Chapter 2:

Assassination Records Review Board and Staff

[DRAFT, T:\FINAL\!\CH201ES.RTF, June 30, 1998]

The Assassination Records Review Board and Staff

"The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall

appoint, without regard to political affiliation, 5 citizens to serve as members of

the Review Board to ensure and facilitate the review, transmission to the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{T}}$

Archivist, and public disclosure of Governments records related to the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}$

assassination of President John F. Kennedy."

 $\mbox{--The President John F.}\mbox{ Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act}$

of 1992.

The JFK Act also stipulates that the President should make the nominations to the Review Board after considering the recommendations of the

American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, The

Society of American Archivists, and the American Bar Association. These

recommendations were made, and the five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the United States Senate, and

sworn in on April 11, 1994.

The Honorable John R. Tunheim was recommended to the President by

the American Bar Association. He was later nominated by the Review $\ensuremath{\mathtt{Board}}$

Members to serve as Chairman. Judge Tunheim is currently a United States $\$

District Court Judge in the District of Minnesota, and is the former Chief

Deputy Attorney General of the state of Minnesota. Judge Tunheim worked in

the Office of the Attorney General for $12\(?)$ years.....He holds a J.D. from the

University of Minnesota Law School, and a B.A. from Concordia College.

Dr. Henry F. Graff is a Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia

University, where he was employed as an Instructor to Full Professor from $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +$

1946-1991. Dr. Graff was recommended to the President by the White House.

He served as the Chairman of the History Department from 1961-1964. Dr.

 $\mbox{ Graff was also a Senior Fellow of the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center }$

from 1991-1992. He holds a Ph.D. and a Masters degree from Columbia University, and a B.S. from City College, New York.

 $\mbox{\footnote{def}{\sc Dr.}}$ Kermit L. Hall is the Dean of the College of Humanities, and

Professor of History and Law at The Ohio State University. He was recommended to the President by the Organization of American Historians.

 $\,$ Dr. Hall was previously the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and

Professor of History and Law at the University of Tulsa. Prior to that he held

teaching positions at the University of Florida, Wayne State University, and

Vanderbilt University. Dr. Hall holds a Ph.D. from the University of

Minnesota, is a Master of Study of Law, Yale University Law School, ${\tt M.A.}$ from

Syracuse University, and a B.A. from The University of Akron.

 $\,\,$ Dr. William L. Joyce, recommended to the President by the Society of

American Archivists, is currently the Associate University Librarian for Rare

Books and Special Collections at Princeton University. Dr. Joyce was formerly

the Assistant Director for Rare Books and Manuscripts the New York Public

Library. Dr. Joyce also held positions at the American Antiquarian Society,

initially as the Curator of Manuscripts, and later as the Education Officer. He $\,$

University, and a B.A. from Providence College.

Dr. Anna K. Nelson is the Distinguished Adjunct Historian in Residence

at the American University. She was recommended to the President by the

American Historical Association. Dr. Nelson has been a professor at the

American University since 1986, however, she has taken leaves of absence to

serve as the Distinguished Visiting Professor at Arizona State University, and

Adjunct Associate Professor in History at Tulane University. Dr. Nelson was

also the Director of the History and Public Policy Program at George Washington University from 1980-1982. She holds a Ph.D. from George Washington University, a M.A. and a B.A. from the University of Oklahoma.

Assassination Records Review Board Staff

 $\,$ The JFK Act required that, "A person appointed to the staff shall be a

private citizen of integrity and impartiality who is not a present employee of any

branch of the Government and who has had no previous involvement with any $\ensuremath{\mathsf{S}}$

official investigation or inquiry relating to the assassination of President John ${\tt F.}$

Kennedy" (JFK Act, section 8, (b)(2)). These stipulations in the $_{\rm JFK}$ Act

slowed down considerably the process of assembling a staff, as well as the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{S}}$

 $\,$ process of educating the staff about the agencies and relevant issues (See page

XX).

One of the first tasks performed by the Review Board members was the $\,$

selection of an Executive Director. The Board members hired Dr . David G .

Marwell. Dr. Marwell served as the Review Board's Executive Director from $\,$

August 1994 to October 1997. Prior to working at the Review Board, he served

as the Director of the Berlin Document Center. He is the former $\operatorname{\mathsf{Chief}}$ of

Investigative Research in the Office of Special Investigations at the Department

of Justice. He holds a $\operatorname{Ph.D.}$ in History from the State University of New York

at Binghamton and a B.A. in English from Brandeis University. In the fall of

1994, Dr. Marwell assembled a senior staff consisting of a General Counsel, an

Associate Director for Research and Analysis, and Associate Director for $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left$

Communications, and an Associate Director for Administration.

After the departure of Dr. Marwell, the Review Board members appointed Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn as its Executive Director. He served as the

Review Board's Associate Director for Research and Analysis since November

1994, in addition to serving as General Counsel since January 1996. Dr. Gunn

was an attorney for the Washington law firm of Covington & Burling from 1988

until he joined the Review Board staff. He is a graduate of Boston University

Law School and received a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

The Review Board's staff (See Appendix A) consisted of approximately

24--30 full-time employees at any given time throughout the mandate of the

Review Board, and the staff members were involved in management, administrative, analytic, and investigative duties. Review Board staff analysts

identified and reviewed records and made recommendations to the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Review}}$

Board. Organized into three teams, FBI, CIA, and Military, analysts had to $\,$

develop the necessary working relationships with the agencies for which they

were responsible. All team members developed subject matter expertise, which

was essential to the review of records and in supporting the Review $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Board}}$

members in their determinations. Moreover, analysts carried out the important

assignment of determining whether additional records should be requested from $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1$

agencies. Review Board staff investigators, who were primarily responsible for

locating non-Federal records, had much success in identifying and locating $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right)$

significant collections of records in private hands and arranging for their

donation to the JFK Collection at the National Archives. Furthermore, $\$

investigators played a critical role in locating former government employees who

were subsequently interviewed regarding the possible existence and location of

additional assassination records.

Definition of an "assassination record"

 $\,$ In order for the Review Board to begin the declassification of records

related to the assassination of President Kennedy, it first had the task of

establishing the definition of an "assassination record."

JFK Act, 7(n)

Interpretive Regulations
The Review Board may issue interpretive regulations.

Senate Report, p. 21

Defining Assassination Records
"Assassination records" are defined in Section 3. The
definition
of assassination records is a threshold consideration for
the
successful implementation of the Act. Its scope will be

the barometer of public confidence in the release of

assassination

records. While the records of past presidential

commissions and

congressional committees established to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy are included as

assassination

records under this Act , it is intended and emphasized that

the

search and disclosure of records under this Act must go

beyond

those records. While such records are valuable, they

reflect the

views, theories, political constraints and prejudices of

past

inquiries. Proper implementation of this Act and

providing the

American public with the opportunity to judge the

surrounding

history of the assassination for themselves, requires

including not

only, but going beyond, the records of the Warren and Rockefeller Commissions, and the Church and House Select Assassination Committees.

