

August 13, 1995

Mr. Daniel Mulhollan
Director, Congressional Research Service
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20540-7000

Re: Compliance with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994)

Dear Mr. Mulhollan:

I am writing on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal agency set up by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (JFK Act), to request that the Congressional Research Service (CRS) undertake a search of its files for assassination records as defined under the statute. To assist you in this effort, I have taken the liberty of enclosing some general information about the statute, the JFK Collection at NARA II in College Park and our agency.

We feel certain that CRS holds significant records covered by the JFK Act. For example, CRS undertook a number of research projects for the House Select Committee on Assassinations in the late 1970's. Any records, notes, files or reports generated by these projects would clearly be assassination records. Similarly, in 1975 CRS undertook a study of the chain of custody of missing materials relating to President Kennedy's autopsy on behalf of the Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee (the "Abzug Committee"). As part of this latter project, CRS interviewed principals like President Kennedy's secretary, Evelyn Lincoln (now deceased), and Burke Marshall. Any interview notes or other documentation relative to these contacts would be covered by the JFK Act.

In addition to these specific examples, there are no doubt many other instances where CRS has generated assassination-related records in response to requests from Congressional offices. All of these records need to be processed under the JFK Act as assassination records. The Review Board's top priority would be primary materials generated by CRS investigative and research efforts (as

opposed, for instance, to photocopies of secondary literature available elsewhere). Frankly, such records should have long since been processed by CRS and forwarded to the JFK Collection at NARA II. It has recently come to the Review Board's attention that NARA has received no records whatsoever from CRS. We would therefore like to be of assistance to CRS in coming into full compliance with the JFK Act as expeditiously as possible. Toward that end, it might be helpful if you would appoint a designee with whom we could work in ensuring that the statute's mandate is carried out.

Thank you in advance for your efforts, and please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures