

March 31, 1997

The Honorable Charles F.C. Ruff
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: FBI Appeal of JFK Assassination Records Review Board Determinations Concerning Release of FBI Documents

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Dear Chuck:

I would first like to congratulate you on your new position. I cannot imagine a better choice for the President to have made. (Every time I land at National Airport I am reminded of our adventurous return from Boston and the the pilot's understated remark about "the noise that some of you may have noticed.")

I am writing specifically in response to Howard Shapiro's letter to you dated March 25, 1997, regarding the Bureau's efforts to work with the Assassination Records Review Board to comply with the standards of the JFK Act. Although the Review Board has had differences with the Bureau regarding the release of information under the Act -- as evidenced by the lengthy appeal process that is now concluded -- we have nevertheless greatly appreciated the cooperation and effort made by the Bureau generally and by Howard Shapiro in particular. Although the Review Board's analysis of what is properly classifiable information may vary from time to time with that of the Bureau, we see the differences as those between agencies with different missions but which have a mutual desire to satisfy both the letter and the spirit of the JFK Act.

With best wishes,

T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel and
Associate Director for Research and Analysis

cc: The Honorable Jamie Gorelick

Howard M. Shapiro