The term "assassination record" was not more specifically defined by the Committee because to do so before more is known about the universe of records would have been premature, and would have further injected the government between the records and the American public. There is a sufficient volume of known assassination records to

organize and

review at the outset. However, it is intended that the

Review

Board issue guidance to assist in articulating the scope

or

universe of assassination records as government offices

and

the Review Board undertakes their responsibilities. Such guidance will be valuable notwithstanding the fact that government offices will begin to organize and review their records before the Review Board is established.

Government

offices are required to begin the review and disclosure of

records

upon enactment to expedite public access to the many records which do not require additional review or postponement. However, the ultimate work of the Review Board will involve not only the review of records recommended for postponement, but requiring government offices to provide additional information and records, where appropriate. Guidance, especially that developed in consultation with the public, scholars, and affected government offices, will prove valuable to ensure the fullest possible disclosure and create public confidence in a working definition that was developed in an independent and open manner.

House Report, p. 33

Section 10(j) [of the House version of the JFK Act] authorizes the Review Board to issue interpretive guidelines to assist in implementing the purposes of this joint resolution. The Committee does not intend for the Review Board to engage in notice and comment rulemaking as contemplated by the Administrative Procedure Act in issuing its interpretive guidelines. The Committee does encourage consultation by the Review Board with a variety of diverse representatives of general and scholarly interest in assassination materials, including those identified in Section 10(e).

It is the Committee's intent that with a minimum of formality the Review Board shall promptly adopt and make publicly available any necessary interpretive guidelines. Among the topics which the Review Board may wish to address in such guidelines are coordination with executive branch agencies, security procedures, and personnel clearance procedures. It is the Committee's intent that the Review Board exercise broad discretion in the management of its affairs through interpretive quidelines, but any delay in issuing such guidelines should not be allowed to delay the release of assassination materials.

Nominations of Graff, Tunheim, Nelson, Joyce, and Hall

After the nomination hearings, Congress asked every Review Board

nominee to provide written responses to the following questions:

Question 7

The definition of "assassination records" contained in the Records Review Act establishing this Board was intentionally left

very broad. What kinds of criteria and factors will you use in

determining whether or not a document or other item will

fall

within the definition?

Question 8

Many assassination records will likely be in the possession of private citizens, some of whom may be unwilling to permit disclosure. How far should the Board venture to seek out assassination records from these sources?

Question 9

You have significant powers under the Board to reasonably search for assassination records. For example, the Board may administer oaths and subpoena and grant immunity to witnesses.

(b) To what extent would you propose compelling disclosure of a record from private and foreign sources?

House Judiciary Committee Hearings from May 20, 1992

Did not find anything.

Green Book

Sen. Glenn at 2

I believe the major issues include, first, how will agencies and

others who hold records define the universe of, quote,

"relevant"

Kennedy assassination materials. It is important to be

able to go

beyond the frame of reference of previous inquiries of Commissions and Committees, but the question must be

asked,

where will the search for documents end. In other words,

what

is relevant?

Sen. Boren at 16

One involves setting the boundaries of, quote, "assassination material." The joint resolution defines the term

"assassination material" as "a record that relates in any manner or degree to the assassination of President John f. Kennedy." Given the wide ranges of theories that have developed as to who killed President

Kennedy and why, many types of records arguably relate in some

way to the assassination. What records regarding, for example,

Cuba, Vietnam, and organized crime should be covered? This

matter requires careful consideration.

* * *

I do, however, suggest that the Committee, either in the Joint Resolution itself or in report language, set more precise parameters defining "assassination material," or else direct the

Review Board to do so promptly after it is established.

Otherwise, we may end with widely varying interpretations by the various records agencies and committees as to what documents should be forwarded to the Review Board executive director.

The final definition of an "assassination record" was

Federal Register on [DATE] and appeared as follows:

Guidance on Interpreting and Implementing the President John F. Kennedy $\,$

Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992.

published in the

SUMMARY: These final interpretive regulations provide guidance on the

interpretation of certain terms included in the President John ${\tt F.}$ Kennedy

Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 and on implementation of certain $\,$

of the statute's provisions. The final interpretive regulations make effective the $\,$

proposed interpretive regulations previously published by the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Assassination}}$

Records Review Board (Review Board). The Review Board revised the proposed interpretive regulations after considering public comment received in

writing and through testimony at public hearings convened by the Review

Board.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This interpretative regulation is effective [Insert date of

publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER].

Background and Statutory Authority

 $\hbox{ The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection } \\ \text{Act}$

of 1992, 44 U.S.C. 2107 (as amended) (JFK Act), established the President John

 $\hbox{F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection (JFK Assassination Records}$

Collection) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). In

establishing a process for public disclosure of all records relating to the

assassination, Congress created an independent federal agency, the Assassination

Records Review Board, that consists of five citizens appointed by the President

and confirmed by the Senate in 1994. Under the JFK Act, the Review Board

is empowered to decide "whether a record constitutes an assassination record."

44 U.S.C. 2107, sec. 7(I)(2)(A). Congress intended that the Review Board "issue

guidance to assist in articulating the scope or universe of assassination records."

President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records

Collection Act of 1992, S. Rep. 102-328, 102d Cong., 2d Sess. (1992) at 21.

These final interpretive regulations, a proposed version of which was published

at 60 FR 7506-7508 (Feb. 8, 1995), comply with that mandate.

As the Supplementary Information accompanying the proposed interpretive regulations stated, the Review Board's goal in issuing this guidance

is

at

to implement congressional intent that the JFK Collection contain the most comprehensive disclosure of records related to the assassination of President Kennedy.' [S. Rep. 102-328, supra]

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

and on the investigations that were undertaken in the

assassination's aftermath. The Board recognizes that many agencies

have already begun to organize and review records responsive to the [JFK Act] even before the Board was appointed and began its work. Nevertheless, 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 tragedy and on subsequent investigations and inquiries into it.

 $\,$ 60 FR 7506. The final interpretive regulations are intended to identify

comprehensively the range of records reasonably related to the assassination of

President Kennedy and investigations undertaken in its aftermath. The final

interpretive regulations are also intended to aid in the consistent, effective, and

efficient implementation of the JFK Act and to establish procedures for

including assassination records in the JFK Assassination Records Collection

established by Congress and housed at NARA's facility in College Park,

Maryland.

Notice and Comment Process

 $\label{eq:theorem} \mbox{ The Review Board sought public comment on its proposed interpretive}$

regulations and set a thirty-day period, which ended on March 10, 1995, for the

purpose of receiving written comments. The Review Board also heard testimony at public hearings on aspects of the proposed interpretive regulations.

In addition, the Review Board sent copies of the proposed interpretive

regulations to agencies known to have an interest in and to be affected by the

Review Board's work, particularly those that either created or now hold

assassination records, and to the appropriate oversight committees in Congress.

