

August 27, 1997

Ms. Marie E. Cheatham  
2908 Crestwood Lane  
Kilgore, TX 75662-3013

Dear Ms. Cheatham:

I am writing you on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal agency 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 were appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is charged with the responsibility of collecting records and information related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board members and staff are required by law to possess Top Secret and SCI clearances. The Review Board is not seeking to reach any conclusions regarding the assassination, but is primarily concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating, and making available information about the assassination. I am enclosing some explanatory material about the Review Board and its mandate.

We would like very much to discuss your work experience in Moscow with you, particularly as it pertained to the USSR residence of Lee Harvey Oswald. We have reviewed the transcripts of your testimony to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. We believe that your knowledge of Oswald and the Moscow Embassy may assist the ARRB in our attempts to clarify the historical record in this area.

One of the members of our staff, Michelle Combs, will be calling to arrange a mutually agreeable time and place for an interview. We would invite you to our offices in Washington, DC or we would easily be able to visit with you in Rehoboth Beach if that would be more convenient for you.

Before talking with you, we would like to make certain that you would feel free to discuss fully all relevant aspects of your work in Moscow. To the extent that you think that discussion of your work might possibly involve classified or sensitive matters, we would like to resolve such concerns in a way that would provide you with whatever assurance that you need that you would not be improperly divulging classified information. In the course of our interviews with other persons, we have arranged with the appropriate officials at State, CIA, DoD, FBI, and other agencies to obtain waivers

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to allow persons to speak to us. Our principal liaison with the State Department, for example, is Nina Noring, IM/FPC/HDR, Room B234, Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20520, (202) 647-3565. If you believe you have any information that might touch upon the equities of the CIA, DoD, the FBI or any other agency, you should feel free to ask us to arrange for an initial contact with them or you may wish to contact them yourself.

Please do not hesitate to call (collect) for either Dr. Combs or myself. We look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn  
General Counsel and  
Associate Director for Research & Analysis

Enclosures