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**Subject:** Ballistics Update-Conversation with FBI Lab Personnel  
I had an initial conversation last week with Bob Sivert of the FBI Lab to discuss the prospective testing on CE 567. At his suggestion, I spoke in more detail with an FBI Lab fiber expert named Bob Fram. He was not involved in the FBI's preliminary review in June 1996, but he has been briefed on the issues (after our conversation, I faxed him the report done by another fiber expert who wrote the June 1996 report and now works out of the FBI's Detroit office). We reviewed the following stages of the testing: Stage 1As we had been told before, the first step is to remove the fiber from the bullet fragment. (I did ask Fram if anything could be done without removing the fiber. He was at a disadvantage because he has not seen CE 567. He said that an examination without removing it could be tried, but it would be difficult. It was clear that the right way to do the examination is to remove the fiber.) Stage 2The fiber is then mounted on a slide for microscopic examination. At this stage nothing else is done to the fiber, except the separation from the bullet fragment. They will be able to make determination whether it is body matter (brain, bone, scalp, etc.) versus a fiber. If it is body matter, then nothing more needs to be done. Assuming it not body matter, they should be able to determine whether or not it is a natural fiber versus a synthetic fiber. Stage 3The next stage is probably the most critical. If the fiber is natural, then there would be no need for further testing. If the fiber is synthetic but has no color to it (no dye), then it is not really possible to make a probative determination of where it came from. It probably would not be worth taking samples from the shirt or tie liner because there are not likely to be enough characteristics in the fiber to make a comparison. If there are enough characteristics (because there is some color) to the fiber, the FBI would want to take samples from the President's shirt and tie (probably the tie liner). An examination of all the relevant samples at this stage would reveal as much information as they can acquire. More explanation below Stage 4We had been previously told that the last stage would be to snip off a small piece of the fiber that would be flattened, but not destroyed. However, Fram explained that this last step would really not reveal any more information than they already would have from the previous test stages outlined above. This last stage is taken, according to Fram, when they are doing testing that will be used in a criminal case and subjected to cross examination. The FBI does it to strengthen the case, but he did not think it was necessary to do with the fiber adhering to CE 567, particularly if snipping off a piece of the fiber is a big issue for NARA. It should be noted that if the FBI does engage in this work, the technicians can take steps to preserve the fiber (whatever it is) in a manner that will make it last longer than it would under the current conditions. I asked Fram if any other law enforcement agencies do fiber testing. He said that there were state law enforcement labs that did fiber testing, but they did not do as much of it as the Record

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