

January 2, 1997

Mr. Idar Rimestad
16510 East Jacklin Drive
Fountain Hill, AZ 85268-5415

Dear Mr Rimestad:

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.

It is our understanding that you served in the US Embassy in Moscow from 1957-1960. We would like very much to discuss your experiences in Moscow with you, particularly as they may pertain to the Embassy visits of Lee Harvey Oswald. We believe that your past in-depth knowledge of the Moscow Embassy and its procedures may assist the ARRB in our attempts to clarify the historical record in this area.

Sometime in the near future a member of the Review Board staff will be calling you to establish a mutually agreeable time for an interview. One of our staff, Mr. Joseph Freeman, will be in Fountain Hill and can arrange an interview with you in your home if you wish. Should you wish to call us first in response to this letter, please call (collect) for either Michelle Combs (a Senior Analyst on the CIA Records Team) or myself. We look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures

