

February 21, 1997

Taylor Lawrence  
Staff Director  
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence  
211 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board ("Review Board"). As you may be aware, the Review Board is an independent Federal agency established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. §2107 (Supp. V. 1994) ("JFK Act") and charged with the responsibility of identifying, collecting and declassifying records related to the assassination of President Kennedy for inclusion in the JFK Collection at National Archives II. The JFK Act specifically cites the Church Committee as a source of assassination records. Sect. 3(2)(C).

The JFK Collection currently contains forty-one boxes of Church Committee records processed under the JFK Act. Forty of these boxes were processed from October of 1993 to September of 1994. Subsequently, the National Archives and Records Administration ("NARA") and the Review Board identified numerous additional unprocessed Church Committee assassination records, including several records cited in the footnotes to Book V of the Church Committee Report ("The Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: Performance of the Intelligence Agencies"). In two meetings regarding Senate Select Committee on Intelligence compliance with the JFK Act, in March and October of 1996, representatives of NARA and the Review Board reiterated our request that the remaining identified records be processed under the JFK Act. Indeed, NARA and Review Board staff offered assistance in locating and processing the outstanding records and proposed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate this process. However, the vast majority of these records remain unprocessed.

In order to ensure full SSCI compliance with the JFK Act, we would like to schedule a meeting of SSCI, NARA and Review Board staffs to discuss processing of the outstanding Church Committee assassination records. A member of the Review Board staff will be contacting you in the near future to arrange this meeting. If you have any questions regarding these issues, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell  
Executive Director