

N E W S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAY 15, 1996

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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD
DECISIONS ON 13 DOCUMENTS APPEALED BY FBI

The Assassination Records Review Board announced today that, pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, the FBI has appealed to the President the recent decisions of the Board to release information contained in 13 documents.

The information contained in the redacted portions of the documents has to do with intelligence sources and methods. The Review Board found that public interest in the information outweighed the evidence that the FBI offered in support of postponing release of the information.

Redacted versions of the 13 FBI documents (and duplicates) are currently available to the public at the National Archives. The Review Board voted on these documents at its March 19, 1996 meeting. Under the Board determinations, two documents would be released immediately, with certain source symbol numbers redacted; ten documents would be released in full on August 1, 1996, and one document would be released on August 1, 1996, with a redacted source symbol number. The Review Board will file a brief

with the President in support of its position on these documents.

With the recent transfer of an additional 16, 679 pages to the National Archives, the FBI has now placed more than 641, 000 pages of records into The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection.

The Review Board was established by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates. The Review Board has until October 1, 1997 to fulfill its mandate.

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MAY 21, 1996

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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD FILES BRIEF
IN APPEAL INVOLVING 13 FBI DOCUMENTS

The Assassination Records Review Board filed a brief today in connection with an FBI appeal to the President involving the release of information in 13 documents that were the subject of recent Board decisions.

The Review Board determined that the public interest in the release of the information in these records outweighed the evidence that the FBI offered in support of postponing release of the information. The FBI's position is that disclosure of the information contained in the documents would reveal investigative or surveillance techniques used to gather important information from foreign countries.

The 13 FBI documents (and duplicates) are currently available to the public at the National Archives with redactions. The Review Board voted on these documents at its March 19, 1996 meeting. Under the Board determinations, two documents would be released immediately, except for source symbol numbers; ten documents would be released in full on August 1, 1996, and one document would be released on August 1, 1996, except for a source symbol number.

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