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CIA director 'committed' to open JFK files

By David Kelly

WASHINGTON — CIA Director Robert Gates told a Senate panel Tuesday that he supported releasing the files on the assassination of John F. Kennedy to clear up any idea that his agency had played a role in the murder as theorized in Oliver Stone's "JFK."

"I'm personally committed to this," Gates told the Senate governmental affairs committee. "The only thing more horrifying than the assassination is the insidious, corrosive suspicion that my agency was somehow involved. Clearing this up is the least I can do to honor Kennedy's memory."

The CIA, Gates said, is not waiting for legislation to be passed opening the files.

"I am not waiting for legislation or other agencies to start declassifying documents belonging to the CIA," Gates said. "The Historical Review Group, at my direction, already has begun its review of the documents related to the assassination of President Kennedy, and I am glad to report that the first group of these records, including all CIA documents on Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination, has been declassified with quite minimal deletions and is being transferred to the National Archives for release to the public."

The U.S. Justice Department is currently against opening the files. □