

March x, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

The Assassination Records Review Board has voted to release more than 1,000 JFK assassination records, in full or in part, since June 1995. As a result, a significant body of previously withheld information has been made available to the American public.

Each time the Review Board makes a decision, it weighs the public's interest in the record, the statutory presumption favoring release, and the specific grounds for which a record might continue to be postponed under the JFK Act. The Board is making unprecedented decisions about disclosing information that goes to the heart of the intelligence community's records. There is no comparable effort in American history involving an independent board deciding what should be made available to the public.

I wanted to take this opportunity to apprise the public of the status of a small number of FBI documents. On January 30 and January 31, 1996, the Review Board voted to release 108 FBI documents (including duplicates), 42 in full and 66 in part. As mandated by the JFK Act, the Board's formally notified the President and the FBI of its determinations. Subsequently, we have been advised that the Bureau is requesting that the President keep closed (X NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS) which the Board voted to open. As you may be aware, the JFK Act states that:

After the Review Board has made a formal determination concerning the public disclosure or postponement of disclosure of an executive branch assassination record or information within such a record, or of any information contained in an assassination record, obtained or developed solely within the executive branch, the President shall have the sole and nondelegable authority to require the disclosure or postponement of such record[s] or information ..."

Please be assured that we are committed to keeping you informed about this and other matters related to the Board's work. In addition, we continue to work hard to achieve the proper balance between the statutory presumption favoring disclosure and the protection of intelligence sources and methods, when appropriate.

Sincerely,

John R. Tunheim

Chairman