

July 18, 2017

Mr. Edmund F. McBride
Chief, Information Management Division, Joint Secretariat
The Pentagon--Room 2B917
Washington, D.C. 20318-0400

Re: Records of November 20, 1963 Honolulu Conference on Vietnam

Dear Mr. McBride:

As mentioned in my letter of January 6, 1998, the Review Board occasionally asks an agency to conduct further records searches, even after submission of the Final Compliance Statement, if we acquire information suggesting that additional records may be held that are of interest to the Board. This letter is one such example.

Confirming earlier informal requests made by Mr. Horne of my staff to Messrs. Kammer and Jacobsmeyer, I am writing to request that you determine whether any additional steps can be taken to locate the records of the November 20, 1963 cabinet-level conference on Vietnam held at Camp Smith, on Oahu, two days prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. Earlier, substantive search efforts by your staff failed to locate this document within the RG 218 collection at NARA; Mr. Horne has re-examined those JCS Central Files boxes containing 1963 records that are in the temporary custody of the ARRB, and has confirmed that the minutes of this conference are not in those boxes.

The evidence for the existence of records on this subject is located in footnote 70, on page 7-39 of Part I (1960-1964) of the three-part history titled "The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Vietnam War." The footnote reads as follows: "Footnote 70. (S-GP 1) Records of Special Mtg on RVN, 20 Nov 63, JMF 9155.3/5410 (22 Nov 63) Sec 1 and 2. (TS) OCJCS File, Black Book for meeting in Honolulu." The existence of a four-and-one-half page summary of that conference in Part I of this history, based upon this presently unlocated document, confirms that this record, if found, would be of considerable historical interest.

I want to again express appreciation for the exemplary support rendered to the Assassination Records Review Board to date by you and your staff at the Joint Secretariat.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director