

February 4, 1998

BY HAND-DELIVERY & FACSIMILE

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 testimony of various witnesses before the Church Committee (including the 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 T. Lawrence Letter to J. Gunn. We have reviewed these materials, and are proceeding as follows:

1. Testimony to Be Disclosed Under the JFK Act

We intend to release as assassination records, after appropriate agency clearance, the following transcripts:

- a. McGeorge Bundy Transcript, July 11, 1975
- b. Memorandum of McGeorge Bundy Interview, July 8, 1975
- c. AMLASH Case Officer Transcript, February 11, 1976
- d. William Colby Transcript, June 20, 1975
- f. Richard Bissell Transcript, September 10, 1975

- e. Marion Boggs Affidavit, October 24, 1975

After being cleared by the relevant agencies, we will then have these materials forwarded to the JFK Assassination Collection at the National Archives.

2. Testimony Being Returned to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

At this time, we are returning to the Committee the July 14, 1975 transcript of William Colby, which we have determined not to be sufficiently related to the assassination of President Kennedy. However, we believe it would serve the public interest to release the transcript, which relates to the Allende Government and events in Chile.

3. Testimony Still Under Review

The balance of the transcripts you provided are still being reviewed by the Review Board staff to evaluate their status under the JFK Act. The transcripts currently still under consideration are:

- a. William Colby Transcripts, July 15, September 29, October 23, October 31, and December 11, 1975
- b. Scott Breckinridge Transcript, November 11, 1975
- c. Richard Bissell Transcripts, July 17 and 22, 1975
- d. Marshall Carter Transcript, September 19, 1975

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, we have received 16 items of testimony. 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 has to be the first, and most essential priority, as I previously stated in my September 19, 1997 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

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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 over 80 items.

Please give this your urgent attention. Again, I appreciate you have other important responsibilities, but it is essential 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.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director

TOP SECRET Enclosure  
(W. Colby Transcript, 7/14/75)

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).<sup>1</sup> 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)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.