

August 1, 1996

Mr. Dan Rather
CBS Evening News
524 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Rather:

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the work of the Assassination Records Review Board. Since you and I spoke at the end of May in connection with the Board's acquisition of the film of KTVT outtakes, the Board has continued to release assassination records held by federal agencies. In addition, we have continued to supplement the existing record of the assassination at the National Archives with additional materials that were in private hands.

As I know you are aware from your direct involvement in covering the assassination and from the donation of the KTVT outtakes film by Janet Veazey, there remains a very real possibility that there are other significant films and photographs still in private hands that would be invaluable additions to the JFK Collection. I believe that you may be able to further the Board's efforts in this area.

The extensive CBS News coverage of the assassination in 1963 and subsequent special programs on the assassination in 1964, 1967, and 1975, are an important part of the historical record. We would greatly appreciate anything that you can do to encourage CBS to consider donating relevant film and videotapes from its archives to the JFK Collection. This would be a major donation to the Collection and serve as a model for other media outlets and individuals in possession of important materials related to the assassination.

It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to talk with you in connection with the extraordinary stories that CBS aired on the Veazey film. You and everyone we dealt with at CBS made a difficult situation manageable and displayed admirable and much appreciated professionalism. Now, I hope that you will be able to assist the Review Board again as we continue our efforts to fulfill our mandate and make as complete a record of the assassination as possible available to the American public at the National Archives.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Anything you can do to begin discussions on this matter would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk
Associate Director for Communications