

June 12, 1997

The Honorable Patrick F. Kennedy  
Acting Under Secretary for Management  
U.S. Department of State  
2101 C Street, N.W., Room 7207  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I wrote to you nearly a year ago (copy enclosed) to complain about the serious delays that we had experienced in receiving cables from State Department posts abroad. Your response (copy enclosed), dated July 26, 1996, assured us that the problem was under control and that there would be no recurrence.

Unfortunately, I am forced to write once again with the same complaint. An important cable, Confidential MINSK 01416, dated April 24, 1997, was first received by my office on June 6, 1997, and only as a result of our initiative. The message from Minsk contained time-sensitive information that was no longer current when we received the cable. Our efforts to carry out our mandate as defined by Congress have once again been seriously compromised by the inability of the Department of State to deliver its official communications.

I would appreciate an explanation for the delay and a guarantee that it will not happen again.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell  
Executive Director

cc: Members of the Assassination Records Review Board