

February 10, 1998

BY FACSIMILE & FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Taylor W. Lawrence
Staff Director
Senate Select Committee
on Intelligence
211 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6475

Re: Public Release of Church Committee Records Pursuant to the
JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Thank you for forwarding the 16 transcripts and other items of testimony for various witnesses before the Church Committee (including transcripts of McGeorge Bundy, William Colby, Richard Bissell, Scott Breckinridge, Marshall Carter, and an AMLASH case officer) for review and possible disclosure under the JFK Act. *See* Jan. 21, 1998 Letter from T. Lawrence to J. Gunn. We are currently reviewing these records for materials relating to the assassination of President Kennedy, and we will coordinate the processing of any assassination records with the Center for Legislative Archives (NARA) pursuant to our prior procedures. I appreciate the cooperation of your staff in forwarding these materials to the Review Board.

I remain concerned, however, that there exists a substantial volume of Church Committee material relating to the Kennedy assassination that has yet to be released by the SSCI, let alone cleared and processed by the relevant agencies, for placement in the JFK Collection by September 1998. I refer you to my letter of September 19, 1997, in which we identified approximately 140 separate items, mostly transcripts, that we have sought to review under the JFK Act. To date, after four months, we have received 16 of the requested 140 items. At this rate, we will not receive the balance of the material until the year 2000. Much more work needs to be done, and we are running out of time.

I am particularly concerned that all testimony cited in the Church Committee's Report regarding the JFK assassination (and that are directly material to the assassination) be released and placed in the JFK Collection. This should be the first and most essential priority, as I previously stated in my September 19 letter to you. Accordingly, I have attached a list of those items of testimony cited in

the Church Committee Report on the JFK assassination (as well as the testimony of certain high-level officials whose testimony may have discussed the JFK assassination). This list is a prioritization of what we previously requested, and it should not be construed as dropping our request to review the other testimony identified in my September 1997 letter. As you can see, even the high priority transcripts encompass approximately 75 items.

Please give this your urgent attention. Again, I appreciate that you have other important responsibilities, but it is important that all the underlying materials of the first Congressional Committee to investigate the Kennedy assassination be identified and released to the public. Like the records of the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee on Assassinations, we consider the Church Committee materials to be core assassination records of the highest priority. Not to have these Church Committee materials released to the public by September 1998 would constitute a grave failure under the JFK Act.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

Enclosure

PRIORITY CHURCH COMMITTEE TESTIMONY TO BE REVIEWED
UNDER THE JFK ACT

--**Bush, George.** It is our understanding that Mr. Bush had an informal discussion with the Church Committee on 2/17/76 and testified in executive session on 4/8/76 and 4/26/76, but that this testimony has not been released.

--**CIA Analyst** who was a subordinate of James Angleton and whom "Angleton designated . . . [as] 'point of record' for all matters related to the assassination and the Warren Commission," (JFK Report at 31), 3/15/76 staff interview (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**CIA Assistant to Desmond Fitzgerald** (Chief of Task Force W, the CIA Section concerned with covert Cuban operations, Foreign Assassinations Report at 85), 9/18/75 testimony (cited in Foreign Assassinations Report on Cuba but not released).

--**CIA Case Officer and Interpreter for Desmond Fitzgerald**, 7/29/75 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**CIA Chief of Counterintelligence for the Special Affairs Staff ("SAS")**, 5/10/76 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**CIA Chief of JMWAVE**, 8/19/75, 5/6/76, and 5/16/76 testimony (all cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**CIA Desk Officer in the Western Hemisphere Division** who was assigned to be in charge of the CIA's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy, 5/7/76 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released)

--**CIA Executive Officer in the CIA's Special Affairs Section**, 5/10/76 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**"Client II"** testifying regarding Castro assassination plots, 4/28/76 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**Cooper, Ambassador John Sherman** (Member of the Warren Commission), 5/24/76 staff interview (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**DeBrueys, Warren** (New Orleans FBI Agent). It is our understanding that Mr. DeBrueys testified

in January 1976, but that his testimony has not been released.

--**DeLoach, Cartha** (Assistant FBI Director, Crime Records Division), 11/25/75 testimony. Only part of the transcript, through page 53, is available at NARA; pages 54-246 were deemed not to be assassination-related. The exhibits have not been included with the transcript. We wish to inspect the entire transcript with all exhibits. It is our understanding that Mr. DeLoach also testified in open session on 12/3/75, but that testimony has not been released.

--**Dillon, C. Douglas** (Undersecretary of State under President Eisenhower and Secretary of Treasury under President Kennedy), 9/2/75 testimony, 9/15/75 affidavit, 9/20/75 testimony, and 9/21/75 testimony (all cited in the Foreign Assassinations Report on Congo).

--**Elder, Walt** (Executive Assistant to CIA Director McCone). It is our understanding that Mr. Elder testified in executive session on 2/5/76, but that this testimony has not been released.

--**Evans, Courtney** (FBI Liaison with the Attorney General), 8/28/75 testimony (cited in Foreign Assassinations Report on Cuba but not released). It is our understanding that Mr. Evans also testified on 12/3/75 in open session, but that this testimony has not been released.