The Review Board also sent notices of the proposed interpretive regulations $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right)$

and request for comments to many organizations and individuals who have

demonstrated an interest in the release of materials under the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{JFK}}$ Act or who

have engaged in research into the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Review Board received written comments on the proposed interpretive regulations from numerous federal agencies, state and local

government entities, and individuals. Federal agencies providing written

comments include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Central $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Central}}$

Intelligence Agency (CIA), NARA, and the Department of State. State and $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

local government entities providing written comments include the Dallas

(Texas) County Commissioner's Court, the Dallas County Historical Foundation, and the City of Dallas Records Management Division of the Office

of the City Secretary. Numerous private citizens with an interest in the Review $\,$

Board's work also submitted comments.

 $\,$ Prior to publication of the proposed interpretive regulations, the Review

Board heard testimony at a public hearing held at the Review Board's offices on

December 14, 1994, from representatives of NARA on the question of including artifacts in the scope of the term "assassination record." After

publication of the proposed interpretive regulations and before expiration of the

comment period, the Review Board heard testimony at a public hearing on $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

March 7, 1995, from the FBI and from several individuals and representatives $\$

of private organizations on their views regarding the text of the proposed

interpretive regulations. Copies of all written comments received and

transcripts of public testimony on the proposed interpretive regulations were

placed in the public reading room at the Review Board's offices and

available for inspection and copying by the public upon request.

At a public meeting held on May 3, 1995, for which notice was timely

published in the Federal Register pursuant to the provisions of the Government

in the Sunshine Act, the Review Board considered a final draft of these

interpretive regulations. That discussion draft incorporated many of the $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$

comments received by the Review Board on the proposed interpretive regulations. The Review Board unanimously voted to adopt the text of the

discussion draft as its final interpretive regulations. The approved text is, with

a few minor corrections that do not change the substance, the text $\operatorname{published}$

here.

The Review Board found very helpful the thoughtful and, in many cases,

very detailed comments submitted on the proposed interpretive regulations.

Nearly all of the commentators expressed support for what they characterized

as the proposed interpretive regulations' comprehensiveness and flexibility. All

comments submitted were carefully studied and considered by the ${\tt Review}$

Board. Submitters made both substantive and technical suggestions, many of

which were incorporated into the interpretive regulations as issued here in final $\ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}$

form. The summary below includes the principal substantive comments received and the Review Board's responses thereto.

Comment: The proposed language of 1400.1(a) is unduly restrictive

because the phrase "may have led to the assassination" requires at least a

potential causal link to the assassination. Moreover, determining whether there

is a causal link would require the Review Board to evaluate the validity of

competing accounts of what led to the assassination of President Kennedy. $\label{eq:competing}$

Response: A number of commentators put forward criticisms along

these lines. Some of these commentators suggested that some form of a

"reasonably related" standard be substituted for the "may have led to" language,

while others suggested alternative formulations (e.g., "that may shed light on the

assassination"). In adopting and eventually applying a "reasonably related"

standard, the Review Board does not seek to endorse or reject any particular

theory of the assassination of President Kennedy, although such theories may

inform the Review Board's search for records reasonably related to the

assassination and investigations into it. The Review Board believes that

1400.1(a), as now worded, advances that effort and will promote a consistent

broad interpretation and implementation of the JFK Act.

Comment: The proposed language of 1400.1(a) is too broad and open-ended. A more specific nexus to the assassination of President Kennedy should

be required.

 $\,$ Response: As its text and legislative history make clear, the JFK Act

contemplates that the Review Board extend its search for relevant records

beyond what has been compiled or reviewed by previous investigations. It is

inevitable, therefore, that the Review Board must exercise judgment in

determining whether such records constitute "assassination records." The

Review Board regards its "reasonably related" standard as sufficient to ensure

that agencies are not overburdened with identifying and reviewing records that,

if added to the JFK Assassination Records Collection, would not advance the $\,$

purposes of the JFK Act.

Comment: Section 1400.1 should specifically include as assassination

records any records pertaining to particularly identified individuals,

organizations, events, etc.

Response: The Review Board determined that, in almost every case, the

types of records commentators sought to add were already adequately covered

by 1400.1 as proposed. Accordingly, the Review Board declined to include

records or record groups at the level of specificity urged by these commentators

because doing so might limit the scope of the interpretive regulations as applied

initially by other agencies, or otherwise might prove duplicative or confusing.

However, the Review Board welcomes and encourages suggestions from the

public as to specific records or record groups that may constitute assassination

records, and intends to pursue such leads, including those provided in the $\,$

written comments to the proposed interpretive regulations.

Comment: Section 1400.2(a) is vague and overly broad in describing the

scope of additional records and information.

Response: The Review Board has added language to clarify that the

purpose of requesting additional records and information under 1400.2(a) is

to identify, evaluate, or interpret assassination records, including assassination

records that may not initially have been identified as such by an agency. The $\ensuremath{\mathsf{The}}$

Review Board also has added language to indicate that it intends to implement

this section through written requests signed by its Executive Director. The

Review Board contemplates that, with regard to such requests, its staff will work

closely with entities to whom such requests are addressed to implement the ${\tt JFK}$

Act effectively and efficiently.

Comment: The scope of additional records and information should

specifically include records and information that:

- -- describe agencies' methods of searching for records;
- -- describe reclassification, transfer, destruction, or other disposition of

records; or

 $\ensuremath{\text{--}}$ do not constitute assassination records, but have the potential to

enhance, enrich, and broaden the historical record of the assassination.

 $\mbox{\sc Response:}$ To the extent that the inclusion of records and information

of the types described would assist the Review Board in meeting its responsibilities under the JFK Act, the Review Board has adopted the suggested

language.

Comment: The scope of "assassination records" under 1400.1

"additional records and information" under 1400.2 should not extend to state

and local government or to private records that are not in the possession of the

federal government.

Response: The Review Board considered such comments carefully, but

concluded that the terms of the JFK $\mbox{\it Act}$ preclude the narrower reading of the

Review Board's responsibilities urged by such comments. Section 1400.6 allows

the Review Board, in its discretion, to accept copies in lieu of originals. The $\,$

Review Board believes that this flexibility addresses the concerns of some

commentators about the removal of original records already housed, for $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

example, in state or local archives.

Comment: Section 1400.3 should include as sources of assassination

records and additional records and information individuals and corporations

that possess such material even if not obtained from sources identified in

paragraphs (a) through (e) thereof, and should specifically include individuals $\ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}$

and corporations that contracted to provide goods or services to the government.

Response: The Review Board has added paragraph (f) to this section in

response to these comments. The Review Board has concluded that, in view of

paragraph (f), specifically identifying government contractors or other private

persons would be unnecessary and redundant.

among the types of materials included in the term "record." Treating artifacts

as "records" would be contrary to NARA's accustomed practice and the usage

of the term "records" in other areas of federal records law and would result in

substantial practical difficulties.

