

October 29, 1996

Mr. Donald E. Welzenbach  
830 Mississippi Avenue  
Davenport, Iowa 52803

Dear Mr. Welzenbach:

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.

Also enclosed is an excerpt from the book *Skunk Works*, by Ben Rich and Leo Janos, which refers to Lockheed's preparation of four sets of falsified U-2 technical manuals at the request of Richard Bissell of the CIA. It is our understanding that while working as a CIA historian, you wrote the first history of the U-2 for that agency. We would like very much to discuss this subject with you, and believe that your past in-depth knowledge of the U-2 may assist the ARRB in our attempts to clarify the historical record in this area. I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of this letter to Mr. John Pereira, of the Historical Review Group, Center for the Study of Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C., 20505. To the extent that you feel discussing this subject with the Review Board would constitute disclosure of any information that is still classified, we would be happy to initiate a discussion between you and the appropriate officials at the CIA to address any concerns you may have.

Sometime in the near future a member of the Review Board staff will be calling you to establish a mutually agreeable time for a telephonic interview to discuss certain aspects of the U-2 program. Should you wish to call us first in response to this letter, please ask

for either Mr. Doug Horne (a Senior Analyst on the Military Records Team), or Dr. Michelle Combs (a Senior Analyst on the CIA Records Team). We look forward to talking with you about the U-2 program.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures