

November, 1996

Honorable Robin H. Cole
Clerk of the House of Representatives
H-154
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510
Attention: John Kornacki

Re: Compliance with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V. 1994)

Dear Mr. Cole:

I am writing on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal agency created by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994) ("JFK Act" or "Act"). The JFK Act requires that all government offices, including Congressional committees, identify all records in their possession related to the assassination of President Kennedy and process them for inclusion in the JFK Collection or postponement as allowed under the Act. By terms of the Act, each government office was to have completed this designation process by mid-1993. I am enclosing a copy of the JFK Act for your review.

The Review Board has learned, through Steve Tilley, Curator of the JFK Collection at National Archives II, that your office oversees access to the records of the House Un-American Activities Committee ("HUAC") and the Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee ("Abzug Committee"). We also understand that no HUAC or Abzug Committee records have been designated pursuant to the JFK Act.

Although we cannot be certain to what extent HUAC or Abzug Committee records include assassination records, we do have evidence indicating that at least some significant assassination records exist in these files. For example, Francis McNamara, a former HUAC staff director, has informed the Review Board of an investigative trip to Dallas by HUAC staff shortly after the assassination. Other Review Board correspondence and research confirm McNamara's recollection of such a trip. Clearly, any HUAC records related to this trip require processing under the JFK Act. Similarly, any records generated pursuant to the hearing held by the Abzug Committee regarding "National Archives-Security Classification Problems Involving Warren Commission Files and Other Records" also need processing under the Act. The Review Board has evidence of additional Abzug Committee inquiries related to the Kennedy assassination.

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In order to ensure full compliance with the JFK Act, we would like to ask you to designate an official in your office who can act as a liaison with the Review Board. Please have your designee contact T. Jeremy Gunn, our General Counsel, or Brian E. Rosen, an attorney and Senior Analyst in our office working with Congressional committee records.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future and working with your designee in implementing the JFK Act. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Steve Tilley, National Archives II