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February 28, 1980

1/29/80

Honorable Nicholas Mavroules  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mavroules:

This is in response to your letter of January 29, 1980, in which you expressed interest in the current Department of Justice inquiry into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Additionally, you referred a copy of correspondence from a constituent, Robert M. Cutler, in which Mr. Cutler reiterated his assassination conspiracy theory. You will recall that Mr. Cutler alleged that a Louisiana man shot President Kennedy with a poisoned-dart which was fired from a specially-constructed umbrella. Although Mr. Cutler believes that Lee Harvey Oswald did not shoot President Kennedy, he does think that members of a conspiracy used traditional weapons as well as the above-referenced umbrella in attacking the Presidential motorcade. Mr. Cutler also alleged Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Military, corporate, and organized crime involvement in the assassination conspiracy.

Many of the theories proposed by Mr. Cutler were closely examined by the Warren Commission, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Select Committee on Assassinations of the U. S. House of Representatives. The findings of the Committee which refer to those issues may be found on pages 147-225 of that body's final report. Committee hearing proceedings relevant to Mr. Cutler's allegation of an umbrella weapon are reported at Volume IV, pages 429-453, of the Committee Report. Although no evidentiary support for any of Mr. Cutler's theories has been developed by Congressional, Executive Branch, or other private-sector investigations, Mr. Cutler's allegations are again being reviewed during the current inquiry by the Department

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// of Justice. Pursuant to your request, Mr. Cutler is being directly contacted by letter, a copy of which is attached, with regard to the status of our review of his efforts in this area. We do not believe that any benefit could be derived from the solicitation of additional information from Mr. Cutler, in view of the voluminous materials which he has already forwarded to the Department on his own initiative.

You have also requested a brief update regarding the Department's progress in the John F. Kennedy assassination investigation review. The Department's review of all related FBI reports and House Select Committee on Assassinations documents revealed ten specific areas with potential investigative value. The FBI is currently completing limited investigative tasks regarding those ten areas. No major revelations have resulted from that review. We are currently studying alternative methods of implementing private-sector scientific review of the acoustical evidence which was the sole basis for the House Committee's conspiracy theory.

Your interest in this matter of mutual concern is appreciated. Your enclosures are returned herewith.

Sincerely,

PHILIP B. HEYMANN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

By:

PHILIP T. WHITE, Acting  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

Enclosures