

March 6, 1998

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Harry J. Middleton  
Director  
Lyndon Baines Johnson Library  
2313 Red River Street  
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Mr. Middleton:

As you are aware, the Review Board's tenure is coming to a close in September. With little more than six months left on our clock, we are now concentrating our efforts on gaining closure on a number of outstanding issues we have with the presidential libraries and other federal agencies. Based on the progress made thus far, I am confident that the Johnson Library will be able to meet its goals established under the JFK Act Compliance Program. We have been very pleased with the work and assistance that Tina Houston and her staff have provided on behalf of the Review Board and would like to express our sincere appreciation for their efforts. However, while the processing of assassination records is going smoothly, the status of the tapes of the conversations between Jacqueline Kennedy and President Johnson remains an unresolved issue of great interest to the Board. The Board is strongly in favor of opening these tapes to the public and has expressed concern about the delay in getting them released.

Tina Houston also has been keeping us advised of the status of the Jacqueline Kennedy tapes. When we last inquired about this matter in mid-February, Ms. Houston indicated that while no decision had been made to open these tapes, you were in the process of sending a letter to the General Counsel at NARA to seek further advice. It is our understanding that you are concerned about any privacy restrictions that would govern release of these tapes.

Due to our time limitations, we are planning to present all remaining issues concerning presidential library records to the Board for our April 13 meeting. In light of this, we request that a decision regarding the Mrs. Kennedy tapes be made before that date in order for the Board to take appropriate action. If you are unable to reach a decision by that date, please let me know before the end of March. I would be happy to discuss this matter with you if you would find that helpful.

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Thank you for your cooperation with our work.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

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