Assassination Records Review Board

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NEWS RELEASE

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JFK ASSASSINATION BOARD REVIEWS WARREN COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

WASHINGTON, DC—The Assassination Records Review Board, the federal panel responsible for the review and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, today reviewed Warren Commission documents which have never been released.

"Getting the actual review of assassination records underway is an important step for the Review Board and the public," said John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. "These particular records raise individual privacy concerns that the law states must be considered as a reason for postponing the public release. We intend to fulfill our obligation under the law by balancing the public's right to know with an individual's right to privacy."

The four documents reviewed by the Review Board today were created by the Warren Commission and do not have to be reviewed by another federal agency. The Board will have to decide whether or not the documents should be released or continue to be withheld. Once the Board makes formal decisions on whether or not to release these documents, notice of those decisions must be published in the Federal Register. Formal decisions are expected in approximately a month.

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 was 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.