Response: The Review Board has carefully considered NARA's objections to the inclusion of artifacts as "records," but decided that this

inclusion is necessary to achieve the purposes of the JFK $\mbox{Act.}$ The \mbox{Review}

Board notes that artifacts that became exhibits to the proceedings of the Warren $\,$

Commission have long been in the custody of NARA, and decided that these

artifacts should remain in the JFK Assassination Records Collection. The $\,$

Review Board further believes that the unique issues of public trust and

credibility of government processes that prompted enactment of the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{JFK}}$ Act

requires that artifacts be included within the JFK Assassination $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Records}}$

Collection. The strong support that commenting members of the public gave

to this position reinforces this conclusion. The Review Board included in its

proposed regulations, and retained in 1400.7(b)-(c) of the final interpretive

regulations, language intended to address NARA's concerns about potential

copying requirements and preservation issues unique to artifacts.

Comment: Section 1400.5 should be modified to allow agencies

withhold from the JFK Assassination Records Collection material that is not

related to the assassination of President Kennedy, even though it appears in a

record that contains other material that is related to the assassination of

President Kennedy.

to

Response: It remains the intent of this section to make clear to agencies

that, as a rule, entire records, and not parts thereof, are to become part of the

 $\,$ JFK Assassination Records Collection. The purpose of requiring that records

be produced in their entirety is to ensure that the context and integrity of the

records be preserved. Only in rare instances will the Review Board assent to

withholding particular information within an assassination record on the ground

that such information is not relevant to the assassination. Section $1400.5\ \mathrm{has}$

been modified to clarify that, although the Review Board may allow this practice

in extraordinary circumstances, this determination is within the sole discretion $\$

of the Review Board.

Comment: The discussion of originals and copies in 1400.6 is, in

various respects, unclear and confusing.

Response: The Review Board made extensive changes to this section to

address these concerns and to achieve greater internal consistency. The Review ${}^{\prime}$

Board's intent in this section is to express its strong preference for including

original records in the JFK Assassination Records Collection, but also its

understanding that, for a variety of reasons, there may be situations where a

copy instead of the original of an assassination record may be more appropriate

for inclusion in the Collection.

copies" of federal agency records may be included in the JFK Assassination

Records Collection.

Response: The Review Board has modified 1400.6(a)(1) to clarify that

the Review Board may determine that record copies may be included in the

Collection.

Comment: The Catalog of Assassination Records (COAR) described in

 $1400.8\ \mathrm{should}\ \mathrm{consist}$ of, or be replaced by, the database and finding aids

prepared by the federal agencies in possession of assassination records.

Response: This and other comments received regarding the proposed

1400.8 indicated some confusion as to the intent and operation of the

 $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

decided to replace the term "Catalog of Assassination Records" with the term $\ensuremath{\text{T}}$

"Notice of Assassination Record Determination" (NARD), and to redraft this

section to clarify the Review Board's intent to use the NARD mechanism simply

to document the Review Board's ongoing determinations that, in addition to

records explicitly enumerated in the JFK Act as assassination records (e.g.,

records reviewed by the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{HSCA}})$ or identified by federal agencies in their own

searches, certain other records also are assassination records to be included in

the JFK Assassination Records Collection.

Section by Section Analysis

Scope of assassination record

 $\,$ As discussed above with regard to the public comments, subparagraph

(a)

of 1400.1 has been modified to adopt a "reasonably related" standard and the

term "Catalog of Assassination Records" has been replaced with "Notice of

Assassination Record Determination" in subparagraph (b)(3). The final

interpretive regulations also incorporate suggested technical changes, including

edits for clarification and revision of this section's title to make it more precise.

Scope of additional records and information

The title of 1400.2 was revised to conform to the new title of

1400.1. Additional editing changes were made for clarity. A new subpart (6)

was added to subparagraph (e) and a new subparagraph (f) was added after

consideration of comments that noted the potential exclusion of $\operatorname{certain}$

categories from the scope of this section in the proposed interpretive $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left$

regulations.

The Review Board has added language in the final interpretive regulations to

clarify that the purpose of this section is to aid in identifying, evaluating, or

interpreting assassination records, including assassination records that may not

initially have been identified by an agency. The Review Board also has added $\,$

language to suggest that it intends to implement this section through written

requests signed by the Review Board's Executive Director.

Sources of assassination records and additional records and information

A new subparagraph (g) was added to 1400.3 after consideration of

comments noting the potential exclusion of records created by individuals or

corporations or obtained from sources other than those already identified in the $\,$

previous subparagraphs.

Types of materials included in scope of assassination record and additional

records and information

 $$\operatorname{\textsc{No}}$$ substantive change has been made to $$\operatorname{1400.4}$$ as it appeared in the

proposed interpretive regulations.

Requirement that assassination records be released in their entirety Language has been added to 1400.5 to permit the Review Board, in its

sole discretion, to allow release of only part of an assassination record where $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$

such partial release "is sufficient to comply with the intent and purposes of the $\$

[JFK Act]."

Originals and copies

Extensive changes were made to 1400.6 for reasons of clarity and

internal consistency. The Review Board also incorporated in the final

interpretive regulations language clarifying that "record copies" of federal agency

records may be included in the JFK Assassination Records Collection and

addressing the important issue of preservation requirements. In this respect, the $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1$

Review Board sought to treat records in various media in a means appropriate $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right$

to the unique characteristics of each medium.

Additional guidance

In the light of comments received, the Review Board extensively revised

1400.7. Subparagraph (d), as it appeared in the proposed interpretive $% \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) =\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) +\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) +\frac{1}{$

regulations, has been broken into three subparagraphs -- new subparagraphs (d),

(e), and (f) $\operatorname{\mathsf{--}}$ to avoid potential confusion and to add clarity. The intent of these

subparagraphs is to make clear that all files on an individual, event, organization

or activity are to be made available to the Review Board regardless of the labels

on the files, where the records may be found, or whether they reflect the true $\ensuremath{\mathsf{T}}$

name or identifier of the individual, event, organization, or activity.

Subparagraphs (b) and (c) of 1400.7 were included in the proposed

interpretive regulations and retained in the final interpretive regulations in order

to address concerns expressed by NARA regarding the inclusion of artifacts in $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1$

the scope of the materials deemed "assassination records." By including these

subparagraphs, the Review Board wishes to make it clear that it believes the ${\tt JFK}$

Act establishes unique standards as to the records to be included in the ${\tt JFK}$

Assassination Records Collection. By including artifacts as a type of

"assassination record," the Review Board seeks to fulfill its mandate from $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right)$

Congress to assemble all materials reasonably related to the assassination in the $\,$

 $\,$ JFK Assassination Records Collection. It is not intended that the inclusion here

of artifacts for purposes of implementing the JFK $\mbox{\it Act}$ should be construed to

affect the implementation of other records laws. Subparagraph (c) is intended

to ensure that all artifacts in the collection are preserved for posterity and that $\frac{1}{2}$

 $\,$ public access be provided to those artifacts in a manner consistent with their

 $\,$ preservation. The Review Board encourages NARA to set out in writing the

terms and conditions under which access to such materials may be allowed.

