

Dear Mr. Raines:

Although the Assassination Records Review Board has accomplished much in its first two years, there is still a great deal of important work to do. For this reason, the Review Board is seeking additional time. As you may know, the Review Board was scheduled to cease operations at the end of FY 1997, and although the Review Board had hoped to be able to conclude its activity within the time limit established by Congress, that timetable proved unrealistic for an unprecedented project of this magnitude. A full explanation for the need for additional time has been set out in the Review Board's recently issued FY 1996 Report.

The Review Board only recently made the decision to seek additional time, and as a result, did not submit a FY 1998 budget request at the beginning of the budget process. We do so now and hereby request to be included in the President's FY 1998 budget in the amount of \$1.6 Million. This sum, combined with \$500,000 in no-year money that the Review Board has carried over from its first year of operation, will provide sufficient funds for the Board to continue for an additional year. The enclosure provides a breakdown and justification by object class.

We understand, and apologize for, the added complication of submitting this request at this time, and hope that you will be able to support it.

Sincerely,

DGM