

### III. The Review of Assassination Records

#### Review Board Meetings and Public Hearings

The U.S. Congress made clear, with the passage of the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, that it wanted to “ensure that there is an adequate opportunity for public input and participation.”

Although the nature of the Board’s work -- dealing with classified information -- requires closed meetings, the Board continued to conduct opening meetings and hearings whenever possible to fully inform the public of its actions and the release of documents. During the 1996 fiscal year, eleven board meetings were conducted in Washington, D.C. and two public hearings were held in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, CA, respectively. The details and results of those meetings and hearings are listed below.

During fiscal 1996 and through October, the Review Board acted to transfer 8,972 documents to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection, which is housed at the National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland. These include 3,624 FBI documents, 2,852 CIA documents and 2,496 documents from the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Significantly, all of the 2,090 documents contained in the CIA’s Lee Harvey Oswald 201 file became public in 1996 under the Board’s direction. These include 781 documents consensually released by the Agency.

Clearly, the Review Board’s accelerated hearing and review process, since it became engaged in document review in June 1995, has significantly expanded the historical record of the Kennedy assassination. However, thousands of documents identified as assassination records await review and the identification process for new records continues. Action is pending in fiscal 1997 on 2,265 FBI records, 22,041 CIA records (all of it the Sequestered Collection), 773 Third Agency Equities and 40 House Select Committee on Assassinations documents.

#### **1. Board Meetings**