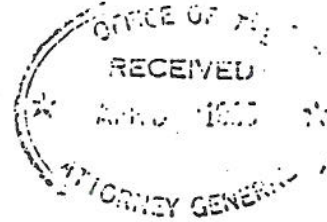


Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

April 5, 1965

MEMBERS OF  
CHIEF JUSTICE

Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach,  
Attorney General of the United States,  
Justice Department,  
Washington, D. C.

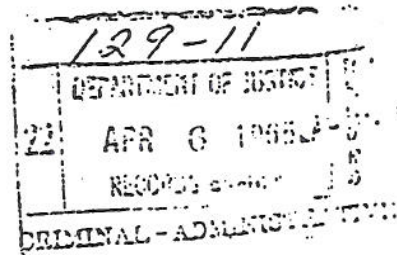


Dear Mr. Attorney General:

The President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy gave careful consideration to the proper disposition of its records before it delivered them to the National Archives. It wished them to be held there for the benefit of the American people. At that time, it decided that it was in the best interests of all concerned that the policy relating to the Commission's records provide for the fullest possible disclosure.

At the same time, the Commission recognized that its records contained investigative materials which were classified by the originating agencies to protect the security of the United States. Furthermore, among such materials were numerous items in which inhered serious potential for character assassination and other similar misuse to the injury of innocent persons.

The Commission, after full consideration, concluded that it did not have either the authority or the necessary information to determine the technical questions as to when the classified materials should be released without injury to the security of the country. It decided that the responsibility for that decision must of necessity be left with the originating agencies and the Attorney General, as the chief legal officer, in accordance with established law and policies of the Government. It also concluded that such agencies and the Attorney General could best determine what safeguards were necessary to protect innocent persons in the release of defamatory materials.

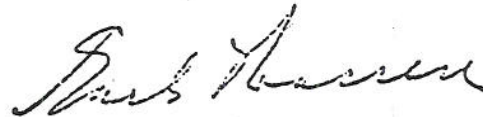


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In arriving at the foregoing conclusions, however, the Commission assumed that all of the determinations by the agencies and the Attorney General would be made in recognition of the overriding consideration of the fullest possible disclosure, and that all other proper factors, including the disclosures that have been made, would be taken into account. The Commission had no desire to restrict public access to any of its working papers except those classified by other agencies. It was with these thoughts in mind that the Commission, on its dissolution, committed its papers to the National Archives subject to the laws and regulations concerning the release to the public of classified and restricted materials.

We hope that this report of the attitude and conclusions of the Commission concerning the full disclosure of its records will be helpful to you in the formulation of your proposal for making the materials of this Commission now in the National Archives available to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Earl Warren".