

MEMORANDUM

May 21, 1998

To: Review Board

From: Jeremy Gunn

Subject: Final Report Findings and Recommendations

At the last meeting, the Board requested that I circulate a notice in preparation for its June 4 discussion of the Final Report chapter on Findings and Recommendations. I have identified below some of the potential topic areas where the Board may wish to consider making recommendations.

After reviewing these areas, please send to our offices potential findings and recommendations that you think the Board should consider at the June 4 meeting. I would recommend, at this point, that you identify as many different potential recommendations as you can and that you let the discussion be the place for winnowing and refining. Your suggestions need be nothing more than written bullet points suggesting topics for the agenda.

Please return your written suggestions to me by Tuesday, June 2, at 12:00 noon so that we can collate your responses and fax a working draft of points back to you by June 3.

Topics

What are the most important lessons that have been learned?

Was it worth doing?

Could it have been done without having an independent agency oversee the process?

What were the biggest obstacles?

How could the JFK Act have worked better?

What powers should the Board have had that it did not have?

How effective are government policies on classification?

How effective are government policies on declassification?

How aware are agencies about what information is and is not in the public domain?

How cooperative were agencies with the Review Board?

Should there be new legislation or changes in the laws?

Revisions to FOIA

Revisions to Executive Order 12958

Creation of a permanent body like the Review Board to oversee declassification

Should there be recommendations for declassification of particular categories of records? (e.g., Church Committee, CIA Directorate of Operations, other specific topics, or is it better to engage only in agency-wide systematic declassification)

Improving the declassification process at agencies

Third-agency referral

Simplifying review

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