

ASSASSINATION ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH CENTER

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004  
(202) 383-1917

July 11, 1985

Honorable Stephen Yslas, President  
Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners  
150 N. Los Angeles Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Yslas:

The Assassination Archives and Research Center is a non-profit foundation with staff and offices located in the nation's capital. Our primary activity is the collection, preservation, analysis and public dissemination of documents and materials relating to major political assassinations, from Lincoln to the modern era.

It has been distressing to scholars, journalists and interested members of the public that, in comparison to other modern cases, the Robert F. Kennedy assassination remains, even after nearly two decades, shrouded by a lack of disclosure of official records. Perhaps only two to five percent of the material has been released in comparison to President Kennedy's assassination, where more than 50% of the materials have been released. The FBI has processed and released several hundred thousand pages of documents, and the National Archives has processed and released a large part of the Dallas police files relating to that assassination.

The AARC respectfully urges the Commission to release police files concerning the RFK case and to do so in timely fashion via a process that will allow direct access to original materials, and a reasonable cost to researchers. Just as other federal, state, and local agencies have recognized the national, historical import of American political assassinations and have fulfilled their obligations to history and to the nation by processing and disseminating hundreds of thousands of pages of documents dealing with the JFK and King assassinations, I urge the Commission to provide the long overdue public disclosure of these most central and primary materials -- materials which constitute the definitive record of a traumatic national event.

If I or my staff can provide any information concerning the processes for access that have been developed regarding law enforcement documents in other assassination cases, please do not hesitate to contact us. We could also provide some estimate of time and personnel required to process such records if you would provide us with an inventory or specific description of the relevant files.

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I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to your fellow Commissioners and ask that it be made a part of your official file in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

  
Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.  
President

BF/is

cc: Maxwell E. Greenberg  
Stephen D. Gavin  
Barbara L. Schlei  
Samuel L. Williams