

# ASSASSINATION ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH CENTER

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December 4, 1987

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Dear Friend of the AARC:

Although 1987 was not a particularly good year for either the Reagan Administration or the American economy, it was a very encouraging year for AARC.

We were able to acquire a large number of collections of assassination materials which greatly expanded our research facilities. We are very grateful to a large number of contributors, but we are especially thankful to Tony Summers, Pete Noyes, Dick Billings, and Earl Golz for contributions of their research files and other materials. We are particularly grateful to Earl Golz for his gift of 212 audio-taped interviews of many persons who were involved in Dallas but who were never previously interviewed. We also have future commitments from such luminaries as Mary Ferrell and Senator Richard Schweiker. And we wish to renew our plea to any recipients of this letter who have files, books, etc., which are not being actively used, to make a gift of them to AARC. That way, they will be made available to other researchers for practical use, they will also be preserved, and the donor will get a tax deduction for a charitable gift. If you have files or books which you no longer use, please donate them to AARC.

We are especially pleased to announce that Teddy Charach of Los Angeles has loaned to AARC his total and unique collection of materials relating to the assassination of RFK. In toto, this included 29 boxes of research materials and 10 cans of film, all of which will be preserved for historical purposes. The whole collection is currently housed separately in a room set aside specifically for that purpose at AARC headquarters. Teddy and AARC are searching for an "angel" to purchase the collection and donate it to AARC permanently. Any suggestions will be greatly appreciated. Meanwhile, the materials are available to qualified researchers at AARC. And, if you wish to purchase a good VHS color-copy of Teddy's great film, Second Gun, you may wish to do so directly from him at P.O. Box 396, Beverly Hills, CA 90213 (\$55.00 incl. postage and handling).

Our JFK collection has been greatly expanded in several directions. George Washington University Law School donated to AARC one of three extant copies of the FBI's Headquarters file on the JFK case (some 80,000 pages released in 1977). Unfortunately, this file was never indexed. However, we obtained an index (some 43,000 names) to the FBI's Dallas file, plus a cross index which makes it possible to locate all documents in the Headquarters file relating to a particular person or event. In brief, we can now locate all unclassified FBI documents relating to all persons and events connected with the Dallas murder. And we can easily xerox these for our members..

In addition, Mark Allen and Jim Lesar are receiving (via FOIA) all of the unclassified documents received by the House Select Committee from the FBI and CIA. This project has "a-ways" to go, but we are getting many interesting documents -- and will get many more in the future.

Mary Ferrell is in the process of computerizing her 30,000+ research cards. She is now about half way through this invaluable but monster project. When finished, and when used in conjunction with the Meek and Brandt indices, it will permit an instant identification of all printed references to all persons and events involved in Dallas. These three computerized indices will be of invaluable help to researchers. And floppies of the Meek and Ferrell indices will be available to AARC members for a very nominal fee; the Brandt index is available directly from Daniel Brandt, P.O. Box 5369 Arlington, VA 22205, for \$35.00.

As AARC's collections of various materials expand, we are able to institute a "lending library" of many items. For example, we have received large numbers of books from generous donors. Many of them are duplicates. And these are available on short loan to members at no cost.

We have also received a great number of assassination films on a variety of film sizes. We have had these all reduced to VCR which makes them easily usable to all researchers. These films are both commercial and private. And AARC can reproduce them easily and cheaply. We will send a catalogue upon request so that members can order copies.

We can also supply members with copies of audio tapes at very nominal prices. The list of audio tapes is so extensive (1000+) that we have not yet had it reproduced. However, our computer can tell us if we have a tape of a particular interview or event, and we can send you a copy.

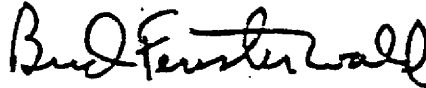
Despite the best efforts of a number of researchers, no major breakthrough was made in the JFK case in 1987. (Please correct us if we are wrong.) Much of the effort was spent in the planning and incubation of books and films which are designed for the 25th Anniversary, and which will stress the unsolved status of the case.

Some forward movement was achieved in the RFK case when the City of Los Angeles finally decided to send the LAPD's extensive files to the State Archives in Sacramento for review, declassification, and release -- at least in part. For this achievement, we are deeply in debt to Greg Stone, Phil Melanson, and Jack Gordon, all of whom spent much time and effort on the project. AARC vied with several other archives to be chosen as the repository, but it lost out because it was determined that the records should be kept in California. However, in time, AARC will receive a copy of all of the documents which are released. With these, plus the superb Charach collection, plus the complete set of released FBI documents, AARC will have a very valuable East Coast collection for use by researchers into Robert Kennedy's death.

Perhaps the most ambitious undertaking in 1987 was the decision to publish an International Journal of Political Assassinations. The Board of Directors concluded that assassinations were an international phenomenon and should be studied on an international basis. Further, there is no scholarly publication dedicated solely to the study of this important and dramatic subject. It is planned that publication will begin in either 1989 or 1990. Professor George Michael Evica has been selected as first Editor of the Journal. As a first step, we are looking for collaborators in every country who can supply the Journal with current newspaper clippings and articles on assassinations in their country, as well as draft articles for publication in the Journal. These collaborators shall be designated as Fellows of AARC. More about this later.

In closing, let me urge you to send in your 1988 dues with the application (below). We, not only need your \$25.00 very much, but we also need the moral support of a large membership. If you are interested in the general subject of assassinations and in solutions to specific cases, please continue to support AARC. (And don't forget: Members can borrow copies of books, films, and tapes and have "minor" research done for them.) On behalf of everyone at AARC, let me take this occasion to wish you the best for the Holiday Season and a Good 1988!!

Best regards,



Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crr

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I hereby apply for the following type of membership in the AARC:

- Regular Membership                      \$25.00 Annual Dues
- Institutional Membership                \$100.00 Annual Dues
- Patron's Membership                    \$1,000.00 Annual Dues
- Life Membership                         \$5,000.00 Annual Dues

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for my 1988 dues.

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