

February 8, 1996

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Harold:

Thank you for your letter of December 9. For some inexplicable reason, I did not receive it until, February 6.

I thought you might be interested in a couple of points as a follow-up to my last letter and to yours. Because the Board's principal task is to review and to declassify existing records, and because the most "sensitive" aspect of Oswald's files involves his visit to Mexico City, it may appear to some as if the Board is focusing narrowly on Mexico City. That is, however, a function of the organization of the records and should not imply a predisposition toward any person, theory, or viewpoint. Our strategy for reviewing the records reflects the manner in which they are organized and can best be reviewed rather than any ideological predisposition. We are reviewing and declassifying records as quickly as we can and I expect that the pace will steadily be increasing.

The staff is, however, also focusing on medical and ballistics evidence. In brief, we are attempting to track down all relevant forensics evidence and to ensure that the Archives has fully accessible all of the evidence that can be identified. As far as I am aware, there is no ballistics evidence that is now classified. We hope to be able to close the loop on this area within the next few months. Our staff is tracking all of the known forensics evidence, including verification of the chain of custody and present location of all probative items and analyses, from bullet fragments, to the clothing worn by Lee Harvey Oswald at his arrest, to neutron activation tests. We are focusing primarily on securing items created by (or examined by) the FBI, the Warren Commission, and the House Select Committee on Assassinations. We would like to include any probative forensic evidence in addition to the material in government files, and we would appreciate any specific suggestions in this regard that you may have.

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Second, we are seeking all of the medical evidence from government files.

We are now attempting to ensure that *all* such evidence (with the exception of the autopsy photos--which are excluded by law from coming within our mandate) be declassified and released as soon as possible. We have identified many such medical records (particularly from the HSCA files) and have taken steps to get them released immediately. Again, as far as I am aware, all of the medical evidence that we have been able to identify is available, without redactions, at the Archives. In addition, we are actively seeking any materials that may still be in private hands. For example, the President of Parkland Hospital agreed, pending confirmation from his Board, to donate all of the records related to the treatment of President Kennedy, Governor Connally, Lee Harvey Oswald, and Jack Ruby. Finally, we have subpoenaed Doctors Humes and Boswell to appear for depositions, which are now scheduled to take place later this month.

I hope that this provides a somewhat more expanded view of the activities of the Review Board.

With best wishes,

T. Jeremy Gunn