

Fax Transmission

To: Anna Nelson Date: July 18, 2017
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From: Tom Samoluk
Subject: Suggested Cuba Documents Talking Points

COMMENTS:

Anna:

The following is an attempt to memorialize some of the talking points we discussed today:

1. The mandate of the Assassination Records Review Board is to make the history surrounding the assassination as complete as possible for the American public.
2. Our job is not to characterize the records we release, but to enrich the record of the assassination -- for others to interpret and analyze.
3. Today the Board is releasing approximately 1,500 pages of previously classified military records from 1962-64 that relate to U.S. policy toward Cuba.
4. The Board aggressively sought to uncover records on U.S. foreign policy, as well as other relevant areas, that put the assassination into its historical context.
5. These military documents further expand the historical record by illustrating the United States government's deep interest in developing a policy that would force Castro from power during the early 1960's.
6. We now have a new window into the policy options toward Cuba that were being considered and debated at the highest levels of the military services.
7. Previously, a lot of records from the State Department and the CIA had been released on Cuba from the 1960's. Now we are beginning to see the military records that will be critical to get the complete picture on the U.S. policy toward Cuba.
8. One reason these records are significant is simply because they are new.

9. Without the Board's efforts and the mandate that it has to make the history surround the assassination as complete as possible, there is no telling how long it would have been before these records were made public.

As we discussed, one question that could be asked is, why is the Review Board releasing these records or what do these records have to with the assassination?

I suggest that the response is the following:

The context of the assassination is important to the historical record. There has been so much obvious controversy regarding the assassination, the Board believed that if it defined the scope of assassination records, and its mandate, too narrowly, many questions would be left unanswered about the events surrounding the assassination which are thought to be relevant. Thus, the Board defined records such as the ones being released today as being relevant to the assassination. The result is a fuller record of the assassination.