March 13, 1996

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Marvin (US Army, Ret.)
715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

Dear Colonel Marvin:

I recently joined the staff of the Assassination Records Review Board as its Chief Analyst for Military Records. I have in my possession the package of materials you sent to ARRB Chairman John Tunheim in September 1995 as well as your February 1996 letter to him.

Perhaps it would be helpful for me to begin by explaining the ARRB's legal mandate. The ARRB was established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp V, 1994). The Review Board, whose members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is primarily concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating, and acquiring assassination records for inclusion in the JFK Records Collection in the National Archives. It is not conducting an investigation into President Kennedy's death, nor will it generate any report regarding its findings. By the same token, it is not empowered to seek information regarding any activities unrelated to the assassination of JFK. I provide this explanation so you will understand why the ARRB is interested in your information and recollections only as they relate to the assassination of President Kennedy.

Let me turn to your allegations regarding the Kennedy assassination. I have carefully studied the materials you previously sent to Judge Tunheim. At this time we are not able to send a member of our staff to meet with you at your home in New York as you requested. Given that limitation, you could be most helpful if you would provide us with additional information in response to the following questions:

1. Please provide full details, including any documentary support, regarding your encounter with a "Mafia don" in January 1965, during which you say this individual told of being asked by the CIA in 1963 to assist in the murder of President Kennedy. (Who was this "Mafia don"? Where and why did the meeting take place? Why do you think he was willing to tell you this? Did you have any other contact with him, before or after this incident? Regarding the alleged request to him from the CIA: how was he approached, and why did he think the request originated with the CIA? Who was it that contacted him?) Are you aware of any means by which the veracity of his remark could be established?

2. Please provide full details regarding the incident in August, 1965 in which you said that "a CIA operative" requested that you "terminate" U.S. Navy LCDR William Bruce Pitzer. (When and where did this encounter take place? Who was the "CIA operative?" How did he identify himself and

establish his bona fides? What did he specifically say, and what did you specifically say in response? Why do you think this individual selected you for this request? Did you discuss this request with anyone else at the time?)

3. In your "Chronology of U.S. Government Sponsored Assassinations and Their Cover-up," you state that you attended a special course in assassination techniques at Fort Bragg during which the murder of President Kennedy was cited as "illustrative of how a nation's leader could be assassinated and a psychotic 'lone wolf' be held responsible." Please provide full details regarding this presentation. (Who taught it? What specifically did they say? Whom did they suggest was responsible for the assassination? Did they distribute any hand-outs or use any training aids? What do you recall of the "film footage and photographs taken in Dealy Plaza" that were displayed? Have you ever seen that same film or those photos since that time in any other place or medium? Could you recognize the film/photos if you saw them again?)

For a segment of the television documentary *The Men Who Killed Kennedy* devoted to your recollections, you provided the film's producers a copy of TDY orders apparently dating from your attendance at this Fort Bragg course. Please provide us a copy of those orders, and indicate which (if any) of the other personnel shown on them also attended the assassination training and might have recollections similar to yours. Please provide us as well with the names of anyone else who might have knowledge of this matter (for example, the commander of the Special Forces training detachment to which you were assigned at that time).

Finally, with respect to the death of William Bruce Pitzer, I appreciate the fact that LCDR Pitzer's untimely death is a matter of intense personal concern to you. However, I frankly was unable to see what evidence you have to support your allegation that Pitzer was murdered. (Omissions or inconsistencies in the record surrounding his suicide and its investigation, in and of themselves, do not necessarily mean he was murdered.)

Before we can pursue this matter further, you will have to provide us concrete evidence that Pitzer did not take his own life. As you can well imagine, we receive many "leads" that consist of little more than hearsay, speculation or opinion; in order to follow-up, we need to have substantial evidence. I tell you this candidly because I know a man of your character and integrity would not want to be patronized. Furthermore, out of respect your many years of service on behalf of our nation, I feel you deserve straight answers.

I look forward to reviewing your answers to the questions given above. Please feel free to contact me at the ARRB offices if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy A. Wray
Chief Analyst for Military Records