

May 30, 1996

Mr. Darryl Blevins  
Social Security Administration  
Operations Building  
Room 3-B-6  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

Re: SSA Review of House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) Record 180-10072-10186 in Accordance with the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Mr. Blevins:

I have enclosed for your review a copy of HSCA record 180-10072-10186, a sixty-four (64) page file containing a cover letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and related documents forwarded by the SSA to the HSCA in July of 1978. Our records suggest that the National Archives and Record Administration (NARA) has previously referred this record to the SSA under the JFK Act.

While the Record Information Form (RIF) generated for this record by NARA indicates that it is already open, in fact the record is not currently part of the JFK Collection available to the public at Archives II. Accordingly, our Board intends to review this document at its meeting of June 25-26, 1996. Should the SSA wish to request any postponements in the record, please let us know not later than June 19, 1996.

It has been the policy of our Board to postpone until 2017 the release of Social Security Numbers (SSNs). While Lee Harvey Oswald's SSN was released long ago, Marina Oswald Porter's SSN -- to the best of our knowledge -- has not been. It is likely that our Board would protect it.

Beyond the issue of Marina Oswald Porter's SSN, however, our Board will require specific evidence on behalf of postponement requests based on privacy concerns. Section 6 of the JFK Act contains the specific standards that would permit privacy-related postponements to be sustained by our Board. (These standards differ markedly from FOIA.) In Section 11 of the JFK Act, Congress determined that the JFK Act takes precedence over other laws relating to the release of government records.

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The JFK Act also contains a strong presumption for release of assassination records. Records or parts of records that may otherwise be protected under the Privacy Act, therefore, might be released under the JFK Act. Under the JFK Act, our Board is obligated to release information unless there is "clear and convincing evidence" supporting its postponement. Accordingly, evidence submitted on behalf of requested postponements should include a description of what type of harm you believe would befall relevant individuals if the information you are seeking to postpone were to be released.

You should also be aware that Mr. Donald Squires (202/622-4570) of the Internal Revenue Service has reviewed the July 28, 1978 cover letter at the beginning of this record. On the basis of this review, he telephonically informed our staff on May 20, 1996, that the IRS has no equities in the documents contained in this file.

Finally, the ARRB will deal directly with the Department of Defense on DOD-originated documents in the record. You do not need to refer or act on these.

Thank you for your cooperation. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joe Freeman of my staff.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell  
Executive Director

cc: Donald Squires, IRS

Enclosure