

Assassination Records Review Board

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NEWS RELEASE

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JFK BOARD FINALIZES AGGRESSIVE DEFINITION OF "ASSASSINATION RECORDS"

Washington, DC—The JFK Assassination Records Review Board, the independent federal agency overseeing the review and release of records related to the assassination of President Kennedy, today published final guidance on how government agencies should define "assassination records."

"The aggressive guidance which the Review Board has provided will ensure that government agencies have a clear idea of how we define the universe of assassination records and will know what their responsibilities are," said John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. "Our goal is to fulfill the mandate articulated by the Congress and ensure that the American public has as complete a record of the assassination as possible."

The Review Board's definition guidance, published today in the Federal Register, states that an "assassination record" includes:

- * 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 or inquiries into the assassination;

- * all records of the Warren Commission and congressional investigations into the assassination; and

- * other records that the Review Board designates as assassination Records based on whether they will more likely than not enhance, enrich, and broaden the historical record of the assassination.

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The ARRB is a five-member independent panel of private citizens established by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, signed into law by President Bush. The Board members were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the United States Senate, and sworn into office in April 1994.

The law gives the ARRB the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available to the American public all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The ARRB has until October 1, 1996 to fulfill its mandate, plus an additional year at the Board's discretion to complete its responsibilities.