



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

January 12, 1976

Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Gonzalez:

As you are aware, I previously authorized staff members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (94th Congress) access to material in the possession of the Federal Bureau of Investigation pertaining to their investigation into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Much of the information contained in these files is covered by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. §552(a), which prohibits the dissemination of agency records of this nature to unauthorized persons. Of course the Act, 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(b)(9), exempts requests by committees of Congress from these prohibitions.

I am advised, however, that during the present hiatus period in which the House Select Committee on Assassinations has not been reauthorized, there would be serious questions of violation of that statute if material is supplied to staff members. I have asked that this matter be reviewed.

In the meantime the FBI will continue to process the requests previously received from the Select Committee and prepare documents so that they will be ready for transmittal when the committee is recreated by the 95th Congress. Thus we can try to minimize any delay caused by this pause.

You have my assurance that at the time the Select Committee is reestablished by the 95th Congress, the Department will again provide access to the relevant files and materials.

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I know that the Department looks forward to continued cooperation with your committee and the Congress.

Sincerely,



Edward H. Levi  
Attorney General

cc: Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.  
Hon. Peter W. Rodino, Jr.  
Hon. Don Edwards  
Hon. John J. Rhodes  
Hon. Samuel L. Devine