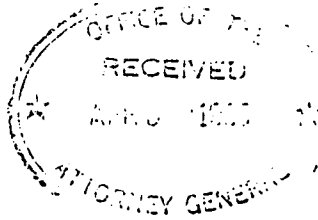


Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

April 5, 1965

MEMBERS OF  
CHIEF JUSTICE



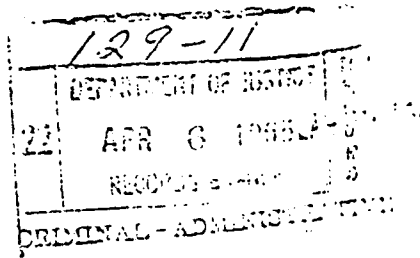
Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach,  
Attorney General of the United States,  
Justice Department,  
Washington, D. C.

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.

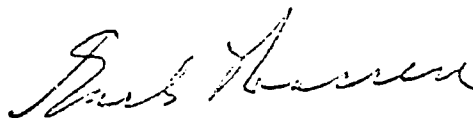


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In arriving at the foregoing conclusions, however, the Commission assumed that all of the determinations by the agencies and the Attorney General would be made in recognition of the overriding consideration of the fullest possible disclosure, and that 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 "Paul H. Bremer".

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTE SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	<i>Mr. Hartman</i>			
2.				
3.				
4.				

SIGNATURE       COMMENT       PER CONVERSATION  
 APPROVAL       NECESSARY ACTION       AS REQUESTED  
 SEE ME       NOTE AND RETURN       NOTE AND FILE  
 RECOMMENDATION       CALL ME       YOUR INFORMATION  
 ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE .....  
 PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF .....

REMARKS: *The interagency between myself & CWB on this was gone to job w/ record copy of reply to letter. The gist of it was get us out of this & get Civil in.*

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
	<i>[Signature]</i>			<i>9/16/74</i>

T: 9/16/74

September 16, 1974

Carla A. Hills  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

HEP:CWB:JRR:kjf

Henry E. Petersen  
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

Release of Documents From Department Files Relating to  
Presidential Assassination

*9/16/74*

Attached is a copy of our reply to a recent inquiry, subject as above. With the passage of time, it is clear that the primary, if not the sole interest, of the Department as such in requests for access to the various Federal files relating to the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy will be in the context of litigating agency, including FBI, denials of access to such files. Accordingly, it appears appropriate that your Division respond to any such future requests.

Just as the General Crimes Section coordinated the instant response with your Mr. Jeffrey F. Axelrad, so that Section would be the point for any coordination with us you may deem necessary in the course of responding to future requests of this nature.

Records ✓  
Gen. Crimes Sec.  
Mr. Robinson (2)  
Mr. Petersen

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T: 8/29/74

HEP:GMB:JRR:mac  
139-11

Mr. James H. Lassar  
Assembly 2010  
1331 Fourth Street, S. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lassar:

Although you requested a copy of a letter dated April 3, 1935, from then Chief Justice Earl Warren to the Attorney General, search of our files disclosed the only letter meeting your description was dated April 9, 1935. A certified copy of the April 5 letter is attached.

Sincerely,

HENRY E. HARRISON  
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

By:

ERIC W. HILGNER  
Chief, General Crimes Section

Mr. Axelrad