

MAY 15 1972

Honorable Richard G. Kleindienst
Acting Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Kleindienst:

Enclosed are copies of our letter of August 17, 1970, to Attorney General Mitchell concerning the review of the Numbered Document File of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy and of his reply of November 3, 1970. In addition to the Numbered Document File involved in these letters, the records of the Commission include correspondence and internal records of the Commission, some of which relate to the functions of other Government agencies and their part in the investigation of the assassination. These records were reviewed by the National Archives in 1967 at the request of the Department of Justice. Some of them were withheld from research, and it is now time for the five year review of these documents provided for in the guidelines that apply to the records. I would like to ask the Department of Justice to review those documents which relate to its functions. They consist chiefly of correspondence between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Commission (about two linear inches).

Both the material that we are now asking the Department of Justice to review and the documents withheld from research in the Numbered Document File of the Commission include some security classified documents. The Department may wish to consider these documents under the provisions of Executive Order 11652 of March 10, 1972 (37 F.R. 5209), to determine whether they should be declassified or downgraded, and if they are declassified, whether they should be made available for research or withheld under a different exemption to the "Freedom of Information Act" (5 U.S.C. 552) and a different guideline from Guideline 2.

The following staff members of the National Archives will be pleased to furnish any further information that may be needed: Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff, Chief, Legislative, Judicial, and Fiscal Branch, or Mr. Marion M. Johnson, on Code 13, Extension 23171.

Sincerely,

JAMES B. RHODES
Archivist of the United States

Enclosures

NMF
AN

cc: Official file - NMF ✓
Reading file - NNFC
Day file - N
Mr. Howard Arendt, Dept. of Justice

MJohnson:vk 5-12-72