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Associated Press Writer WASHINGTON (AP) -- The FBI has withdrawn appeals to President Clinton opposing the release of previously classified information related to the investigation into President Kennedy's assassination. In a letter to White House counsel Jack Quinn, Howard Shapiro, FBI general counsel, said the appeals were withdrawn ``after carefully considering the matters raised'' by the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent body compiling a public record of the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination. The FBI had argued that releasing the information, which is contained in two sets of documents, would prejudice current foreign counterintelligence operations and harm foreign relations. But the board had argued that public interest in the records outweighed secrecy concerns. The documents include a May 1960 report on the investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald and his family while Oswald was residing in Russia, foreign government reactions to the assassination and coverage of the assassination by foreign correspondents. Also discussed are critics of the Warren Commission, which concluded that Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy, and former New Orleans' District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of businessman Clay Shaw, who was acquitted of conspiracy charges. Other FBI records' appeals are pending, but the bureau's position on those records is also being reviewed, Shapiro said. Thousands of assassination-related records released by the FBI, CIA, the board and other agencies are held in the National Archives' President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection in College Park, Md. AP-NY-12-16-96 2001EST Copyright 1996 The Associated Press. The information contained in the AP news report may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or otherwise distributed without prior written authority of The Associated Press.

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