President Ford is appropriate at this time. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

enclosure