Implementing the JFK Act -- Notice of Assassination Records Determination

 $\,$ The Review Board has replaced the term "Catalog of Assassination

Records" that appeared in the proposed interpretive regulations and redrafted

1400.8 to clarify the Review Board's intent. In the final interpretive

regulations, the Review Board substitutes the term NARD for prior references $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($

to a "catalog."

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The regulation is not subject to the provisions of the Paperwork

Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501, et seq.) because it does not contain any

information collection requirements within the meaning of 44 U.S.C. 3502(4).

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

As required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA), 5 U.S.C.

601-612), the Board certifies that this rule, if adopted, will not have a significant

economic impact on a substantial number of small entities and that, therefore,

a regulatory flexibility analysis need not be prepared, 5 U.S.C. $605\,(b)$. The

proposed rule would not impose any obligations, including any obligations on

"small entities," as set forth in 5 U.S.C. 601(3) of the Regulatory Flexibility

Act, or within the definition of "small business," as found in 15 U.S.C. 632, or

within the Small Business Size Standards in regulations issued by the Small

Business Administration and codified in 13 CFR part 121. Whatever economic

impacts may result to small entities were already considered by Congress in

enacting and amending the FOIA or by ${\tt OMB}$ in promulgating the ${\tt Uniform}$ ${\tt Fee}$

Schedules and Guidelines.

List of Subjects in 36 CFR Part 1400

Administrative practice and procedure, Archives and records. Accordingly, the Review Board hereby proposes to establish a new chapter XIV

in title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations to read as follows:

CHAPTER XIV -- ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

Part 1400 -- GUIDANCE FOR INTERPRETATION AND

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

ASSASSINATION RECORDS COLLECTION ACT OF 1992 (JFK Act) Sec.

- 1400.1 Scope of assassination record.
- 1400.2 Scope of additional records and information.
- 1400.3 Sources of assassination records and additional records and information.
- 1400.4 Types of materials included in scope of assassination record and additional records and information.
- 1400.5 Requirement that assassination records be released in their entirety.
 - 1400.6 Originals and copies.
 - 1400.7 Additional guidance.
 - 1400.8 Implementing the JFK Act -- Notice of Assassination Record

Designation.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 2107.

1400.1 Scope of assassination record.

(a) An assassination record includes, but is not limited to, all records,

public and private, regardless of how labeled or identified, that document,

describe, report on, analyze, or interpret activities, persons, or events reasonably

related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and investigations of

or inquiries into the assassination.

- (b) An assassination record further includes, without limitation:
- (1) All records as defined in Sec. 3(2) of the JFK Act;
- (2) All records collected by or segregated by all federal, state, and local

government agencies in conjunction with any investigation or analysis of or

inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy (for example, any intra-agency investigation or analysis of or inquiry into the assassination; any inter-agency communication regarding the assassination; any request by the House

Select Committee on Assassinations to collect documents and other materials;

or any inter- or intra-agency collection or segregation of documents and other $\,$

materials);

- (3) Other records or groups of records listed in the Notice of Assassination Record Designation, as described in 1400.8 of this chapter.
 - 1400.2 Scope of additional records and information.

The term additional records and information includes:

(a) All documents used by government offices and agencies during their

declassification review of assassination records as well as all other documents,

indices, and other material (including but not limited to those that disclose

cryptonyms, code names, or other identifiers that appear in assassination

records) that the Assassination Records Review Board (Review Board) has a

reasonable basis to believe may constitute an assassination record or would

assist in the identification, evaluation or interpretation of an assassination $\ensuremath{\mathsf{ass}}$

record. The Review Board will identify in writing those records and other

materials it intends to seek under this section.

(b) All training manuals, instructional materials, and guidelines created or $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right$

used by the agencies in furtherance of their review of assassination records.

(c) All records, lists, and documents describing the procedure by which the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{E}}$

agencies identified or selected assassination records for review.

- (d) Organizational charts of government agencies.
- (e) Records necessary and sufficient to describe the agency's:
- (1) Records policies and schedules;
- (2) Filing systems and organization;
- (3) Storage facilities and locations;
- (4) Indexing symbols, marks, codes, instructions, guidelines, methods and

procedures; (5) Search methods and procedures used in the performance of the agencies'

duties under the JFK Act; and

(6) Reclassification to a higher level, transfer, destruction, or other

information (e.g., theft) regarding the status of assassination records.

(f) Any other record that does not fall within the scope of assassination

record as described in 1400.1, but which has the potential to enhance, enrich,

and broaden the historical record of the assassination.

1400.3 Sources of assassination records and additional records and information.

Assassination records and additional records and information may be located at,

or under the control of, without limitation:

(a) Agencies, offices, and entities of the executive, legislative, and judicial

branches of the federal government;

(b) Agencies, offices, and entities of the executive, legislative, and judicial

branches of state and local governments;

(c) Record repositories and archives of federal, state, and local governments,

including presidential libraries;

(d) Record repositories and archives of universities, libraries, historical ${\bf r}$

societies, and other similar organizations;

(e) Individuals who possess such records by virtue of service with a

government agency, office, or entity;

 $% \left(1\right) =0$ (f) Persons, including individuals and corporations, who have obtained such

records from sources identified in subparagraphs (a) through (e) of this section;

(g) Persons, including individuals or corporations, who have themselves

created or have obtained such records from sources other than those identified

in subparagraphs (a) through (e) of this section;

(h) Federal, state, and local courts where such records are being held under

seal; or

- (i) Foreign governments.
- 1400.4 Types of materials included in scope of assassination record and

additional records and information.

The term record in assassination record and additional records and

information includes, for purposes of interpreting and implementing the ${\tt JFK}$

Act:

- (a) papers, maps, and other documentary material;
- (b) photographs;
- (c) motion pictures;
- (d) sound and video recordings;
- (e) machine readable information in any form; and
- (f) artifacts.
- 1400.5 Requirement that assassination records be released in their entirety.

 $\,$ An assassination record shall be released in its entirety except for

portions specifically postponed pursuant to the grounds for postponement of $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right)$

public disclosure of records established in Sec. 6 of the JFK $\mbox{Act,}$ and no portion

of any assassination record shall be withheld from public disclosure solely on $% \left\{ 1,2,\ldots ,n\right\}$

grounds of non-relevance unless, in the Review Board's sole discretion, release

of part of a record is sufficient to comply with the intent and purposes of the $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

JFK Act.

