

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Antony J. Blinken *Antony Blinken*
SUBJECT: (U) Review of John F. Kennedy Assassination Records

(U) The Department of State requests that you certify the continued postponement of public disclosure of portions of 31 records from the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives and Records Administration (the Collection) under section 5(g)(2)(D) of the President John F. Kennedy Records Collection Act of 1992 (the Act). These records contain information that would cause identifiable harm to the conduct of foreign relations and intelligence operations if disclosed.

(U) Eleven of the records that the Department proposes to postpone are from the administrative files of the Assassination Records Review Board (the Board). In those records, the Department and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) defend certain redactions requested in actual assassination records by discussing a joint intelligence program that the two agencies still operate today. Release of the details of that program, as found in these 11 records, would greatly harm the CIA's intelligence capabilities and cause extreme difficulties in the Department's conduct of relations with other governments.

(U) The remaining 20 records are from the part of the Collection identified by the Board as "not believed relevant" to the assassination. They were swept into the Collection during the massive records retrieval effort called for by the JFK Act. Most of these records were not reviewed until 2017. They contain details of a joint intelligence program of the Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Although this program was terminated in 1974, the specific details of its activities would cause serious harm to our relations with several specific countries if released. None of the information withheld in these records is relevant to the assassination of President Kennedy and release would add nothing to the public understanding of that tragedy.

Attachment:

Document Review Results

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