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**Subject:** Bad FBI News

Carol Keeley called me a few minutes ago and reported, officially, that the FBI's position is that it will not be able to complete its JFK work during this Fiscal Year. We had a cordial 20-minute conversation during which the following points were raised:-- I asked why we had not been notified earlier. She responded that she and John Collingwood had told David and Jack, during the time reauthorization was being sought, that the FBI would not be able to finish. I said that I had never been told this, and, in any case, we had sent communications to the FBI that clearly articulated our goal and that the FBI had never contested it. She said that a draft FBI letter had been prepared in October 1997 stating that the FBI would not be able to finish, but that she did not know why it had not been sent. She said that some changes are being made to it now and that it will be sent shortly.-- I said that I thought that she should have hired sufficient personnel a few months ago. She responded that it would have taken too long to train them.-- She said that they had been considering how the work could be completed after the Review Board goes out of business. -- We discussed the Board's ultimate weapon: voting to release unreviewed documents. I said that it was my understanding that the Board was prepared to do this. I said that if this step were to be taken, we would want to vote on the least sensitive records and spend our time reviewing the more sensitive records on a document-by-document basis. She agreed that we should attempt to prioritize. Laura and I will be meeting with Burton's staff tomorrow at 2:00. We will be meeting with Carol and LuAnn on Thursday. I perceive this as a very serious and very significant matter. I communicated to Carol that we wish to be responsible about this, but that we also want to complete our work as required by Congress and as we have promised Congress.

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