1400.6 Originals and copies.

(a) For purposes of determining whether originals or copies of assassination

records will be made part of the President John F. Kennedy Assassination $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left$

Records Collection (JFK Assassination Records Collection) established under the

JFK Act, the following shall apply:

(1) In the case of papers, maps, and other documentary materials,

Review Board may determine that record copies of government records, either

the signed original, original production or a reproduction that has been treated

as the official record maintained to chronicle government functions or activities, $\$

may be placed in the JFK Assassination Records Collection;

(2) In the case of other papers, maps, and other documentary material, the $\$

Review Board may determine that a true and accurate copy of a record in lieu of

the original may be placed in the JFK Assassination Records Collection;

- (3) In the case of photographs, the original negative, whenever available (otherwise, the earliest generation print that is a true and accurate copy),
 - may be placed in the JFK Assassination Records Collection;
- (4) In the case of motion pictures, the camera original, whenever available (otherwise, the earliest generation print that is a true and accurate copy),
 - may be placed in the JFK Assassination Records Collection;
- (5) In the case of sound and video recordings, the original recording,

whenever available (otherwise, the earliest generation copy that is a true and

accurate copy), may be placed in the JFK Assassination Records Collection;

- (6) In the case of machine-readable information, a true and accurate
- copy of the original (duplicating all information contained in the original and in
- a format that permits retrieval of the information), may be placed in the ${\tt JFK}$

Assassination Records Collection; and

(7) In the case of artifacts, the original objects themselves may be

placed in the JFK Assassination Records Collection.

(b) To the extent records from foreign governments are included in the ${\sf JFK}$

Assassination Records Collection, copies of the original records shall be

sufficient for inclusion in the collection.

(c) In cases where a copy, as defined in paragraph (a) of this section above,

is authorized by the Review Board to be included in the ${\tt JFK}$ Assassination

Records Collection, the Review Board may require that a copy be certified if, in

its discretion, it determines a certification to be necessary to ensure the integrity

of the JFK Assassination Records Collection. In cases where an original, as

defined in paragraph (a) of this section, is required for inclusion in the ${\tt JFK}$

Assassination Records Collection, the Review Board may, at its discretion, accept $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1$

the best available copy. In such cases that records included in the collection,

whether originals or copies, contain illegible portions, such records shall have

attached thereto a certified transcription of the illegible language to the extent $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right)$

practicable.

(d) For purposes of implementing the JFK Act, the term "copy" means a true

and accurate photocopy duplication by a means appropriate to the medium of

the original record that preserves and displays the integrity of the record and the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{T}}$

information contained in it.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to suggest that additional

copies of any assassination records contained in the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{JFK}}$ Assassination Records

Collection are not also assassination records that, at the Review ${\tt Board's}$

discretion, may also be placed in the JFK Assassination Records Collection.

 $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

copies of any electronic assassination records from being reformatted $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($

electronically in order to conform to different hardware and/or software $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$

requirements of audiovisual or machine readable formats if such is the

professional judgment of the National Archives and Records Administration.

1400.7 Additional guidance.

(a) A government agency, office, or entity includes, for purposes of

interpreting and implementing the JFK $\mbox{Act,}$ all current, past, and former

departments, agencies, offices, divisions, foreign offices, bureaus, and

deliberative bodies of any federal, state, or local government and includes all

inter- or intra-agency working groups, committees, and meetings that possess or

created records relating to the assassination of President John ${\tt F.}$ Kennedy.

(b) The inclusion of artifacts in the scope of the term assassination

record is understood to apply solely to the JFK Assassination $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Records}}$ Collection

and to implement fully the terms of the JFK $\mbox{\sc Act}$ and has no direct or indirect

bearing on the interpretation or implementation of any other statute or

regulation.

 $\label{eq:whenever} \mbox{ Whenever artifacts are included in the JFK Assassination } \mbox{Records}$

Collection, it shall be sufficient to comply with the JFK \mbox{Act} if the public is

provided access to photographs, drawings, or similar materials depicting the

artifacts. Additional display of or examination by the public of artifacts in the

JFK Assassination Records Collection shall occur under the terms and conditions established by the National Archives and Records Administration to

ensure their preservation and protection for posterity.

(d) The terms and, or, any, all, and the plural and singular forms of nouns

shall be understood in their broadest and most inclusive sense and shall not be

understood to be terms of limitation.

(e) Unless the Review Board in its sole discretion directs otherwise, records

that are identified with respect to a particular person shall include all records

relating to that person that use or reflect their true name or any other name,

pseudonym, codeword, symbol number, cryptonym, or alias used to identify that

person.

(f) Unless the Review Board in its sole discretion directs otherwise, records

that are identified by the Review Board with respect to a particular operation or

program shall include all records pertaining to that program by any other name,

pseudonym, codeword, symbol, number, or cryptonym.

- 1400.8 Implementing the JFK Act -- Notice of Assassination Record Designation.
- (a) A Notice of Assassination Record Designation (NARD) shall be the mechanism for the Review Board to announce publicly its determination that a

record or group of records meets the definition of assassination records.

- (b) Notice of all NARDs will be published in the Federal Register within
- 30 days of the decision to designate such records as assassination records.

In determining that a record or group of records meets the definition of

assassination records, the Review Board must determine that the record or $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +$

group of records will more likely than not enhance, enrich, and broaden the

historical record of the assassination.

Hearings, Conferences, and Meetings

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \begin{tabular}{ll} The Senate report of The President John F. Kennedy \\ Assassination \end{tabular}$

Records Collection Act of 1992 stated that " the underlying principles guiding

the legislation are independence, public confidence, efficiency and $\cos t$

effectiveness." In order to achieve these objectives, the Act gave the Board the

specific powers to, among others:

 $\,\,^*\,$ receive information from the public regarding the identification and public

disclosure of assassination records; and

* hold hearings, administer oaths, and subpoena witnesses and documents.

 $\mbox{\sc Hearings.}$ In an effort to gather as much information as possible from the

American public about the existence and location of "assassination records," the

Review Board conducted a total of seven public hearings in Dallas, Washington, $\$

D.C. (3), Boston, New Orleans, and Los Angeles. The Review Board believed

important to hold such hearings outside of Washington, D.C., and in key cities.

At each hearing the Review Board invited members of the public to testify, and $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

these witnesses provided input about materials related to the assassination of $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$

President Kennedy. [For a list of all witnesses, see XX].

Experts Conferences. The Review Board also held two Experts Conferences'

in Washington, D.C. For the first such conference, held in May 1995, the

Review Board invited individuals that played a role in past investigations into the

assassination. These experts provided information to the Review $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Board}}$ and staff

about

In April 1998, the Review Board held another conference, this time

focusing more on the declassification of documents in general.

Meetings. The majority of the Review Board's regular meetings were held in

Washington, D.C., and were closed to the public. These meetings were held 1--2

times each month in order for the Review Board to review classified documents

and to make determinations about these documents. The Review Board $\ensuremath{\mathsf{held}}$

 ${\tt XX}$ closed meetings and processed for release ${\tt XXXXXXX}$ documents. All of

these documents are now a part of the JFK Collection at the National Archives ${\ }$

and Records Administration.

