

July 30, 1997

Mr. Max D. Phillips
3167 Shelter Cove Lane
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I am writing you on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal Agency established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). The Review Board, whose members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is charged with the responsibility of collecting records and information related to the assassination of President Kennedy. Review Board members and staff are required by law to possess Top Secret, SCI clearances. The Review Board is not seeking to reach any conclusions regarding the assassination, but is primarily concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating, and making available assassination records. I am enclosing some explanatory material about the Review Board and its mandate.

As Dave Montague mentioned in his telephone conversation with you yesterday, we would like to discuss your work with the Secret Service in the early 1960's, and especially your participation in the Service's investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. We believe that your knowledge of events in Dallas and Washington in the first days after the assassination will assist us in clarifying the historical record.

Before talking with you, we would like to make certain that you would feel free to discuss fully all relevant aspects of your work with the Secret Service. To the extent that you think that discussion of your work might possibly involve classified or sensitive matters, we would like to resolve such concerns in a way that would provide you with whatever assurance you need that you would not be improperly divulging classified information. If you feel discussing your participation in the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy with the Review Board would constitute disclosure of any information that is still classified, we will be happy to initiate a discussion between you and the appropriate officials to address any concerns you may have.

One of the members of our staff will be calling to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss information that may be of relevance to the assassination. Should you wish to contact us in response to this letter, please call either Joan Zimmerman (Senior Analyst of Secret Service records) or me.

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We look forward to talking with you again.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn

General Counsel and

Associate Director for Research & Analysis

Enclosures