

February 12, 1997

HAND DELIVERED

Mr. David Bosworth
OSD Directives and Records Branch
Room 5C315
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Re: Review Board Disposition of OSD Documents

Dear Mr. Bosworth:

Last August you forwarded to the Assassination Records Review Board a package of six documents that the Office of the Secretary of Defense had uncovered in its search for records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. (The records specifically dealt with the evolution of U.S. policy toward Cuba during the 1962-63 timeframe.) Enclosed with that package was a letter from Mr. A.H. Passarella, Director of the OSD Freedom of Information and Security Review Office, advising the Board that one of the six records had already been declassified and that OSD had no objection to the declassification of two others. Mr. Passarella noted, however, that the Joint Staff had asked to postpone certain passages in the other three documents. (A copy of Mr. Passarella's letter is enclosed, along with other relevant correspondence. Copies of the actual documents are not included in order to keep this correspondence unclassified.)

Upon receipt of that package, the Review Board forwarded the three documents in question to the Joint Staff (Mr. Edmund McBride, Chief, Information Management Division, Joint Staff) for reconsideration of the requested postponements in view of the fact that the State Department, the CIA, and OSD had all consented to full release. On January 27, 1997, Mr. McBride advised us that the Joint Staff had reconsidered all three documents and had narrowed its requested postponements accordingly.

The Review Board considered these three documents at its meeting on January 30, 1997. In doing so, it weighed the revised postponements requested by the Joint Staff in light of the findings by State, CIA and OSD that the documents were fully releaseable; in cognizance of other materials from the same era already released by the Board or already in the public domain; and, most importantly, in consideration of the statutory standards set by the JFK Records Collection Act. As a result, the

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Review Board voted not to uphold the Joint Staff's requested postponements, and instead to release the records in full without redactions.

Under the terms of the JFK Act, the Board's decision in this case means that these records will now be processed for inclusion in the JFK Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives. Should your agency disagree with the Board's actions to the extent that it desires to appeal, you are advised that your timely appeal must be addressed to the President of the United States. (Mr. Kevin Tiernan, a member of the ARRB staff, can advise you of the detailed procedure preparing such an appeal should you decide to do so. In the past, the White House has told us that it desires any appeal to be forwarded to it within seven days of this notification.) Unless we are advised that an appeal has been made, we will proceed to deposit declassified versions of the records in question in the National Archives in early March, 1997.

We thank you once again for your continuing support and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Edmund McBride, Chief, Information Management Division, Joint Staff