 $\label{the:continuous} \mbox{While the majority of the Review Board's meetings were closed} \\ \mbox{to the} \\$

public, the Review Board did hold XX public meetings under the Sunshine Act.

Contrary to public hearings, where the Review Board would hear testimony from $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1$

witnesses, members of the public could observe the Board at work, when not

discussing classified documents. These meetings provided the Review $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Board}}$ the

opportunity to discuss in public topics such as the status and disposition of the

Zapruder film (see file XX), documents containing "no believed relevance"

(NBR) to the assassination, and the final report.

Summary of Board's actions on Records

As of the completion of its mandate, the Review Board processed XXXXXX documents, consisting of both records voted on by the Board, in

addition to consent releases. All of these documents are now a part of the ${\sf JFK}$

Collection at the National Archives and are available to the public.

In total, the Review Board released XXXX FBI documents, XXXX ${\sf CIA}$

documents, XXXX Army, NSA, libraries. The Board voted to release XX% of

these documents in full, and XX% in part. Of the documents postponed in part, $\[$

X% contain fewer than 5 redactions [check with Peter.] (See Chapters 3, 4, 5,

and 6.)

Outreach

The Review Board maintained contact on a regular basis with members

of the public who requested to be placed on our mailing list. The Review Board

had a regular mailing list as well as an electronic list, and the total number of

public on the Review Board's mailing list received press releases, updates on the

Review Board's activities, meeting results, information about documents

transferred to the JFK Collection, and information about Federal Register $\,$

notices.

Appearances at conferences. On October 20, 1996, David Marwell, Executive Director, updated the research community on the activities of the

Review Board during the 1996 conference of the Coalition on Political

Assassinations (COPA). Dr. Marwell informed the researchers of the Review $\,$

Board's actions in FY 1996, and provided a preview of the Review Board's $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Board}}$

agenda for 1997. The presentation concluded with a question and answer $\,$

period. On October 21, 1996, the Review Board held an Open House for the $\ensuremath{\text{\text{Total}}}$

 $\,$ public and the research community. Open House attendees were given access

to newly released documents, the Review Board video library, and a tour of $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right)$

Review Board offices.

On January 6, 1996, the Review Board made a presentation at the annual

meeting of the American Historical Association (AHA) in Atlanta, Georgia. The

Review Board provided background information and updates regarding its

mandate. Approximately 100 AHA members attended, and the Review $\ensuremath{\mathtt{Board}}$

provided time for a question and answer period.

On March 28, 1996, the Review Board made a presentation at the Organization of American Historians (OAH) Conference. One-hundred OAH

 $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$ members attended the session and heard the Review Board provide a brief

introduction, and then continued with a lengthy question and answer period

regarding specific Board actions.

On August 29, 1996, the Review Board and REVIEW BOARD Executive Director David Marwell attended the annual meeting of the Society

of American Archivists in San Diego. The Review Board gave a presentation

about its activities , and Marwell made a presentation about the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Review}}$ $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Board}}$

on a panel about access issues and U.S. Government information.

In May 1998, Review Board Executive Director T. Jeremy Gunn spoke

to students and faculty at Stanford University. Dr. Gunn spoke about the

declassification process, particularly its problems and solutions.

Submissions to newsletters and journals. Several times a year, Review $\mbox{\sc Board}$

Chairman Tunheim submitted Review Board updates to journals and newsletters

that serve the research community. Chairman Tunheim provided articles about

the Review Board to the AARC Quarterly, Open Secrets, and Probe, all of which

serve researchers and are circulated worldwide. In addition, REVIEW ${\tt BOARD}$

Executive Director David G. Marwell, General Counsel and Associate Director

for Research and Analysis, ${\tt T.}$ Jeremy Gunn, and Associate Director for

Communications, Thomas E. Samoluk, participated in an extensive, indepth

interview about the Review Board with the editor of Probe.

Special outreach project. In April 1996, Review Board Chairman John Tunheim, REVIEW BOARD Executive Director David Marwell and Associate Director for Communications Tom Samoluk visited Dallas to tour assassination-related sites and determine fertile areas for additional documents. The tours

included the Sixth Floor Museum at the former Dallas School Book Depository, ${\sf Depository}$

a review of the Dallas Municipal Archives, and discussions with local newspapers

to appeal for assassination-related documents, photographs or motion picture $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right$

film taken by amateur photographers. This trip resulted in the Review Board's

acquisition of the "Veazey film" (See Chapter 6).

 $\operatorname{\text{\it High}}$ School interns. During its tenure the Review Board hosted six groups

of students from Noblesville High School in Noblesville, Indiana. The students,

along with their history teacher, Mr. Bruce Hitchcock, came to the Review Board

offices to serve as interns. The students worked diligently and provided the

Review Board staff with invaluable assistance in creating databases and $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

processing declassified documents for $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1$

Hitchcock also played an important role in the Review Board's extension of one

year, as he provided testimony to the National Security, International Affairs, and

Criminal Justice Subcommittee in support of the Review Board's request for a $\ensuremath{\mathsf{T}}$

one-year extension.

Reports to Congress. Following the passage of H.R. 1553 (see below) the $\ensuremath{\text{The}}$

Review Board was required by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight to provide monthly reports regarding its status and projected

completion of its mandate. Beginning in August 1997, each month the Review

Board sent updates to the Committee Chairman, Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN). (See file 10.9).

Request to Congress for additional year

 $\label{eq:congress} \mbox{ When Congress drafted the JFK Act, it estimated that the Review} \\ \mbox{ Board }$

would complete its mandate in three years. There were, however, a number of

delays in the early phase of the Board's operation that affected the ability of the $\,$

Board to meet the deadline set by Congress.

Although the JFK Act was signed into law in October 1992, the Board

was not sworn in until April 1994. While Congress passed the JFK $\mathop{\rm Extension}\nolimits$

Act in 1994 to reset the clock and to give the Board a full threeyear mandate,

it did not foresee the impact of the agencies operating without the guidance of

the Review Board. During the 18-month period between the passage of the Act

and the appointment of the Review Board, some government agencies proceeded with independent reviews of their files in the absence of Review

Board guidance. Unfortunately, these agencies had to revise a significant amount

of work once the necessary Review Board guidance was available.

In addition, the JFK Act contains certain provisions that considerably

slowed the early phase of the Review Board's operation and delayed the point at

which it could operate effectively in its review of records. As an independent

agency, the Board had to locate and construct office space that was suitable for $\ensuremath{\mathsf{S}}$

the storage of classified material. At the same time, the Board had to hire a staff

and get it cleared at the Top Secret level. Significantly, there is a provision in the

JFK Act that prohibited the Review Board from hiring (or detailing) individuals

employed by other Federal agencies. As a result of these built-in delays, the $\,$

Review Board did not even have the full three years Congress initially envisioned

as being necessary to complete the job.

