

April 16, 1998

The Honorable Louis J. Freeh
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20530

Re: Completing the FBI's Review of JFK Assassination Records

Dear Mr. Freeh:

I am writing in response to your March 31, 1998 letter in which you questioned whether the FBI would be able to complete its necessary work under the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act prior to the congressionally imposed deadline of September 30, 1998. Following receipt of your letter, the Review Board staff held substantive meetings with FBI officials on April 3 and 9, and with the staff of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee on March 31.

I am pleased to report that FBI officials now acknowledge that the Bureau will be able to complete all necessary work under the JFK Act by September 30, 1998. We believe that the successful completion of the work under the Act will redound to the benefit of the Bureau, the Review Board, and the American public.

John Collingwood, Assistant Director for the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs was instrumental in creating an atmosphere in which we could engage in a frank dialogue about the progress that we have made thus far and about the records that are left to review. In addition, we appreciated the candor of Carol Keeley, Chief of the Historical and Executive Review Unit, in evaluating the work that lies before us.

The next five and one-half months will clearly be challenging and active months for the Historical and Executive Review Unit and for the Review Board. We look forward to working with the FBI in these final months of our project and to advising the public, on September 30, that the FBI -- along with all other Federal agencies -- has complied in full both with the letter and the spirit of the JFK Act.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director