

August 21, 1995

Basham

Persinette

Dear Messrs. Basham and Persinette [verify spelling]:

I would like to thank you again for coming to our offices on August 16, 1995, and discussing with us the issues related to Secret Service assassination records. We appreciate your forwarding to us documents responsive to our _____ letter. We found that the meeting ended on a very positive note and we hope to be able to work together until our work is completed. I would like to record our understanding of some of the major points of agreement.

First, the Secret Service will ensure that no records related to presidential protection from the years 1958 to 1969 will be destroyed until after the Review Board has had an opportunity to review them to verify that no assassination records are included. In addition, the Secret Service will not destroy any other records that may be related to the Kennedy assassination (including, for example, records related to Secret Service communications with the Warren Commission, the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the Pike Committee, the Church Committee, the Rockefeller Commission, et cetera).

Second, now that the Secret Service has a more complete understanding of what constitutes an "assassination record," it will once again review its records to determine whether any should now be designated for inclusion in the JFK Collection at the National Archives.¹ We understand that this new review will include, at a minimum, the (approximately) 110 cubic feet of presidential protection records, the Secret Service's "historical accessions" mentioned by John Machado, the Secret Service Archives, and other records from within the Secret Service that would have a bearing on the assassination.

¹We note that the Secret Service now has the Review Board's definition of "assassination records" as well as a better understanding that any documents reviewed by the HSCA (as well as other committees) were defined as "assassination records" by the JFK Act. (I am enclosing some copies of documents from the HSCA that describe some of the Secret Service records that were reviewed by HSCA staff members.)

Third, the Secret Service has agreed to allow our Senior Analyst, Dr. Joan Zimmerman, complete access to your records at Centre Point (and elsewhere) in order for her to make an assessment of the possible bearing of such records on the assassination.

Fourth, for the assassination records for which the Secret Service has proposed postponements under the JFK Act, the Secret Service will forward to the Review Board the original records.

As we acknowledged in the meeting, we fully understand and accept your interest in ensuring that no actions are taken that would compromise presidential protection. As we have mentioned before, our professional staff is in possession of current security clearances and we will take all appropriate measures to ensure full compliance with the law.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter of today's date addressed to Mr. Machado, wherein we request some clarification and follow-up of some other points that were raised at the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Acting General Counsel

Enclosures
cc: John Machado

August 21, 1995

John Machado

Dear John:

I was pleased that the August 16 meeting was able to resolve some of the difficulties that we have been experiencing. I am enclosing your copy of my letter of today's date to Messrs. Basham and Persinette.

There were a few matters about which we were not clear after the meeting. I would appreciate your clarifying them for me.

First, we were not certain what kinds of assassination records are included in the two "JFK Assassination" boxes in the Secret Service Archives. I was under the impression that you had said that only press clippings were included, although Dr. Zimmerman recalls having seen several other items, including, for example, several folders on presidential trips, a transcript of some testimony, as well as some photographs. Could you please clarify what is in the boxes?

Second, we understood you to say in the meeting that the "shift reports" contain no redactions and that they are available in full at the National Archives. Did we understand you correctly?

Third, you mentioned some "historical accessions," but we did not understand to what you were referring. Could you please explain what these mean in terms of assassination records?

Fourth, we were not clear from your comments whether you *carefully* reviewed material from the two boxes before they were destroyed, or whether you merely skimmed it. Could you please let us know how carefully you reviewed the material from those boxes and whether you took any notes in the process?

Fifth, I was under the impression that the Secret Service maintains inventories of records in addition to the 135 forms, but I understood you to say that you have only 135s. Could you please clarify this issue for me?

Sixth, we would like to be certain whether the Secret Service newsletter *The Record* contains any assassination material. Could you determine this for us?

Seventh, we understood you to say that the Andrews Air Force Base files from November 22, 1963, have been saved. Could you let us know where they are so that we can review them?

In response to your request about our basis for believing that the HSCA staff reviewed some of the Secret Service records that were destroyed -- and were thus "assassination records within the JFK Act -- I am enclosing a few memoranda that we have been able to find.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Acting General Counsel

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