

September 29, 1995

Mr. K. Brian London, Director
Office of Investigations
United States Customs Service
1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20229

Re: United States Customs Service's Compliance with the JFK Assassination Records
Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

Dear Mr. London:

Thank you for your August 31, 1995, letter regarding the state of the U.S. Customs Service's compliance with the JFK Act. I was especially pleased to learn that the Customs Service has reviewed and approved for transfer to the Archives all assassination records that other agencies referred to U.S. Customs. In addition, thank you for loaning us materials regarding the organizational structure and background of U.S. Customs. The books and charts have been quite helpful.

In our meeting with Mr. Bruce Miller on August 18, 1995, he explained that, under current record retention policies, it is probable that all assassination records in the custody of U.S. Customs have been destroyed. However, Mr. Miller candidly told us that some records older than twenty years old may exist, primarily because a large number of boxes of records that U.S. Customs transferred to the Federal Records Center during its 1975 move were not dated. Thus, the Federal Records Center staff may not have destroyed the records according to the U.S. Customs records schedule. He also told us that U.S. Customs field offices often do not strictly observe the document destruction schedule -- as evidenced by the recent discovery of files dating back to the 1880s in the Galveston, Texas, field office. Thus, it is possible that some field offices may still have assassination records, although such records may be difficult to locate.

Your letter indicated that Mr. Miller is in contact with U.S. Customs field offices in an effort to determine if any assassination records may still be in existence. I have asked Mr. Miller to record both his positive and negative contacts with these offices so that we may create a record of his work for the JFK Collection.

In addition, I discussed with Mr. Miller our wish to send several of our staff members to the Federal Records Center in Suitland to review boxes of U.S. Customs records. We hope to be able to determine the current state of U.S. Customs records in the Federal Records Center -- including how the records are organized and the range of dates of the records in storage. Because we would like to visit the Federal Records Center within the next month, we are particularly interested in knowing which dates would be convenient for a member of your staff to attend with us.

As always, thank you for your ongoing cooperation with the work of the Review Board.

Sincerely,

Laura Denk, Esq.
Attorney/Senior Analyst

cc: Mr. Bruce Miller
Ms. Gloria Marshall

bcc: Mr. Steve Tilley