

# FOUNDATION FOR TRUTH AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Foundation for Truth and Accountability was created to promote determined and responsible examination of the Robert F. Kennedy, and other, political assassinations, and of the official and institutional responses to them. These concerns are vital because understanding of such events is basic to major public and historical issues for American society and because the degree of effectiveness of the official response is key to that understanding and to prevention of such tragedies in the future. Objective, scholarly approaches to assassination cases, devoid of preconceptions or ideology, are the most effective means of achieving the truth.

Compelling questions exist in the Robert Kennedy assassination, as in others, about both the fundamental realities concerned and the adequacy of the various government investigations and proceedings. These questions relate to crime scene data, official activities, and conspiracy-related issues, and are most usefully attacked not by assumptions or speculation but by methodical and impartial inquiry which requires maximum availability of primary data. Glaring deficiencies in the RFK case investigative record, for example, have long been well-documented by serious students of the case. Although official failures and omissions are unacceptable, biased, careless or sensationalistic criticism likewise poorly serves the public interest and factual and historical record. The foundation

supports both the demand for the full truth and a concern for reliability in such inquiries commensurate with the importance of the questions at stake, A constituency for the truth, committed to such goals, will strengthen the public's right to know and contribute to the broader issues of hidden power and official misconduct implicit in Watergate, the Iran-Contra affair, intelligence agency abuses, and related events over the past three decades. Such episodes pose grave issues for the integrity of democratic process which have been insufficiently confronted by academics and public leaders alike.

Efforts undertaken or assisted to date in the Robert Kennedy case include work for full disclosure of the primary Los Angeles Police Department investigative file, a Freedom of Information Act request and lawsuit for disclosure of the FBI case records, accessing of recently released files from the Los Angeles District Attorney's office and the Sirhan trial, assistance in providing such materials to public and university archives, interviews of witnesses, gathering of investigative or non-public information, and analysis of the data presently available on major evidence problems. Prior to the Foundation's inception, its directors were involved in successful past efforts for disclosure and official review of certain aspects of the case. Potential future activities include expanded interview and investigative work, scientific tests of relevant crime scene issues, funding of related work projects, advocacy of specific measures to resolve unanswered questions in the case, and increased circulation of official and non-official materials. Involvement of academic and/or subject area

experts in these efforts is expected as a means of fostering high standards of investigation and accuracy.

The Foundation is chartered in Washington D.C. and is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.