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Subject: Court Ruling on Autopsy Photos

JFK Autopsy Photos Kept Closed04:01 PM TodayCategory: Domestic Keywords: JFK-Autopsy

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10< ^AP-JFK-Autopsy<,0228<^JFK Autopsy Photos Kept Closed<< WASHINGTON (AP) _ A federal appeals court refused to order therelease of President Kennedy's autopsy photos Tuesday. It said theyare private, presidential papers, not agency records. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia affirmeda lower court's rejection of a claim by D. Mark Katz that theNational Archives and Records Administration violated the Freedomof Information Act by refusing to release the photos. The tradition of presidential ownership of personal papers, thenature of the X-rays and photos and their treatment as property ofthe Kennedy estate ``demonstrate that the materials were personalpresidential papers and not agency records," the appeals courtwrote. Under the Freedom of Information Act, ``agency records" must bemade available to the public unless they fall within a statutoryexemption. The Kennedy family donated the autopsy photos and X-rays to theNational Archives. But access is restricted to federal officialsinvestigating the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination or experts inpathology and related fields. Private researchers have been denied access in the past. In 1992, Congress passed a law requiring the release ofassassination-related records. But the autopsy X-rays and photoswere excluded. AP-NY-11-14-95 1501EST<END OF FILE-> WIREREADY NEWSWIRE SYSTEMS INC.

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