The Review Board was entrusted by Congress with the significant responsibility of ensuring, to the best of its ability, that the historical and

documentary record relating to the assassination of President Kennedy is

complete and fully available to the American people. The Review $\mbox{\sc Board}$ worked

diligently and carefully to comply with the provisions of the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{JFK}}$ Act,

painstakingly reviewing records and evaluating complex evidence submitted by

agencies in support of postponing the release of these records. The $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Review}}$

Board's scrupulous attention to detail and careful weighing of national security

concerns have required a significant amount of time that it believes was not

foreseen by the drafters of the JFK Act.

The JFK Act was unduly optimistic regarding the time that would be

required to fulfill the Review Board's mandate as set forth by Congress. Neither

Congress nor anyone else could have sufficiently appreciated the volume and $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right)$

complexity of work that would be required for the Review Board to complete $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right)$

the work mandated by Congress. As a result of the Review Board's protracted

start-up, a budget carryover of no-year funds from its first year was sufficient to

fund a full quarter of continued operation. The Review Board consequently

required only \$1.6\$ million of additional funds to continue operating for one

additional year.

Three unforeseen difficulties impeded the Review Board in completing

the workload created by Congress. The first was the inability of Federal

agencies, particularly the CIA and FBI, to review and process the statutorily-defined "assassination records" in the time allotted and to make them available $\frac{1}{2}$

for Review Board action. Section 5(c)(1) of the JFK Act provided that all

Federal agencies should complete their review and identification of "assassination records" within 300 days of the date the law went into effect

(October 26, 1992). Accordingly, all agencies should have completed the initial

identification and review process by approximately September 1, 1993. In fact,

no agency had completed its review at that point.

 $$\operatorname{\textsc{The}}$$ second impediment was the delay in the appointment and staffing of

the Review Board. Section 7(a)(2) provided that the President was to appoint

Review Board members 90 days after the enactment of the statute, that is by

approximately January 25, 1993. In fact, the Review Board members were not

appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate until April 11, 1994.

(During this 90-day period the Bush administration was replaced by the Clinton

administration. Although the delay caused by the change in administration is

fully understandable, it significantly affected the schedule originally contemplated

by Congress.) Because of the lateness of the appointment of the Review Board,

Federal agencies were unable to obtain the early guidance of the Review Board

on the questions of the definition of "assassination record" and the standards for $\ensuremath{\mathsf{S}}$

postponements under Section 6 of the JFK Act. Accordingly, much work of the $\,$

agencies needed to be revised, which, in turn, slowed down their processing and $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

re-reviewing of assassination records. In addition, the protracted start-up of the $\,$

Review Board, which resulted from certain statutory restrictions and requirements, prevented the Review Board from being able to engage in the

efficient review of records until the second half of its first year.

Finally, and importantly, the JFK Act properly affords the agencies the

opportunity to provide evidence to the Review Board in support of recommended postponements. The Review Board believes that, in order to

protect important national security secrets and safety concerns for informants

and agents, the agencies need to have every reasonable opportunity to present

evidence about the importance of redacted information. This process, which is

an important component of the JFK $\mbox{Act,}$ has been very time consuming for both

the agencies and the Review Board. Although it could have acted much more

swiftly by not affording the agencies the opportunity to collect and provide

evidence, the Review Board would have neglected its duties to make \inf

judgments.

In summary, the agencies, for different reasons, had not completed the

work assigned to them by the JFK Act. The Review Board attributed such

delays by the CIA and the FBI not to any intended disregard or disrespect for the $\,$

law, but to an enormous volume of work that they had not been able to

complete within the short deadlines provided by Congress. The Review $\ensuremath{\mathtt{Board}}$

believed that in order for it to be faithful to its historical responsibility and $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +$

commitment to release to the public all known assassination records, it required $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right$

an additional year. Therefore, it recommended to Congress that the ${\tt JFK}$ Act be

extended for one year by amending Section 7(o)(1) by striking "1996, except that

the Review Board may, by majority vote, extend its term for an additional 1-year

period if it has not completed its work within that period" and inserting "1998."

Passage of H.R. 1553

On May 8, 1997, H.R. 1553 was introduced by Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN). H.R. 1553, a bill that would amend the JFK Act to provide one additional

year for the Review Board to complete its work, was cosponsored by Congressman Louis Stokes (D-OH) and Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA).

On June 4, 1997, there was a hearing on $\text{H.R.}\ 1553$ before the National Security,

International Affairs, and Criminal Justice Subcommittee, of the House

Government Reform and Oversight Committee. The Honorable Louis Stokes,

Review Board Chairman Judge John R. Tunheim, writer Max Holland, and teacher Bruce Hitchcock all testified in support of H.R. 1553. On July 3, 1997,

President Clinton signed H.R. 1553 into law, thus extending the authorization

of the Review Board for one additional year, to September 30, 1998..

In case I need to list witnesses at hearings.....

Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, October 11, 1994

Witnesses:

Page Putnam Miller, James H. Lesar, Mark S. Zaid, Charles

J.

Sanders

John Newman, Daniel Acorn, Peter Dale Scott, John Judge, William Kelly

Harrison Livingstone, Max Holland, Martin Barkley, Daryll Weatherly

Dallas, Texas

Friday, November 18, 1994

Witnesses:

Jim Marrs, David J. Murrah, Adele E.U. Edisen, Gary Mack, Robert Vernon, Thomas Wilson, Wallace Milam, Beverly

Oliver

Massegee,

Steve Osborn, Philip Tenbrink, John McLaughlin, Gary L. Aguilar, Hal Verb, Thomas Meros, Lawerence

Sutherland, Joseph

Backes, Martin Shackelford, Roy Schaeffer, Kenneth

Smith

Boston, Massachusetts Friday, March 24, 1995

Witnesses:

George Michael Evica, Philip H. Melanson, Edgar Tatro,

Priscilla

Johnson McMillan, Dick Russell, Richard Trask, Steven

D. Tilley

New Orleans, Louisiana Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Witnesses:

The Honorable Lindy Boggs, The Honorable Harry F. Connick, Sr.,

Wayne Everard, Michael L. Kurtz, Stephen Tyler, Cynthia Anne Wegmann, Steven D. Tilley Washington, DC August 6, 1996 Witnesses: John Pereira, J. Barry Harrelson, T. Jeremy Gunn, Steven D. Tilley Los Angeles, California Tuesday, September 17, 1996 Witnesses: Robert Tanenbaum, Eric Hamburg, Wesley Liebeler, James Rankin, David Belin, James DiEugenio, David Lifton, Steve Tilley Washington DC Wednesday, April 2, 1997 Witnesses: T. Jeremy Gunn, Robert Brauneis, James Lesar, Josiah Thompson, Moses Weitzman, Richard Trask, Art Simon,

Conway

Debra