

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 29, 1998
253

CONTACT: EILEEN SULLIVAN
(202) 724-0088, EXT.

JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD RELEASES ADDITIONAL MILITARY RECORDS RELATED TO U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA FROM 1962-63

The Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal agency overseeing the identification, review, and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, today released an additional 600 pages of previously classified military records from 1962-63 that relate to U.S. policy toward Cuba.

“These military records further demonstrate how high on the U.S. government’s radar screen getting rid of the Castro government was in the early 1960’s,” said Judge John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. “However, the records also show a sobering dose of reality through discussion of what would be minimally acceptable for the U.S. to live with Castro. Nearly 35 years later, the Review Board is seeking to ensure that the historical record surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy is fully available to the American public.”

The mandate of the Review Board is to make the record surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy as complete as possible. The Board has aggressively sought to uncover records on U.S. foreign policy that put the assassination into its historical context and previously released records related to U.S. foreign policy toward Cuba, as well as Vietnam.

The Review Board worked cooperatively with representatives from the Department of Defense (DOD) and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to locate records stored at NARA that met the definition of being “assassination related.” The documents being released today are from the files of Joseph Califano, who served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army during this period.

The records have been transferred to NARA for inclusion in the JFK Collection, which is housed at the NARA facility in College Park, Maryland. These documents are now available to researchers.

-more-

Copies of selected documents are available from the Assassination Records Review Board, 600 E

Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20530; telephone number: (202) 724-0088.

The Assassination Records Review Board was established by the JFK 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 consists of the following members:

Honorable John R. Tunheim, Chair; U.S. District Court Judge, District of Minnesota.

Dr. Henry F. Graff; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.

Dr. Kermit L. Hall; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.

Dr. William L. Joyce; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.

Dr. Anna K. Nelson; Distinguished Adjunct Historian in Residence at The American University.