-- **FBI "Headquarters officials who were actually responsible for the Division's day-to-day supervision of the assassination case."** (JFK Report at 35):

- a. 4/27/76 testimony of "**Supervisor I**" (cited in JFK Report but not released).
- b. 4/27/76 testimony of "**Supervisor II**" (cited in JFK Report but not released).
- c. 4/29/76 testimony of "**Supervisor III**" (cited in JFK Report but not released).
- d. 3/31/76 testimony of the **Supervisor in the General Investigative Division "who was responsible for the assassination case."** (JFK Report at 81) (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**FBI "Inspector who handled the Bureau's liaison with the Warren Commission . . . ,"** (JFK Report at 56), 3/20/76 staff interview (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**FBI's Legal Attache (Legat) in Mexico**, "the highest ranking Bureau official in that country," (JFK Report at 40), 2/4/76 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released)

-- **FBI Official in the Nationalities Intelligence Section** who was "reputed to be the leading Cuba expert within the bureau . . . , " (JFK Report at 37), 5/5/76 testimony.

(cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**FBI Receptionist in the Dallas Office**, 7/15/75 affidavit (cited in JFK Report but not released)

--**FBI Special Agent**, 7/23/75 affidavit (cited in JFK Report but not released)

--**FBI Special Agent in Charge**, 12/20/75 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released).

-- **FBI Supervisor for the Soviet Section** within the FBI's Domestic Intelligence Division, 4/23/76 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released).

-- **FBI Supervisor (Retired) of the Soviet Section**, 1/16/76 staff interview and 3/15/76 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**FBI Supervisor of Special Agent James Hosty**, 9/8/75 and 9/15/75 affidavits (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**FBI Washington Field Office agents**, "both of whom had supervisory responsibility on the assassination case within their office." (JFK Report at 83):

a. 5/3/76 testimony of "**FBI Agent I**" (cited in JFK Report but not released)

b. 4/13/76 testimony of "**FBI Agent II**" (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**Helms, Richard** (CIA Deputy Director for Plans), 6/11/75 testimony (cited in Foreign Assassinations Report but not released), 6/13/75 testimony (cited in Foreign Assassinations Report but not released). It is our understanding that Mr. Helms also testified on 9/10/75 in executive session, on 9/17/75 in open session, on 10/22/75 in open session, on 10/31/75 in executive session, and on 1/30/76 in executive session, but none of this testimony has been released.

--**Hemming, Gary Patrick**. It is our understanding that Mr. Hemming was interviewed on 5/23/75, but that this interview has not been released.

--**Hosty, James** (FBI Special Agent), 7/17/75 affidavit (cited in JFK Report but not released), 9/22/75 affidavit (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**Houston, Lawrence** (CIA General Counsel), 6/17/75 testimony (cited in Foreign Assassinations Report but not released).

--**Intelligence Officer**, 5/10/64 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**Karamessines, Thomas** (Deputy to Richard Helms), 4/18/76 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released). In addition, it is our understanding that Mr. Karamessines also testified on 8/6/75 in executive session, on 10/24/75 in open session, and on 11/3/75 in executive session, but none of this testimony has been released.

--**Katzenbach, Nicholas deB.** (Attorney General). It is our understanding that Mr Katzenbach testified on 5/7/75 in executive session and on 12/3/75 in open session, but that this testimony has not been released.

--**McCone, John** (Director of the CIA), 10/9/75 testimony (cited in Foreign Assassinations Report re Cuba but not released). In addition, it is our understanding that Mr. McCone testified on 2/3/76 in executive session, but that this testimony has not been released.

--**McNamara, Robert** (Secretary of Defense), 7/11/75 testimony (cited in Foreign Assassinations Report on Cuba but not released).

--**Mohr, John** (Assistant to the FBI Director), 9/12/75 affidavit (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**Patterson, William** (Secret Service Agent). It is our understanding that Mr. Patterson testified on 11/21/75, but that this testimony has not been released.

--**Pena, Orestes.** It is our understanding that Mr. Pena testified on 11/24/75, but that this testimony has not been released.

--**Rosen, Alex** (Assistant FBI Director in Charge of the General Investigative Division during the assassination), 4/30/76 testimony (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**Shanklin, Gordon** (FBI Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas Office), 9/24/75 affidavit (cited in JFK Report but not released), 12/19/75 testimony (or interview) (cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**Sorrels, Forrest** (Secret Service Special Agent). It is our understanding that the Church Committee sought to conduct an executive session interview with Mr. Sorrels. We wish to confirm whether such an interview was conducted and memorialized.

--**Sullivan, William** (FBI Assistant Director for the Domestic Intelligence Division), 4/21/75 interview, 9/16/75 testimony, 4/21/76 interview (all cited in JFK Report but not released).

--**Wannall, Raymond** (FBI Chief of the Nationalities Intelligence Section from 1962 to 1965).¹ It is

our understanding that Mr. Wannall testified in executive session on 10/21/75, in open session on 10/24/75, in open session on 11/19/75, in open session on 12/2/75, and in executive session on 1/21/76, but that this testimony has not been released.

--**Willens, Howard** (Assistant Counsel for the Warren Commission), 5/12/76 interview (cited in JFK Report but not released)

¹ The JFK Report cites the May 11, 1976 testimony of the FBI's "Former Chief of the Nationalities Intelligence Section" (JFK Report at 37), as well as the May 11, 1976 testimony of a "Section Chief " (JFK Report at 64 n.98). It is not clear whether this cited May 11, 1976 testimony is of the same official (Mr. Wannall) or different officials.