

DRAFT

August __, 1996

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 created by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994) (JFK Act). Under the JFK Act, all Federal agencies, including the Congressional Research Service, are responsible for identifying all records in their possession related to the assassination of President Kennedy. I am enclosing a copy of the JFK Act for your review.

By mid-1993, under the JFK Act, all Federal agencies should have identified all records in their possession related to the assassination by 1993. It has come to the Review Board's attention, through the JFK Collection at the National Archives, that no records have been so designated by CRS.

We believe that CRS likely 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.

In order to ensure that CRS is in full compliance with the JFK Act, we would like to ask you to designate an official at CRS who can act as a liaison with the Review Board and that that person contact our General Counsel, T. Jeremy Gunn, as soon as possible.

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Thank you in advance for your cooperation. I look forward to hearing back from you in the near future and working with your designee in implementing the JFK Act.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Mr. James H. Billington

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