

## Draft Preamble -- Guidance for identification of "Assassination Records"

The President John F. Kennedy Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. §2701, established the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives. In establishing the process for public disclosure all records relating to the assassination, Congress created an independent agency within the executive branch, the Assassination Records Review Board, which consists of five citizens appointed by the President. Under the statute, the Board is empowered to decide "whether a record constitutes an assassination record." 44 U.S.C. § 2701 Sec. 7(i)(2)(a). Congress further made clear its intent that the Board "issue guidance to assist in articulating the scope or universe of assassination records." S.Rep. 102-526 at 21, Uscon at 2970.

In constructing the proposed guidance set out below, the Board seeks to implement congressional intent that the Collection contain "the most comprehensive disclosure of records related to the assassination of President Kennedy." S.Rep. 102-328 at 18. The Board is also mindful of Congress's instruction that the Board apply a "broad and encompassing" working definition of "assassination record" in order to achieve the goal of assembling the fullest historical record on this tragic event in American history and on the investigations that were undertaken in the assassination's aftermath. The Board's aim is that this guidance will aid in the ultimate assembly and public disclosure of the fullest possible historical record on this tragic event in American history and on the investigations that were undertaken in its aftermath.

This proposed guidance is designed to help government agencies and the Board identify and make available to the public all documents that will enhance, enrich, and broaden the historical record of the assassination of

*President John F. Kennedy. The Board seeks through this guidance to fulfill Congress's "inten[t] and emphasis that the search and disclosure of records under this Act must go beyond" the records of previous commissions and committees established to investigate President Kennedy's assassination. S.Rep. 102-328 at 21. It also provides guidance as to the Board's intended implementation of its power to request "additional records and information."*