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August 9, 1984

Mr. Thomas C. Kelly  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
1801 North Lamar, Suite 300  
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We are in receipt of your response dated July 25, 1984, in regard to FBI records on Mary Ann Moorman, a witness to the John Kennedy assassination. We believe your denial is not appropriate and should be reconsidered.

To begin, in a letter dated one day prior to yours, James K. Hall at FBIHQ has complied with our request and has begun a search. This seems to have established a precedent for your office. Also, the FBI on several occasions has released documents pertaining to Mrs. Moorman, who recently remarried and whose new name is not mentioned in documents of the 1960's and 1970's. Other official investigations, too, have led to release of further information related to Mrs. Moorman.

We are not interested in Mrs. Moorman's personal life, only records relating to her being a witness to the assassination. Those records include studies and analyses, by the Bureau and/or others, of photographs taken by Mrs. Moorman just before and during the assassination. We are also requesting the clearest possible copies from your negatives, in slide form, of the Moorman photos made by or for the Bureau, whether in Dallas or elsewhere.

The photographs cannot possibly be considered exempt under the Privacy Act since the one showing the President has been published internationally many times by the news media and officially by the House Assassinations Committee in 1978 and 1979.

We have filed this request with your office because we are well aware that not all FBI information relating to the assassination is available at FBIHQ.

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While we appreciate your desire to remain within the spirit of the Privacy Act, previous Bureau history indicates the information we seek should be released. Furthermore, since this material may contribute some information of news value, it would be helpful if the Bureau could respond quickly. Should the Dallas office have a backlog, we would appreciate some estimate as to when our request can be honored.

Sincerely,

Ed Martelle  
Reporter

EM/jh

cc: James K. Hall