

Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW ■ Second Floor ■ Washington, DC 20530

June 28, 1995

The Honorable Thomas A. Constantine
Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20537

Re: Status of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Compliance with the JFK
Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Mr. Constantine:

I am writing in regard to the Drug Enforcement Administration's compliance with The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (JFK Act) (copy enclosed). Under the JFK Act, all federal government offices -- including the DEA -- are required to: (a) identify all of their records related to the assassination of President Kennedy, (b) review the records for the purpose of declassifying them under the standards specified in the JFK Act, (c) prepare electronic identification aids, and (d) send the records to the National Archives.

The Assassination Records Review Board, a panel appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is responsible for overseeing governmental compliance with the JFK Act. Today the Review Board is promulgating in the *Federal Register* a regulation that defines "assassination record" for the purposes of the JFK Act (a copy of this regulation is enclosed). This regulation should help provide guidance to governmental offices in their search for assassination records. Members of our professional staff -- who have received all of the appropriate security clearances -- are also available to assist you and your staff in this process.

I am now seeking to learn which officials at the DEA are responsible for supervising the process of identifying and reviewing assassination records. For your convenience, I am enclosing our "JFK Records Contacts" form on which you may identify the names, titles, relevant responsibilities, and telephone and fax numbers of all persons at the DEA with whom you would like us to be in contact regarding DEA's compliance with the law. I am particularly interested in your identifying the person responsible for

preparing your electronic identification aids.¹

We look forward to working with the DEA to further the important objectives of the JFK Act. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Janet Reno, Attorney General

¹On June 28, 1994, Mr. Kevin Janet of your Freedom of Information Section responded to a letter from Dr. William L. Joyce, a member of the Review Board (a copy of which is enclosed). Mr. Janet suggested at that time that the only records reviewed by the DEA under the JFK Act were those records referred to it by other federal agencies under the JFK Act. We would assume, of course, that the DEA also possesses -- at a minimum -- its own copies of such records created by the DEA or its predecessor agencies. Now that the Review Board has promulgated its definition, we will seek to ensure that the DEA has conducted a complete and thorough search of its records.

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Enclosures [JFK Act, Regulation response to Joyce, 1 form]

cc: Janet Reno, Attorney General

bcc: T. Jeremy Gunn
Kevin G. Tiernan

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