

March 27, 1996

The Honorable Jim Lightfoot
Chairman, Subcommittee on Treasury,
Postal Service, and General Government
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to your letter of February 5, 1996, we are sending our Budget Request and Justification for the Fiscal Year 1997 budget.

The Assassination Records Review Board's funding request for Fiscal Year 1997 is in the amount of \$2,150,000. A detailed breakdown and justification by object class is in the attached package. Delays in the start-up of the Review Board resulted in significant savings in FY 1995 that will supplement the FY 1997 appropriation and are critical to our operating requirements.

Because of the sunset provisions of the President John F. Kennedy Records Collection Act of 1992 (as amended), the Review Board's budget request for Fiscal Year 1997 will be its last. This request reflects the special requirements of the Review Board in its final phase of operation. We have provided for a prudent reduction of personnel, while at the same time planning for the unique costs of closing down a complex and highly visible effort. Throughout this budget process, we have been driven by the guiding principles of (1) supporting the efforts of the Board members who are charged with identifying, locating, and making available all records relevant to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; (2) maintaining a professional and support staff of top-caliber employees; (3) providing the necessary tools and resources for the Board and staff to pursue the difficult mission and achieve the ambitious goals set by Congress; and (4) closing down our operation efficiently.

We are pleased to submit this Fiscal Year 1997 budget justification and formal statement, and are available at your convenience to answer any questions or supply additional information.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosure