

DRAFT

August 9, 1996

The Honorable James H. Billington
Librarian of Congress
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20540-1000

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

Dear Mr. Billington:

I am writing on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal agency charged with the collection and processing of records relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, to request that you inform us of a contact person in your agency with whom we can work in implementing the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (JFK Act).

The Library of Congress is presumably possessed of assassination records and, under the JFK Act, should have long since processed such records and forwarded them to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for inclusion in the JFK Collection housed at NARA II in College Park. It has recently come to the Review's Board attention that NARA has yet to receive any assassination records from the Library.

It is our understanding that, in late 1992, the Library was in receipt of a letter from NARA, identical to the sample I've attached, drawing the Library's attention to the then-new statute and asking the Library to send a representative to a NARA-sponsored meeting to discuss implementation of the JFK Act. As the Library sent no representative to this meeting, I have enclosed some explanatory information about the statute for your review.

It is important that the Library initiate steps to bring itself into compliance with the statute as soon as possible, and we would be happy to work with your designee toward that end.

The Review Board is less concerned with the Library's no doubt vast holdings of secondary literature regarding the assassination. Our main interest lies with primary material which should be processed under the JFK Act. The papers of former Chief Justice Earl Warren, to cite just example, can be assumed to contain important assassination records which should be part of the JFK Collection.

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Another likely source of assassination records would be the files of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). In the late 1970's, for instance, CRS undertook various research tasks for the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), and records generated in the course of these efforts are clearly assassination records under the JFK Act. We have taken the liberty of contacting CRS directly relative to these and related records, and a copy of my letter to Mr. Ross is attached.

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

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures