

August 29, 1997

Mr. Andrew Haywood  
President  
CBS News  
524 West 57th Street  
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Haywood:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Assassination Records Review Board, the independent federal agency responsible for compiling records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In addition to overseeing the review and public release of assassination records held by federal agencies, the Review Board has the responsibility of determining whether there are records in private hands that would supplement the existing historical record of the assassination.

As you may be aware, in May 1996, the Review Board and staff worked very closely and successfully with Mr. Dan Rather, Ms. Mary Mapes and Mr. Al Ortiz of CBS News in connection with a donation of Dallas TV station KTVT film outtakes from the day of the assassination. These out takes, most of which had never been seen by the vast majority of the American public, were the subject of two CBS Evening News stories and have been made a part of The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection (JFK Collection), which is housed at the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Review Board would like to request the cooperation of CBS News again, as we seek to fulfill our mandate to make the historical record of the assassination of President Kennedy as complete as possible. I believe that you may be able to further the Board's efforts.

The extensive CBS News coverage of the assassination in 1963 and subsequent special programs on the assassination in 1964, 1967, and 1975, are an important part of the historical record. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss the possibility of making relevant film and videotapes from the CBS archives a part of the JFK Collection. This would be a major donation to the Collection and represent public recognition of the unique role that CBS had played in chronicling the history of the Kennedy assassination. Furthermore, it would serve as a model for other media outlets and individuals in possession of important materials related to the assassination.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss any thoughts you have with regard to our request. I can be reached at (612) 430-0979. If you would like to have a member of your staff speak with a senior member of the Review Board staff, Thomas Samoluk, Associate Director, is the appropriate person. He can be reached at (202) 724-0088, ext. 227.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

John R. Tunheim  
Chair