

October 31, 1996

**BY FACSIMILE AND FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mr. Bradley S. Gerratt  
Director  
John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library  
Columbia Point  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Dear Brad:

I am writing in reference to my letter to you dated August 12, 1996, and a communication that I had today from Amy Krupske of the General Counsel's Office at the National Archives regarding Mr. William Manchester's papers related to his book *Death of A President*.

You will recall that the August 12 letter stated that the *Death of a President* papers should be made available to the Review Board by September 16, 1996, pursuant to the Review Board's authority as stated in the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). Under the Act, the Review Board is authorized "to direct a Government office<sup>1</sup> to make available to the Review Board . . . information, records, or testimony from individuals, which the Review Board has reason to believe is required to fulfill its functions . . . ." Sect. 7(j)(1)(C)(ii).

These records have not yet been made available to the Review Board. Ms. Krupske has told me that Mr. Manchester does not currently wish the Review Board to have access to the papers.

It is our position that these records should be made available to the Review Board immediately and in the same condition and sequence in which they have been stored. We are willing to agree that -- for the very short term -- that the JFK Library need not make the papers available to us, *provided that the JFK Library does not give access to these papers to any other person*. To the extent that the JFK Library might otherwise consider making the papers available to any other person, our September 16

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<sup>1</sup>A "government office" is defined as including, *inter alia*, the National Archives, "including Presidential archival depositories . . . ." Sections 3(5)(D) and 3(7).

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compliance date should be understood to be fully applicable and the papers must be made available to us first.

I regret the necessity of sending this letter, but I am sure that you can understand that the Review Board has an important statutory obligation to ensure that records related to the assassination that are in the "custody" of Federal entities be protected from any type of harm.

We will continue to be receptive to any reasonable suggestions that you may have.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures

cc: Assassination Records Review Board  
John W. Carlin, Archivist of the United States  
Elizabeth Pugh, General Counsel, NARA  
Amy Krupske, Esq., NARA  
Mr. William Johnson, JFK Library