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**PUBLIC INTEREST  
DECLASSIFICATION BOARD**

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July 30, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

In accordance with section 703(b) of the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2004, the Public Interest Declassification Board (the Board) functions to advise and provide recommendations to the President on the systematic, coordinated, and comprehensive identification, collection, review for declassification, and release of declassified records and materials of historic value. This includes documents of extraordinary public interest whose release would not undermine the national security of the United States. These recommendations are to promote the fullest possible public access to a thorough, accurate, and reliable documentary record of historically significant national security activities to promote fact-based historical analysis that will advance the public interest in national security, promote effective policy making in the executive branch, and support the oversight and legislative functions of Congress.

As we approach the twentieth anniversary of the mass murder terrorist attacks upon the United States, the Board has surveyed the remaining classified United States Government records relating to those horrific events. The Board has reviewed the status of these records in consultation with former members and staff of the 9/11 Commission, subject matter experts for legislative and presidential records at the National Archives and Records Administration, historians, researchers, and the public, to assess their historical significance. As a result, the Board prepared a list of the documents, which if declassified and released to the public, would add significantly to the historical record of the terrorist attacks.

The Board requests and recommends, pursuant to its statutory obligations, that the President prioritize the declassification and public release of the following records:

1. **PDB Summary and Analysis** – The 7,000-word report, created by Phil Zelikow and Jamie Gorelick for the members of the 9/11 Commission, which provides a summary and analysis of information contained in the President's Daily Briefs from the Clinton and Bush administrations pertaining to al Qaida's efforts to conduct terrorist attacks leading up to 9/11.

2. **Interviews with the President and the Vice President** – The records of interviews conducted with then current and former Presidents and Vice Presidents by the 9/11 Commission, including:
  - a. **President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney**
  - b. **President William J. Clinton**
  - c. **Vice President Al Gore**
  
3. **Interviews with National Security Advisors and Terrorism Experts** – Memorandums for the Record of interviews with the President’s National Security Advisors and government counter-terrorism experts, including:
  - a. **Condolezza Rice**
  - b. **Sandy Berger**
  - c. **Richard Clarke**
  - d. **Michael Scheuer**

Without your leadership in prioritizing these important documents for review and release, the public record of the 9/11 attacks will remain incomplete, just as the public discussion turns to remember and assess the consequences of those events. The Board stands ready to assist you in support of your prioritization of these records for declassification and release, and to discuss any questions that arise regarding its recommendation. Additionally, the Board’s intervention in this matter to expedite the release of historical records of great public interest highlights the dire need for reforms of our classification and declassification system.

Sincerely,



Ezra Cohen  
Chair