

November 18, 1976

Honorable Thomas N. Downing  
Chairman  
House Select Committee on Assassinations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Attorney General has asked me to respond to your letter of November 2, 1976, requesting access to Department of Justice and FBI files and reports pertaining to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As I related to your staff during our constructive meeting on October 13, 1976, there are approximately 50,000 pages in 87 volumes of material in the Dr. King assassination file and approximately 90,000 pages in 600 volumes of material in the President Kennedy assassination file.

With relatively few exceptions where disclosure is subject to legal limitations or other restraints of a compelling nature, the material in these volumes will be made available at FBI Headquarters for review by your Committee and staff. Of course, as to the exceptional materials, we shall provide due explanations.

At the time background investigations and security clearance problems are resolved, access to classified files will be arranged as indicated. Except for digest cards which would be of limited value, the FBI does not have an index or summary report of the investigations.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/8/84 BY SP8 BTG/dj  
211326

TO BE FILED  
INDEX

ENCLOSURE

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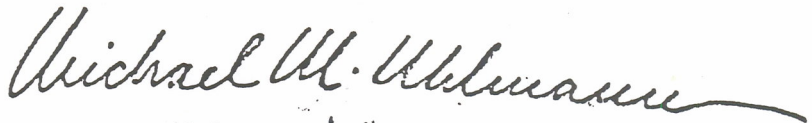
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I can appreciate the Committee's desire to move expeditiously. With this in mind and considering the great volume of material involved, the Department is prepared to work with you, your Committee colleagues, and staff to arrive at effective logistical arrangements and procedures for this review.

If there is anything further I can do to assist you and your staff, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Uhlmann  
Assistant Attorney General