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June 10, 2015

To: Candidates in 2016 Presidential Race
From: AARC

Dear Aspiring 2016 Presidential Candidates:

Restoring the faith and trust of the American people in their government is one of the most consequential issues of our time. Should you be elected President of the United States, you will have the opportunity to restore trust by disclosing the government documents about the assassination of President Kennedy which still remain secret more than 50 years after his death. On behalf of the American people, the Assassination Archives and Research Center (AARC) asks each presidential candidate to declare, unequivocally, his or her intention to release the remaining JFK assassinations records in 2017.

The National Archives (NARA) receives more requests for information on the JFK assassination than on any other subject. On April 2015, NARA's Martha Wagner Murphy stated that all withheld documents related to the assassination would be released by October 2017, as mandated by the 1992 JFK Records Act, unless the President orders otherwise. After persistent misrepresentations by the CIA that only a small number of insignificant documents were still being withheld, NARA has now revealed that many thousands of pages are being withheld until 2017, and prominent researchers have established that many of them are essential to establishing the full historical truth about the assassination.^{2,3}

A recent Politico article⁴ by Bryan Bender quoted Murphy as saying,

"We have sent letters to agencies letting them know we have records here that were withheld, 2017 is coming."

Bender also quoted a CIA officer, Dean Boyd, in reference to the JFK records declassification process, as saying,

"We are aware of the process and will work judiciously within that process."

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0e6GL3c744>

² <http://jfkfacts.org/assassination/news/how-much-jfk-assassination-information-is-still-secret/>

³ <http://www.politico.com/gallery/2015/05/the-kennedy-files/002219-031767.html?slide=0>

⁴ <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/05/why-last-of-jfk-files-could-embarrass-cia-118233.html>

Unfortunately, the CIA has not worked judiciously within the legal process in previous declassification efforts. They concealed a critical witness from the staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) and assigned that witness, George Joannides, to work as a liaison with the Committee staff. In 2014, G. Robert Blakey, the Chief Counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, when referring to the CIA's use of George Joannides to obstruct the Committee's investigation,⁵ stated that:

"At this point what we know is that the CIA has hidden this information from every investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the assassination. Indeed, they have not just hidden the information, they have lied to, at least, both the HSCA and the ARRB.... The CIA not only lied, it actively subverted the [HSCA's] investigation."

When speaking about those same actions involving Joannides and the HSCA,⁶ federal judge John Tunheim, former chair of the Assassination Records Review Board, (ARRB) stated that:

"It really was an example of treachery... If [the CIA] fooled us on that, they may have fooled us on other things."

As the next president of the United States, you will have the opportunity to restore faith and trust by causing full disclosure of government documents related to the assassination of President Kennedy. You will also be setting an example to the American people and the world, that transparency should be a fundamental pillar in the conduct of governmental affairs.

Will you make a public commitment to release the remaining JFK records?

Sincerely yours,

Jim Lesar, President AARC

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⁵<http://aarclibrary.org/aarc-2014-conference-the-hsca-and-the-cia-the-view-from-the-trenches-and-the-view-from-the-top/>

⁶<http://www.bostonglobe.com/2013/11/25/government-still-withholding-thousands-documents-jfk-assassination/PvBM2PCgW1H11vadQ4Wp4H/story.html>