



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

27 JUN 1980

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ref: 79 DFOI-1044

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Route 12  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in further response to your June 21, 1980, letter relating to your attempts to obtain documents concerning the Kennedy assassination. Your letter was received on June 25, 1980.

It appears from your letter and the correspondence from the Naval Intelligence Service that they attempted to assist you in obtaining documents by forwarding your request to those agencies that could have been involved in the investigation of the Kennedy assassination. The Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit, Criminal Division of the Department of Justice responded to their referral and forwarded eight documents to the Department of Defense (DoD) for review. Since the eight documents contained information of a derivative nature and over which we have no cognizance, we forwarded them to the National Security Council (NSC) for a decision on release. Your letter of June 13, 1980, indicates that seven of the eight documents were denied by the NSC. The remaining document was returned to us for review which we released to you on June 18, 1980. If you are worried about the declassification of this document, I have enclosed a copy of the declassification authority letter issued by the Department of the Treasury. Since the Department of Treasury is responsible for denying the information on pages 48 and 49, you should forward your appeal to them for review.

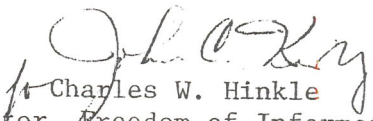
Concerning the documents denied by the NSC, if you need a listing of the documents denied, you should submit a letter to the NSC requesting such a list.

The remainder of your letter addresses questions you have about the Freedom of Information Act and the different agencies' responses, rules and regulations to comply with the Act. It is imprudent for DoD to comment on another agency's responses; however, the Department of Defense does have an enviable record of providing timely responses although many requests are extremely broad, voluminous and deal with very sensitive information. On a whole, the Freedom of Information Act is working and has provided the public an important method of obtaining documents on how decisions, policies and history are made.

Also, I am sure you realize that many documents contain information provided by diverse and separate departments within the government and although they are processed as quickly as possible, the coordination process is time consuming, particularly when they contain information that must be evaluated based upon the past, current and future objectives of our national policies.

I am sure all of the agencies appreciate your indulgence and are not trying to delay answering your letters but are doing their best to comply with your requests. We apologize for any confusion we may have caused and hope you have better success in your future requests.

Sincerely,

  
for Charles W. Hinkle  
Director, Freedom of Information  
and Security Review

Enclosure