

CO-2-38030

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SECRET SERVICE

Mr. Burrill A. Peterson, Assistant to the Director (Information and Liaison) U. S. Secret Service June 14, 1966

Robert M. Jordan, III, Staff Assistant to the Special Assistant to the Secretary (for Enforcement) Responding to Inquiries Concerning Autopsy Films at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland,

This is the agreed text to be used in response to inquiries concerning the autopsy, x-ray and photographs. The first paragraph, of course, might be modified if a written reply were being provided in response to a specific written inquiry.

This will not be generally released but will be used only when a specific inquiry has been made. It has been cleared with the Treasury Public Affairs Office and the White House has been told that we are using this text. You may use this text to handle inquiries which come to you. If they present any special problems, let me know.

Evidence relating to the assassination of President Kennedy was made available to the Warren Commission. All such evidence was either turned over to the Commission during its life, or turned over to the National Archives following the termination of the

cc: Mr. Rowley
Mr. Kalley
... in the custody of
... by the late President's family,
as appropriate.

REJordan:dlt:6/14/66

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Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

Inquiries have been received concerning the handling and disposition by the Secret Service of certain X-ray and photographic films relating to the autopsy performed at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, in connection with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The X-ray films were used for the briefing of the Warren Commission's staff on the autopsy procedure and results. None of the films are presently in the possession of the Secret Service. Every item of tangible evidence which the Secret Service possessed relating to the assassination of President Kennedy was made available to the Warren Commission. All such evidence was either turned over to the Commission during its life, or turned over to the National Archives following the termination of the Commission's activities, or placed in the custody of individuals designated by the late President's family, as appropriate.

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

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For inquiries re: Availability of X-rays and photographs
of the late President Kennedy arising out of the assassina-
tion which are stored in the National Archives

Mr. Marion Johnson, National Archives, C-13-34092, is the
person to contact for information re: Warren Commission
exhibits, etc.

The following statement is used by the National Archives
in replying to inquiries made to them concerning the avail-
ability of X-rays and photographs:

"The X-rays and photographs made during the autopsy of President Kennedy were given to the General Services Administration (of which the National Archives is a part) by the Kennedy family under conditions that (1) permit access to persons authorized to set for a Committee of Congress, a Presidential Commission or any other official agency of the Federal Government having authority to investigate matters relating to the assassination and (2) provide for their inspection by a pathologist and other scientifically trained persons after a period of five years elapsed."

(The five years would run from approximately
November 1966 to 1971)

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

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